



United States
Department
of Agriculture

May 3, 2010

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service



Dear Agricultural Producer:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is conducting its first-ever, national survey of energy production on America's farms and ranches. The 2009 On-Farm Energy Production Survey is your opportunity to ensure that America's agricultural producers receive recognition for the environmental benefits they provide and for their commitment to preserving the land on which their livelihood depends.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture counted more than 20,000 farm and ranch operations that were producing energy. In this follow-up survey, we are gathering additional information about these practices, including the use of wind turbines, solar panels, anaerobic digesters and other alternative energy sources.

For your convenience, you can complete the survey via the Internet, using our secure Web-based response system at www.agcensus.usda.gov. Responding online will not only save you time, but will save the government money on return postage and data entry. You can refer to the back of this letter for instructions on how to complete your survey online.

Please be assured that federal law (Title 7, U.S. Code) protects the confidentiality of your individual responses. The information you provide will be published only in tabulated totals and will not be used for purposes of taxation, investigation or regulation.

Whether you choose to complete the survey online or by mail, your response is required by **May 24, 2010**. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call (888) 424-7828.

Thank you in advance for your support and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Clark".

Cynthia Clark
Administrator
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service


Enclosures



It's Convenient. It's Secure. Online Survey Response

Completing your survey online saves you time by allowing you to skip over questions that don't apply to you, by calculating totals automatically, and by providing drop-down menus for common answers. It also saves taxpayer dollars that would otherwise be spent on return postage and data entry.

To complete your survey online, just follow these steps:

1. Go to: www.agcounts.usda.gov
2. Read the warning message, then click "Next Page."
3. Enter the 17-digit SURVEY CODE found on your mailing label. 
4. Select your survey by clicking the "Click for Survey" button.
5. Answer the questions then click "Continue with Survey."

11 222222220
SURVEY CODE = 11-222222221 AA1AAA
JQP FARMS
JOHN Q PUBLIC
123 CITY RD
ANYTOWN, ST 12345-6789

Do not click the "Submit" button until you are sure you are finished with your survey. If you wish to save your form and return later, click "Save and Return Later." To return, just go back to step 1 above.

After you submit your survey, select the "click here" link to view your completed form. You may select the "Print" link to print a copy for your files.



NASS Online Survey Support (800) 727-9540
United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
www.nass.usda.gov

