

# 2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

**Your response matters.**



## **Census of Agriculture**

The Census of Agriculture is the leading source of facts and figures about American agriculture. As the statistical agency for USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the census once every five years. Similar to the population census that counts and collects data on every man, woman, and child in the country, the Census of Agriculture takes a complete count of U.S. farms, ranches, and the people who operate them. The Census of Agriculture is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agricultural data for every state and county in the nation.

## **How the data are used**

Good data provide insight into current conditions and emerging trends. Over the next few years, 2017 Census of Agriculture data will be considered when making decisions about:

- Farm Bill
- Agricultural research and the development of new technologies
- Creating and maintaining conservation, veteran, beginning farmer, and other programs/services
- Rural development (e.g., loans, paved roads, broadband expansion)
- Agribusiness setup and ag education in schools
- Insurance and disaster relief
- Production and marketing practices
- ...and more...

Funding is often driven by the number and particular needs of farmers in an area. In addition, the →

information NASS provides contributes to a stable economic climate and reduces risk by being equally available to all data users.

## What to do

**Respond.** Be represented in the data – represent your operation, community, and industry – so that the best decisions are made in service to U.S. agriculture. Your response is required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code, and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347). Respond online at **[www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov)** or by mail as soon as possible. If you have any questions or need assistance, call toll-free (888) 424-7828.

## About NASS

**Mission:** To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

Agricultural producers, farm organizations, policymakers, community groups, researchers, government agencies, agribusinesses, and a host of related industries all need consistent, reliable data on U.S. agriculture for planning, market assessment, and ongoing research. NASS conducts hundreds of surveys each year and prepares reports on virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture.

## NASS Confidentiality Pledge

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents. For more information, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/About\\_NASS/Confidentiality\\_Pledge](http://www.nass.usda.gov/About_NASS/Confidentiality_Pledge).

### Notes:



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)