

Title: The NASS Question Repository System

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The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts hundreds of surveys annually on the nation's farmers and agribusinesses. For most surveys multiple questionnaire versions are needed to address differences in agriculture between states. The questionnaires also need to be developed for multiple data collection modes: mail, telephone/CATI, and most recently the World Wide Web. In order to efficiently create the numerous questionnaires needed for all of the survey, state and mode combinations, NASS is developing a client-server based Question Repository System (QRS). The QRS includes a user interface to build properly formatted questions for the various modes; these questions are then stored in a database. The stored questions are then retrieved and used to build questionnaires, which may be saved, printed or ported to a Web server. This paper describes the capabilities and some technical details of the QRS.