

Each year, America produces a vast quantity of agricultural goods that are consumed around the globe. Although West Virginia is a small state, it plays a substantial role in American agriculture, generating nearly a half-billion dollars in agricultural production annually.

Keeping track of the Mountain State's various types and amounts of agricultural products is a huge job – one ably handled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service – West Virginia Field Office.

Each year, Agricultural Statistics Director Dale King and his staff gather extensive data about farming in West Virginia. This information is vital to state and national decision-makers who set agricultural policy and provide programs that benefit our farmers and, therefore, all of us.

This is a particularly important year for the West Virginia Field Office, as the staff will be administering the Census of Agriculture, conducted just once every five years. By participating in the census, producers can show the nation the value and importance of agriculture in West Virginia. West Virginia farmers should receive their Census of Agriculture questionnaire in early January 2008.

If you operate a farm of any size, I encourage you to complete the Census questionnaire and return it by early February 2008. Your work deserves to be counted and your voice deserves to be heard!



**Gus R. Douglass
Commissioner of Agriculture**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Gus R. Douglass".

Gus R. Douglass
Commissioner of Agriculture