



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Media Contact: Vic Tolomeo or Sarah Hoffman, 1-800-851-1127 · March 14, 2008

PLANT A SEED FOR YOUR FUTURE WITH THE 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

There is Still Time to be Counted

SACRAMENTO, March 14, 2008 – With planting season just around the corner, U.S. farmers and ranchers still have a chance to sow a seed for their future by standing up and being counted in the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

“We’ve already received more than 1.7 million completed Census forms, and we sincerely appreciate the dedication and effort of the many farmers and ranchers who have responded,” said Vic Tolomeo, Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), California Field Office. “But for those from whom we have not yet heard, there is good news – there is still time to be counted. So, before you jump back on that tractor, take a moment to complete and return your Census.”

The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years, is the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. That information is used by town planners, policymakers, agribusinesses and others to make important growth-generating decisions.

“By responding to the Census, the nation’s agricultural producers are sowing seeds that will reap benefits far into the future,” Tolomeo said. “That’s why we are committed to ensuring that every farm and ranch operation in the United States, including California, is counted.”

NASS recently mailed a second copy of the Census to those who have not yet responded. “And as we move into spring, we’ll be following up with additional mailings and phone calls in order to ensure that no one is left out,” Tolomeo added. “The Census really is every producer’s opportunity to be a voice for their own business, their community and their industry.”

Producers can return their Census forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of responding online. For more information, or for assistance with completing the 2007 Census of Agriculture, call toll-free (888) 424-7828 or visit <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>.

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