



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service



05-A01(L1)  
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Dear Farmer or Rancher:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is planning the 2012 Census of Agriculture and we need your help to make it the most successful count ever. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is asking a select group of farmers and ranchers across the United States to participate in a critical trial run in order to improve the 2012 census questionnaire and ensure that it is as easy as possible for you and your fellow producers to complete.

While the Census of Agriculture is required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code), your participation in this Census test is voluntary. Nevertheless, your input is vitally important and so I urge you to take the time to respond. As with all information collected by NASS, Federal law requires that your individual answers are kept **confidential**.

The Internet offers a safe, secure and simple way for you to participate in the Census.

To respond online, please go to **<http://agcounts/>** and follow the instructions at the site. You will need to enter the 12-digit ID number printed on the address label on the enclosed report form. Of course, if you choose not to take advantage of the time-saving features of Web reporting, you can always complete the enclosed paper copy and return it in the postage-paid envelope.

The Census of Agriculture is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the United States. This vital information, which we only collect every 5 years, is used by policymakers and producers alike to help make important decisions about the future of American agriculture.

Please help us make the 2012 Census a success by responding to this test questionnaire by **March 1, 2010**. If you need guidance or have questions, call (888) 424-7828. Please have your 12-digit ID number handy when you call.

Thank you for taking part in this effort to improve the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The Census is your voice, your future and your responsibility.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Clark  
Administrator

Enclosures