

# **Centralization and Regionalization at National Agricultural Statistics Service**

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The waves of change continue at the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The efforts to centralize the majority of NASS surveys are going strong. The newest challenge is moving from forty-four fully staffed state offices, to twelve regional offices. Many of the procedures that were changed to accommodate the transition from decentralized surveys to centralized surveys are now being modified again to accommodate the introduction of a regionalized survey process.

This paper will begin with a little history of how we have gotten to where we are today. It will outline some of the issues that have been encountered along the way as well as our many successes. It will also address the design of our survey processes. We are currently using Blaise 4.84 build 1834 utilizing Manipula and ManiPlus for most of our system, while our menu system is written in Visual Basic .NET. The majority of our surveys are now being collected in Centralized Blaise. Our infrastructure has yet to be totally moved to a central location, so that change is in our near future. Change is inevitable with the ever-present challenge of budgets and resources. This is a universal issue, and this paper will highlight some of the solutions that NASS is using to continue issuing consistent and reliable agricultural statistics under these constraints.