

Cropscape: The new visualization, querying, and dissemination web portal for the NASS Cropland Data Layer.

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For more than a decade the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has been producing the widely utilized crop specific geospatial land cover classification called the Cropland Data Layer (CDL) detailing more than 100 different crop categories over the United States. In 2009 NASS first debuted the coast to coast CDL and announced intentions to produce a national CDL on an annual basis. To facilitate easier distribution and a more effective way to analyze the CDL for customers across the world, NASS partnered with developers at George Mason University to create a web-based interactive mapping and querying system called Cropscape. With history dating back more than 10 years in some areas Cropscape provides a comprehensive method for analyzing agricultural patterns over a state, county, agricultural district, or any user defined region. Analysis options include the creation of tables detailing pixel counts and acreage totals as well as histograms, pie charts and change analysis tables. An additional function provided by Cropscape is the ability to download the CDL data directly into other mapping software such as ArcGIS Explorer or Google Earth which can be used to create mashups with other data sources. Without the need for expensive mapping software Cropscape will allow anyone with an internet connection and a web browser to explore the agricultural footprint of the United States over many years with just the click of a button. Cropscape can be found at <http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape/>.