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Ag-UPDATE

Let Your Voice Be Heard

What is the Census of Agriculture?

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count, taken every five years, of America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It is the most complete agricultural data resource available, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive information for every county in the nation. The Census provides information on land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and many other important topics. The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

Agriculture's Voice

By participating in the 2007 Census, producers can help show the nation the value and importance of U.S. agriculture. This is an opportunity for every producer to show how agriculture contributes to America by providing food, fuel and fiber. Each producer has the power to influence key decisions that will shape the direction of American agriculture for years to come, including:

- Transportation and marketing locations
- Farm services
- Production practices and new technologies
- Policy decisions

The Future

By responding to the Census, every producer can have a positive impact on the future of their own operation and their entire community. The Census provides valuable information used for:

- Community planning
- Farm succession planning
- Store/company locations
- Availability of operational loans and other funding
- Location and staffing of USDA service centers
- Federal budget support for agriculture

Everyone's Responsibility

Everyone's response to the Census makes a difference. To assure the Census is providing the best tools and reports, USDA needs accurate information from all farmers and ranchers no matter how large or small their operations. This information is used to make a positive difference in local communities. Additionally, responses are required and protected by law.

What to Do?

Producers should look for the Census form in their mailboxes in early January 2008.

Forms must be mailed back or completed online by February 4, 2008.

Visit www.agcensus.usda.gov for more information.



2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.



Dear Florida Agribusiness Leader:

I urge all of Florida's agricultural producers to participate in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The input received by the Census helps shape the future of agriculture for years to come, and we want to make sure that the voices of Florida's farmers and ranchers are heard. The Census of Agriculture provides information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways. For instance, policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census data to target needed services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses. Please look for the Census form in your mail in early January, and return the completed form by February 4, 2008.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Bronson

Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture

