



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Census and Survey Division



June 24, 2014

Mr. Dennis J. Fixler  
Chief Statistician  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Economic Analysis  
1441 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Fixler,

Thank you for your supporting comments regarding the Federal Register Notice of the 2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties (CHS). This census provides the only complete and consistent data on floriculture, nursery, and specialty crop production in the United States.

The data results will provide a more complete picture of the significance of agriculture to the American population and help ensure the growth and sustainability of the U.S. horticulture industry.

This survey will be conducted as a part of the Census of Agriculture and is required by law as defined under Title 7, U.S. Code. This same law protects the confidentiality of each response. Results are reported in summary form, ensuring no individual information is shared.

Due to the various items used by BEA, NASS plans to keep the following Sections in the 2014 questionnaire:

- Section 9: Nursery Stock Production
- Section 10: Nursery Stock-Sales Categories
- Section 11: Sod, Sprigs, or Plugs
- Section 20: Marketing Channels
- Section 21: Estimated Value of Land, Buildings, Machinery and Equipment

NASS recognizes the importance of the data and the knowledge behind BEA utilizing the information to prepare estimates.

Thank you! We appreciate your interest and support.

Sincerely,

R. Renee Picanso  
Director, Census and Survey Division