



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



December 10, 2012

Dear Producer,

The apiary industry has faced a number of serious issues in recent years, including loss of colonies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) measures the size and condition of the industry each year through the annual nationwide Bee and Honey Survey. The results of the survey are important to the industry. The resulting statistics are used to compare conditions from year to year and to help promote programs as well as to ensure the viability of beekeepers and agricultural pollination services.

Please respond to the attached survey, which asks you for information on honey production, colony numbers and value. Your participation is important. To make responding as convenient as possible, NASS offers the following options to respond:

- **By Internet** at www.agcounts.usda.gov. This method is fast, easy and secure. You will need the 17-digit response code found on the survey mailing label to begin; then follow the instructions on the back of this letter.
- **By mail or fax.** Complete the survey questionnaire and mail it back in the return envelope provided or fax it to (314) 595-9990.

If you do not respond by January 22, 2013, a NASS representative will contact you to arrange a telephone or personal interview. Please be assured that NASS will keep your responses to this survey completely confidential, as required by Federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

NASS will publish the survey results in its annual *Honey* report, to be released on March 18, 2013.

Thank you in advance for your responding to the survey and for your support of U.S. agriculture.

Sincerely,

Hubert Hamer
Chair, Agricultural Statistics Board


Enclosure



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 "Online Survey Response" message, then click "Complete Your Survey."
3. Enter the 17-digit SURVEY CODE found on your mailing label. 
4. Select your survey and press "Click for Survey" to begin.
5. Verify your contact information and click "Continue with Survey."
6. Complete your 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, save or print your completed form.



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

