



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Upcoming survey information is contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA to Conduct Census of Horticulture

HARRISBURG, PA, November 6, 2009 - - - According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, nearly 6% of the market value of agricultural products sold nationwide could be attributed to the horticulture industry. In Pennsylvania, 15.8% of the market value of agricultural products sold, or \$915 million, were attributed to the horticulture industry.

In December, NASS will mail the Census of Horticultural Specialties to all known horticultural operations in the United States. Recipients are required to respond by February 5, 2010. NASS will publish the results in December 2010. Conducted once every 10 years, this census provides detailed information on horticultural production and sales across the United States. The Census of Horticultural Specialties provides the only comprehensive, detailed picture of U.S. floriculture, nursery and specialty crop operations. In Pennsylvania, nearly 2,000 growers will be asked to provide information on production, sales of horticultural commodities and the number of agricultural workers on their operation.

Census participants are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code) that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals.

“As we did with the Census of Agriculture, we are reminding Pennsylvania producers that the Census of Horticultural Specialties is their voice, their future and their responsibility,” said Kevin Pautler, director of the NASS Pennsylvania Field Office. “This is an opportunity for horticultural producers to share their voices and help ensure the continued growth and long-term sustainability of horticultural farming in the United States.”

The results of the census are used by industry, government, academia and others, aiding in the development of sound programs and policies, research, and market analysis and business planning. “The results will help shape future decisions regarding availability of goods and services, community development, funding and other key issues,” Pautler noted. “In addition, the information can help producers make informed decisions about the future of their own horticultural operations.”

All NASS reports are available online at: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information about the Census of Horticultural Specialties, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-800-498-1518.

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