



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



October 2014

Dear Producer,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) measures the size and condition of establishments producing, consuming, and storing major edible and inedible fats and oils each year through the monthly Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils survey. Response to this survey is required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). The survey results are used by producers, processors and commodity markets to make sound and informed business decisions and to help promote the edible and inedible fats and oils industries. NASS will publish the survey results in the monthly *Current Agricultural Industrial Report*.

Please respond to the attached survey, which asks for information on the quantities of animal and vegetable fats and oils produced, consumed, and stored during September 2014. Your participation is important. Because we want to make it as easy as possible for you to participate, we offer you the following options to respond:

- **Online** at <http://www.agcounts.usda.gov>. This method is fast, easy and secure. You will need the 17-digit survey code found on the survey mailing label to begin; then follow the instructions on the back of this letter.
- **By mail.** Complete the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided.

If we do not hear from you by the second week in October 2014, we will contact you to arrange a telephone interview. Please be assured that your responses are completely confidential, as required by Federal law. The National Agricultural Statistics Service safeguards the privacy of all respondents, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support of our programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hubert Hamer".

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 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."

46 300003020 01 2723 122211 0
SURVEY CODE - 99-3J 002651-GMX78Q 71 10000
NOC FARMS INC 20 129
LOVELY FARMER 00 307 359
12300 TRACTOR PL
SOMEWHERE, SD 57472-5708

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

