

REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOUNTAIN REGION AG PRODUCERS NEAR FEBRUARY 6 DEADLINE FOR 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – January 31, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reminds Mountain Region farmers and ranchers that the deadline to respond to the 2022 Census of Agriculture is next week, February 6. Producers can respond online at <u>agcounts.usda.gov</u> or by mail.

Last month, NASS mailed the Census of Agriculture questionnaires to every known ag producer in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Conducted just once every five years, the Ag Census provides a complete account of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Responding to the Census of Agriculture is required by federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113. The same law requires NASS to keep all individual operations' information confidential, use the data for statistical purposes only, and publish the data in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation.

"Thank you to the farmers and ranchers that have completed and returned their Census of Agriculture. The data collected in the Ag Census is used to make decisions that impact our communities and businesses," said Rodger Ott, Director, Mountain Regional Field Office. "The data cover categories that are important to the agricultural industry, and make it possible to compare national, state, and county level statistics. By responding, Mountain Region ag producers make sure the best data is available for better decisions."

The Census of Agriculture remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and U.S. territory. U.S. farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in 2022, are included as well as Puerto Rico farm operations which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$500 or more of agricultural products in the Ag Census year.

Producers who have submitted their completed 2022 Agricultural Census may disregard any additional Ag Census letters and forms. Whether producers responded online or by mail, they can verify their reports were received by going to agcounts.usda.gov, entering their survey codes, and checking the submitted date under the status column of the My Surveys tab. The status update is not always immediate. The update can take a few minutes or up to several days, especially if the questionnaire was returned by mail.

NASS will release the results of the ag census in 2024. Visit <u>nass.usda.gov/agcensus</u>, for more information. For state specific questions, please contact your USDA NASS State Statistician at 1-800-392-3202:

Arizona – Dave DeWalt Colorado – Rodger Ott Montana – Eric Sommer New Mexico – Margie Whitcotton Utah – John Hilton Wyoming – Leslee Lohrenz

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