



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
New England Field Office



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I want to thank all who participated in the Census of Agriculture and all other surveys that we conducted throughout 2007. We understand the time commitment needed to complete these questionnaires and fully appreciate your effort. Without your participation, the information provided in this bulletin and the Census of Agriculture would not exist.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture will not only provide the latest county level and demographic information of New England agriculture, it will also provide the latest measure of trends in agriculture. Just how large is Organic Agriculture? Is the direct market trend still growing? In 2002, Massachusetts led the nation with the largest percentage of direct market sales; is that still true? What is the farm gate value of Agri-tourism? The 2007 Census of Agriculture will answer these and other questions about agriculture when the results are published in February 2009.

In addition, our yearly statistics from 2003 through 2007 will be subject to revision with the Census of Agriculture results used as a benchmark. Most of our annual estimates are based on relatively small samples of the total population of producers of specific commodities. Not only will we use the Census results as a guide to revise estimates of our major commodities, but we will have updated information for the many commodities produced in New England that are not covered by our annual statistics.

Again, our appreciation goes out to the thousands of farm operators across the region who willingly contributed to our estimating program. You **are** the heart and soul of our program for without your cooperation the rest of the story could not be accurately written. We also appreciate the cooperation and support extended by the leaders of State agencies that support agriculture in each of the New England States. Their financial contributions allow us to provide data users with a printed copy of this annual report each year. Finally, I would like to recognize Kathy Schmitt for her assistance in preparing this publication.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Keough
Director

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