



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
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Still time to respond to the 2022 Census of Agriculture

Charleston, West Virginia – April 19, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is reminding West Virginia farmers that the window is closing on the opportunity to participate in the 2022 Census of Agriculture. To date, NASS has received over 17,000 completed questionnaires from West Virginia producers for a return rate of more than 54%. NASS is encouraging U.S. producers who have not returned their completed ag census questionnaires to do so as soon as possible to avoid additional mail, phone, email, text, and in-person follow-up, which is currently underway.

"Thank you to those who have returned their questionnaires, we appreciate your response. If you haven't completed your Census yet, there is still time," said NASS State Statistician Alissa Cowell-Mytar. "By responding, you are helping your county publish strong reliable statistical data. The more responses we receive, the better the data quality."

NASS is reminding producers that if they produced and sold \$1,000 or more of agricultural product in 2022, or normally would have produced and sold that much, they meet USDA's definition of a farm. However, federal law requires everyone who received the 2022 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete and return it, even if they do not currently meet this definition. Producers can respond online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail.

"If you received the ag census, but do not fit the definition of a farm, are no longer farming, never farmed, or are a landowner who leases your land to a producer, please write your status on the form and mail it back," said Cowell-Mytar.

The Census of Agriculture remains the only comprehensive and impartial source of agriculture data for every state and county in the nation. Census data are used by policymakers, trade associations, researchers, agribusinesses, educators, and many others. The information helps inform decisions on farm policy, rural development, the development of farm technologies, and more. It also aids in the creation and funding of loans and insurance programs and other forms of assistance.

The ag census differs from other NASS surveys. Beyond being conducted just once every five years, it provides important demographic information and data on certain commodities, such as horses, bison, and Christmas trees, that would not otherwise be available. The Census of Agriculture collects information on nearly every aspect of American agriculture for a complete picture of the health of the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep and updates to internet access questions.

Federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 requires that NASS keep all submissions confidential, use the information for statistical purposes only, and publish aggregate data to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation.

NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024. To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information, follow USDA NASS on Twitter at [@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass).

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NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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