

REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STILL TIME TO RESPOND TO THE 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE -USDA TO FOLLOW UP WITH MOUNTAIN REGION PRODUCERS WHO HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – February 15, 2023 – Farmers and ranchers in the Mountain Region states of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming still have time to be counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Although the deadline for submitting the Ag Census has just passed, NASS will continue to accept completed census questionnaires through the spring to ensure all farmers and ranchers take advantage of the opportunity to be represented in the widely used data.

"Thank you to the farmers and ranchers that have completed and returned their Census of Agriculture. The data collected in the Ag Census provides a picture of the current state of agriculture and rural America, and 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."

NASS will continue to follow up with Mountain Region producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their Ag Census either online at <u>agcounts.usda.gov</u> or by mail as soon as possible.

Federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 mandates that everyone who received the 2022 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete and return it, even if they are not currently farming. The same law requires NASS to 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 <u>nass.usda.gov/AgCensus</u>. 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 <u>@usda_nass</u>. For state specific questions, please contact your USDA NASS State Statistician at 1-800-392-3202:

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