



NEWS RELEASE

**2002 Census of Agriculture
January 8, 2003**

JANUARY 2003 DECLARED CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE MONTH

Most producers in North Dakota and the rest of the United States have received a 2002 Census of Agriculture report to complete. Every five years, the US Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts a comprehensive census analyzing local, state and national trends in agriculture. This year marks the 26th census of agriculture originating back to the first census conducted in 1840.

Why is it important to complete the census report? In order to make good decisions, producers must first have knowledge of changing markets and awareness of emerging technologies and trends. The census can help answer these questions and more.

When determining where to locate a processing facility, a developer will want to look at many factors that are available from the census including proximity to resources. These data are also important for locating other value added operations such as ethanol plants and feed mills, used for research purposes and utilized to plan educational needs.

The 2002 Census includes new questions regarding farms with multiple operators, computer and internet usage, and new livestock categories including bison, deer, elk, llamas, emus and ostriches. USDA NASS officials urge producers to complete and return the forms by February 3, 2003.

Because of the importance of the census, Governor Hoeven has declared that this January is "2002 Census of Agriculture Month." Data provided by individual producers is kept strictly confidential by law and only published in geographic summaries. Anyone having questions regarding the 2002 Census of Agriculture should contact USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service at 1-800-4AG-STAT (1-800-424-7828).

For More Information Contact:

*Doug Hartwig, State Statistician ■ NDSU, IACC 448 ■ 701-239-5306
E-mail: nass-nd@nass.usda.gov ■ Internet: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/>*



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE MONTH
January 2003

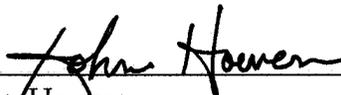
WHEREAS, agriculture is a leading industry in North Dakota, providing a total economic impact of nearly \$4 billion; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the well being of our farmers and other agricultural interests that consistent, up-to-date county level data be compiled on a variety of farm-related activities to help the industry make critical decisions; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the 2002 Census of Agriculture starting in January 2003 is to obtain general information regarding agriculture; and

WHEREAS, all farm and ranch households are encouraged to give full support for this important farm census; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim January 2003, **2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.



John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State