

Your Voice:

Have you ever thought that agriculture wasn't considered a valued and important industry? Do you feel like Agriculture just doesn't count to a lot of people? The Census of Agriculture is conducted every 5 years; completing the 2007 Census of Agriculture is your opportunity to be heard and influence economic developments and impact local and national decision-making about:

- Competitive market pricing.
- Farm services.
- Transportation and marketing locations.
- Environmental and conservation issues.
- Farming trends.
- Production practices.
- New and changing technologies.

Your Future:

The 2007 Census of Agriculture will collect information concerning all areas of farming, including production expenses, market value of products and operator characteristics. A few examples of how information is used for planning and decision making are:

- County Extension offices use information for designing and planning education programs in agriculture, natural resources and community development.
- Companies use data to help determine where to locate new feed stores or equipment dealers.
- Lending institutions use information to provide funds for operating loans.
- Helps USDA determine if service centers are properly located and staffed adequately.

In short, your participation allows many people who use this Census information the ability to provide opportunities within your local community.

Your Responsibility:

Stand up and be counted! The information you provide cannot be collected by other means. Your report can make a difference to your operation, your community and to all U.S. Agriculture. West Virginia farmers should receive their Census of Agriculture report form in early January 2008. The completed Census form should be returned by early February 2008. This is the only source of complete information on all agricultural production by county. Let your voice be heard!

Our Thanks:

We express our sincere thanks to the West Virginia Farmers and Agribusinesses who participated in our surveys that made this publication possible. Personnel from the West Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Farm Service Agency, National Resources Conservation Service, and the National Weather Service who consistently provide timely information on a regular basis, we also say "Thank you."

Sincerely yours,



Dale R. King
Director

