

INSTRUCTION SHEET

UNITED STATES 2027 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Your report is due February 21, 2028

Who Should Report?

A reply is requested from **EVERYONE** who receives a report form, including persons who operated a farm, ranch, or other agricultural operation in 2027, anyone who has any agricultural activity, as well as those who were not involved in agriculture. You may complete your report form online. Go to www.agcounts.usda.gov and enter your unique 12-digit survey code from the Census mailing label. More Census information is on the Internet at www.agcensus.usda.gov.

If you do not return your report form, you will continue to receive contacts from us.

If you were a landlord only and rented out all your land, complete the front page and the Conclusion on the back page of the enclosed report form and return it in the preaddressed return envelope. If you were a landlord but still operated other land yourself, you should complete the entire report form for that land which you operated.

Partial Year Operations - If you stopped farming, ranching, or producing agricultural products during 2027, complete the report form for the portion of the year that you did farm. Write "Stopped farming during 2027" and the date you stopped below the address area. Mail the completed report form in the return envelope. If the person whose name is on the label was deceased during 2027, complete the form for the portion of the year that they farmed, and write a note.

Involved in More Than One Operation - If you made decisions for more than one operation, you may have received a report form for each operation. Provide information for each operation on a separate form. To obtain additional report forms, or if you have questions, please call the toll-free help line at 1-888-424-7828.

Partnership Operation - Complete only **ONE** form for the entire partnership's agricultural operation and include the entire operation on that one form. If you made day-to-day decisions for another operation, complete a report form for each separate operation. We have listed all known partners below the address area to assist in defining the operation. Make any necessary corrections to these names.

If you owned farm or ranch land in 2027 that was idle and NOT rented out, you should complete and return the report form. If all the cropland was enrolled in conservation programs like CRP, complete the form and include these acres.

Specialty Commodities - Horses, bees, elk, emus, mink, fish, nursery, etc., are an important part of the agriculture industry. Report for all commodities, regardless of the amount of production or sales you had in 2027.

Land in Federal conservation programs in 2027 - If you had land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and you made the decisions on the acres, include the conservation land on the report form in Items 6-14, as appropriate.

Received More Than One Report Form for the Same Operation - If you received more than one report form for the same operation, complete only **ONE** form per operation. Write "Duplicate" below the address area of each extra form. Return all forms in the same return envelope with your completed form so that we can correct our records.

Entering Your Responses - Use **BLUE** or **BLACK INK** only. Enter your replies in the unit requested, i.e., acres, square feet, etc. Convert fractions to decimals. Please print clearly and keep numbers and letters within the white boxes. Mark all applicable Yes/No and None boxes with an "X".

SCREENING QUESTIONS

Items 1 – 4 - Answer each question to determine your operating status. **If you are a landlord, do not report any agricultural activity for your tenant(s).** Please complete the entire form if any of the answers in Items 1-4 were a "yes." If all answers were "no" go to the Conclusion (Item 30) on the back page.

ACREAGE IN 2027

Your answers in this section will determine the land (**Acres in "THIS OPERATION"**) referred to throughout the report form. Include all land owned, rented, or used by you, your spouse, or by the partnership, corporation, or organization named on the front page of the form, regardless of location or use during 2027, even if only for part of the year. Include cropland, non-tillable land, land in government programs such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), etc., pastureland and rangeland, woodland and idle land, farmsteads, buildings, and structures. Include only actively managed tidelands. Exclude residential or commercial land. Report land in whole acres.

Item 6a - Report all land owned in 2027 whether held under deed, purchase contract or mortgage, homestead law, or as heir/heirless or trustee of an undivided estate. Include all land owned by you and/or your spouse, or by the partnership, corporation, or organization named on the front of the report form.

Item 6b - Report all land rented or leased from others by you or your operation. Include water area leased for aquaculture production. Exclude land used under private, Government grazing permits, or on a fee per head or animal unit month (AUM) basis (Taylor Grazing, Section 3 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and USDA Forest Service land). Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Section 15 land leased by your operation with a specified acreage tract should be included here even though your fees to BLM are paid on an AUM basis.

Item 6c - Include all land rented out to others for any purpose if it was part of the acreage reported in Items 6 and 7. Your tenant(s) will receive a form to report production for the land they rent. Do not report land placed in conservation programs as acres rented to others. Do not report land used by others on a fee per head or animal unit month (AUM) basis.

Item 7 - This is all land you operated at any time in 2027. Land Use (Items 9-13) should be reported for these acres.

Item 7 Total acres equals zero (0) - After completing Item 6, if the acres in Item 7, equal zero and you did not raise or own any livestock, aquaculture, or poultry in 2027, write a description of land use in the space by question 7. Complete the conclusion and mail the report form in the return envelope.

LAND USE IN 2027

The total acres from Items 9 - 13 entered in Item 13 should equal the total acres in Item 7. These acres represent "this operation" for this census report. **If these two numbers are not the same, please GO BACK and CORRECT your figures.** Do not report any crops grown on land rented or leased to others or worked by others on shares during 2027.

Land used for more than one purpose - Do not report the same acreage in more than one of the listed categories. If part or all of your land was used for more than one listed purpose in 2027, report that land only in the first purpose listed. For example, if you planted and harvested a grain crop and grazed the crop residue in the fall, report the land in Item 9a, cropland harvested. Do not report those acres again in Item 10c pasture or grazing land.

CRP/WRP and other conservation programs - Report these acres in the Items in this section that best describe them. For example, CRP land may be reported in cropland harvested, cropland idle, or woodland not pastured depending on its use.

Item 9a - Land maintained for orchards or vineyards is included even if the crop failed or the trees or vines are not of bearing age. Abandoned acres of orchards or vineyards which are not maintained for production should be reported in Item 9d. Harvested cropland includes acres of **trees** for fruit, nuts, and berries along with acres of grape vines, Christmas trees, and short rotation woody crops in production. Do not include the area harvested for timber or firewood. If more than one crop was harvested from the same land in 2027, report that land as cropland harvested only once.

Item 9b - Include land you intended to harvest but had to abandon or had the crop failed.

Item 9c - Include cropland left unseeded for the 2027 harvest and tilled summer fallow, or treated with herbicides to control weeds and conserve moisture. Include cropland summer fallowed in 2027 even though it may have been planted to wheat, etc., for the 2026 harvest.

Item 12 - Include tidelines actively managed for aquaculture production, whether owned or rented from others. Include other water area leased for the production of aquaculture.

Item 14 - Report all acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP), or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) on September 30, 2027.

Item 15 - Enter the acres grown/harvested in 2027. Round fractions to whole acres except for vegetables, potatoes, melons, fruits/nuts and berries, where tenths should be reported.

Acres irrigated - Report the irrigated harvested acres only once, even if the crop was irrigated multiple times during the growing season.

Item 15a - Report acres from which field crops were harvested in 2027. Report multiple cropped acreage only once. Grain, oilseeds, and other field crops include but are not limited to corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, peanuts, hemp, hops, grass seeds, dry edible beans, tobacco, sugar crops, etc. Exclude forage crops.

Item 15b - Report all land from which dry hay, haylage, grass silage or greenchop was cut or forage was harvested in 2027. Include hay and forage from alfalfa, wild or native grasses, and hay or forage from clovers, small grains, soybeans, and peanuts. Exclude straw, corn silage, and sorghum silage. Any pasture or conservation land that had hay cut from it should be reported as cropland in Item 9a.

Item 15c - Report acres in production for cultivated Christmas trees cut or to be cut. Exclude wild harvested trees.

Items 15d – 15h - Exclude home gardens, personal or home use crops.

Item 15d – Potatoes - Report acres of potatoes harvested. Do not report potatoes in Item 15e, vegetables and melons.

Item 15e - Report acres from which vegetables, and melons were harvested in 2027. Report multiple cropped acreage only once. Exclude crops grown under protection and report those crops in Item 15h. Exclude potatoes reported in Item 15d.

Item 15f and 15g - Report acres for bearing and nonbearing fruit orchards, vineyards, nut trees and berries in 2027. Exclude abandoned acres of orchards or vineyards.

Item 15h - Report any nursery, floriculture, or greenhouse crops, including ornamental plants, flowers, mushrooms, aquatic plants, sod, vegetable seeds grown under protective cover, food and other crops grown under protective cover, flower seeds, or other propagative materials **grown for sale**. Exclude finished plants purchased from others and resold. Include Christmas trees only if grown and sold live as nursery stock.

Item 16 - Report number of taps set for collecting maple syrup.

Item 17 - Grain Storage - Report the storage capacity of all

structures **normally used** to store whole grains or oilseeds on the total acres operated in bushels. Exclude storage operated by tenant(s).

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Items 18a – 24 - Include all animals on this operation on December 31, 2027 owned by you, raised by you under contract, or kept by you for others. Report the total number sold or moved during 2027 for each livestock item. Head raised under contract for others and moved from your operation should be included in the “Number sold or moved” column. For animals raised under contract, indicate the type of animal in Item 20 as well as the number moved under production contract in Item 20a.

Include animals owned by you on unfenced lands, National Forest Land, Indian Reservation Land, cooperative grazing association land, or rangeland administered by the Bureau of Land Management on a per head, animal unit month (AUM), or lease basis. Animals in transit on December 31, 2027, should be reported by the person who had control of the animals on that day. Animals on a fee per head or animal unit month (AUM) basis should be reported by the animal owner and not the landowner.

Items 19a – 19h - Include poultry grown for others on a contract basis. Poultry not listed such as roosters, ducks, etc. should be reported in Item 19h, other poultry. Report the total number sold or moved during 2027 for each poultry item. Head raised under contract for others and moved from your operation should be included in the “Number sold or moved” column. For poultry raised under contract, indicate the type of poultry in Item 20 as well as the number moved under production contract in Item 20a.

Items 19h - Report other poultry on this operation on December 31, 2027 that were not reported in Items 19a – 19g. Write the type of poultry. Include items such as roosters, ducks, pheasants, etc.

PRODUCTION CONTRACTS (LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY)

Item 20 - A production contract is an agreement between a grower and contractor (integrator) that specifies that the grower will raise an agricultural commodity and that the contractor will provide certain inputs such as feed, livestock, etc. The grower receives a payment or fee from the contractor, generally after delivery, which is less than the full market price of the commodity. Exclude marketing contracts, futures contracts, forward contracts, or other contracts based strictly on price.

Item 20 - Specify commodity produced under a production contract by checking the appropriate box. Do **not** check any boxes for livestock or poultry **not raised for others under contract**. If the type of contract livestock is not shown, check “other” and write in the type of livestock raised under contract such as ducks or feeder cattle.

Item 20a - Enter the number of head moved under production contract for 2027.

SPECIALTY LIVESTOCK: EQUINE, AQUACULTURE, HONEY BEES, AND OTHER

Item 21a – 21c - Exclude horses, ponies, and other equine owned by this operation but stabled elsewhere. Report the number of equine sold or moved from this operation in 2027 regardless of ownership.

Item 22a - Report the number of bee colonies owned regardless of location and the pounds of honey collected during 2027 whether sold or not.

Item 23 - Report the total pounds of aquaculture sold or moved in 2027. Include all types and sizes of aquaculture such as fry, eggs, or food size fish for sales of distribution into the wild. Include catfish, trout, baitfish, crustaceans, mollusks, ornamental fish, sport or game fish, and other types of aquaculture such as algae, alligators, etc. Convert units such as bushels, bags, or gallons to pounds. Exclude wild caught fish. Specify the type of aquaculture reported in Item 23c.

Items 24a – Report other livestock sold or moved from this operation on during 2027 that were not reported in Items 18 – 23. Write the type of livestock sold or moved in box beside Item 24a. Include items such as bison, live mink, etc.

FARM LABOR

Item 25 - Report the number of paid and unpaid farm or ranch workers who performed agricultural labor on this operation in 2027. Exclude contract labor except where specified. Include family members (paid and unpaid). Include workers such as bookkeepers, office workers, maintenance workers, etc., if their work was primarily associated with agricultural production on this operation.

Item 25a - Include any short term or temporary workers who may have worked only a few days. Exclude contract labor.

Item 25b – Include any workers who may have worked 150 days or more. Exclude contract labor.

SALES AND FEDERAL FARM PROGRAM PAYMENTS

Item 26 – Include sales of all crops, livestock, poultry and livestock products (milk, eggs, etc.) sold in 2027. Include the value of hay, silage, and other crops harvested in 2027, but not sold. Include the value of all crops, livestock, and poultry produced under contract in 2027. The total amount should include payments from federal farm programs received in 2027. Include landlord's share of government payments and crops sold in 2027.

Exclude dollars received on land rented to others.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

These questions collect information about the persons making decisions for this operation. Complete one column for each person involved in making decisions for the farming operation.

Item 27 - Enter the number of men and the number of women involved in decisions for this operation. Do not report minor-aged children who only worked on the farm.

Item 28 - Complete one column for each person involved in making decisions for the farming operation for up to four persons.. If there were more than four, answer for the four individuals most involved in the decision making for this operation.

CONCLUSION

Item 30 – If the operator printed on the front of the form has sold/turnover or rented/leased out the operation, check the appropriate box and provide the contact information of the new operator/operation.

Item 31 - If the agricultural activity on your operation might be identified under a different name than is printed on the front of the form (for example, a farm name or another partner), please provide these names and phone number.

Item 32 - All farms and ranches should receive their own forms to complete. If you operated another farm or ranch, indicate whether you received a form for that operation.