



U.S. Agricultural Statistics Current Disclosure Practices and Future Improvements

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The United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is the statistical organization that conducts survey and census on various agricultural commodities, economics and environmental factors for U.S. agriculture. NASS publishes over 400 releases each year and for each data cell has a legal obligation to ensure that individually identifiable data is protected including preventing identity disclosure, attribute disclosure, and inferential disclosure. This paper will provide information on these types of disclosure and how NASS identifies primary and secondary suppressions to prevent disclosure, different options NASS uses in publications to protect data, the role of Data Labs and special tabulations. This begins the discussion, the paper will conclude with how NASS is looking at future disclosure improvements and challenges.

Keywords: identity disclosure, attribute disclosure, inferential disclosure, primary suppression, complementary suppression