



October 3, 2017

### Why am I getting this letter?

We at the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are approaching farmers in your area to fill out the 2017 Agricultural Labor Survey covering the last two reference weeks of the year, July 9-15 and October 8-14. Please complete your questionnaire online or by mail at your earliest convenience. If you do not respond by October 16, a representative from our office may contact you to arrange a telephone interview or a personal interview.

### What are Farm Labor Data used for?

- Farm labor data are used in the formulation of farm productivity indexes. The inclusion of wage rate data in the Parity Index (Index of Prices Paid by Farmers) is required by law.
- Farm worker data provides data for the agricultural sector of component the Gross Domestic Product.
- Agencies responsible for administering farm labor recruitment and placement programs use the statistics in their planning and evaluations.
- Individual farm producers may use wage rate data as a guide when hiring workers and when estimating expenses for their operation.

The results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified, as required by federal law. We will publish the survey findings in the biannual *Farm Labor* report, to be released November 16, 2017. The report will be available at [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications).

Thank you for participating and for your support of our programs and U.S. agriculture. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (888) 424-7828.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Parsons  
Chairman, Agricultural Statistics Board

Enclosure

### What should I do next?

Complete your survey in one of the following ways:



**Online** at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) beginning on October 10. **Online reporting is fast, cost-effective, and secure.** All you need is the 17-digit survey code on the enclosed form to begin.



By **mail or fax**. Complete the survey questionnaire and mail it back in the return envelope provided or fax it to (855) 415-3687.

