+ Compensation and Benefits
- Competitive government salary
- Federal health insurance, life insurance, and retirement programs
- Thrift Savings Plan — 401K-equivalent program
- Opportunities for advancement under the merit promotion program

+ Work-Life Balance
- Annual leave — 13 days per year initially, 20 days after 3 years, 26 days after 15 years
- Sick leave — 13 days per year (can be used for self and to care for sick family member)
- 10 paid holidays per year
- 40-hour work week
- Flexible hours and telework options

+ Work Environment
Washington, D.C. — Easily accessible by Metro rail and bus
- Mass transit subsidy
- Fitness center
- Day care center nearby
- Cafeteria offering healthy, delicious choices
- Employee credit union
- Coffee shop
- Convenience shopping
- Seasonal USDA Farmers Market

Regional and State Offices — Amenities vary by location

+ Education and Training
College courses — Graduate-level degree programs — Cross-training programs — Workshops and seminars — Online professional development courses

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October 2013
A CAREER CHOICE THAT ADDS UP

NASS is the agricultural statistics agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition to conducting the Census of Agriculture every five years, we conduct hundreds of surveys each year and prepare reports covering virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture. As part of the NASS team, your work will help us provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. Policymakers, cooperatives, farmers, businesses, and community planners use these statistics to make important decisions affecting U.S. and world agriculture.

WHY JOIN THE NASS TEAM?

• Know you are making a difference by serving U.S. agriculture – the backbone of our economy.
• Apply your skills in an innovative and challenging work environment alongside other highly motivated individuals.
• Enjoy career opportunities in Washington, D.C., as well as in offices across the country.
• Advance your education through agency-funded academic and professional development opportunities.
• Benefit from flexible schedules that provide work-life balance.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

+ Survey Statistician

Major Duties: Participate in the various phases involved in conducting large-scale surveys, develop procedures for interpreting survey results, and analyze data for statistical trends and accuracy. Areas of work may include commodity or survey statistics, remote sensing, the Census of Agriculture, and management.

Qualifications: A bachelor's degree with 15 hours in math and statistics (with at least 6 in statistics) plus 9 additional hours in other physical or social sciences.

+ Mathematical Statistician

Major Duties: Evaluate data for validity and accuracy, use statistical software to develop and apply models that resolve problems, and conduct research activities applicable to survey methodology. Areas of work may include sample survey design, estimation theory, statistical computing, non-sampling error management, remote sensing, and management.

Qualifications: A master's degree in statistics or mathematics is highly desirable for work in applied statistics and surveys, as is computer proficiency and experience in statistical packages. Doctoral candidates are sought for research positions.

+ IT Specialist

Major Duties: Design and maintain the computer systems used to process and analyze information. Areas of work may include software development and maintenance, systems support, technology research, technical support, database administration, security, Web site design and maintenance, and management.

Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in computer science, information science, management information systems, mathematics, statistics, operations research, engineering, or other related field.

Interest in agriculture, and knowledge of agricultural systems or production, is desirable for all positions.

NASS COLLECTS DATA NATIONWIDE

NASS employees enjoy geographic flexibility, with opportunities to work in offices across the country and at our headquarters in Washington, D.C.

STUDENTS and RECENT GRADUATES

Three USDA Pathways programs provide opportunities for current students and recent graduates to get started in federal service working in agriculture, science, statistics, math, and other fields.

• Internship Program — Current students in high school or pursuing a degree in a qualifying institution get paid work experience while pursuing their education. Students may work during the summer, school semester, or year round.
• Recent Graduates Program — Individuals who graduated from a qualifying educational program in the last two years (longer for veterans) participate in a one-year program offering mentoring, training, professional development, and a potential long-term career in the federal government.
• Presidential Management Fellows Program — This prestigious government-wide, competitive program provides leadership development in various agencies. USDA offers selected fellows two-year appointments that may lead to a permanent government position.

For more information on the USDA Pathways programs, send an email to recruitment@ars.usda.gov.

NASS hires college graduates from a wide range of majors:

• Agricultural Economics • Information Science
• Agricultural Sciences • Management Information Systems
• Business Administration • Systems
• Computer Science • Marketing
• Demography • Mathematics
• Economics • Operations Research
• Engineering • Psychology
• GIS • Sociology
• Geography • Statistics

Applied Statistics and Survey Methodology (ASSM) Program provides a comprehensive background in the application of statistical methods to agricultural data. Graduates work on projects that contribute to the advancement of agricultural knowledge.