Appendix A.
Census of Agriculture Methodology

The purpose of a census is to enumerate all objects with a defined characteristic. For the census of agriculture, that goal is to account for "any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year." To do this, NASS creates a Census Mail List (CML) of agricultural operations that potentially meet the farm definition, collects agricultural information from those operations, reviews the data, corrects or completes the requested information, and combines the data to provide information on the characteristics of farm operations and farm producers at the national, State, and county levels. In this appendix, these census processes are described.

THE CENSUS POPULATION

The Census Mail List

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) maintains a list of farmers and ranchers from which the CML is compiled. The goal is to build as complete a list as possible of agricultural places that meet the farm definition. The CML compilation begins with the list used to define sampling populations for NASS surveys conducted for the agricultural estimates program. Each record on the list includes name, address, telephone number, and email plus additional information that is used to efficiently administer the census of agriculture and agricultural estimates programs.

NASS builds and improves the list on an ongoing basis by obtaining outside source lists. Sources include State and federal government lists, producer association lists, seed grower lists, pesticide applicator lists, veterinarian lists, marketing association lists, and a variety of other agriculture-related lists. NASS also obtains special commodity lists to address specific list deficiencies. These outside source lists are matched to the NASS list using record linkage programs. Most names on newly acquired sources are already on the NASS list. Records not on the NASS list are treated as potential farms until NASS can confirm their existence as a qualifying farm. Staff in NASS regional and field offices routinely contact these potential farms to determine whether they meet the farm definition. For the 2017 Census of Agriculture, NASS made a concerted effort to work with community-based organizations not only to improve list coverage for minorities but also to increase census awareness and participation.

List building activities for developing the 2017 CML started in 2014 by updating list information from respondents to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Between 2015 and 2017, NASS conducted a series of National Agricultural Classification Surveys (NACS) on approximately 1.6 million records, which included nonrespondents from the 2012 census and newly added records from outside list sources. The NACS report forms collected information that was used to determine whether an operation met the farm definition. If the definition was met, the operation was added to the NASS list and subsequently to the CML. Addressees that were nonrespondents to a NACS were also added to the CML and identified with a special status code.

Measures were taken to improve name and address quality. Additional record linkage programs were run to detect and remove duplicate records both within each State and across States. List addresses were processed through software programs that utilize the United States Postal Service's National Change of Address System and the Locatable Address Conversion System to improve mail delivery. Records on the list with missing or invalid phone numbers were matched against a nationally available telephone database to obtain as many phone numbers as possible. To reduce costs, operations with characteristics that indicated they were unlikely to be farms, according to the farm definition, were removed from the list.

The official CML for the 2017 Census of Agriculture was established on September 3, 2017. The list contained 2,999,098 records. Of these, 2,259,750 records were thought to meet the NASS farm definition and 739,348 were potential farm records, which included NACS nonrespondents, other records added to the CML by the NASS regional field offices after the record linkage process, and late adds to the CML that were not included in any previous NACS or State screening survey.

Not on the Mail List (NML)

Extensive efforts are directed toward developing a CML that includes all farms in the U.S. However, some farms are not on the list, and some agricultural operations on the list are not farms. NASS uses its June Area Survey (JAS) to quantify the number and types of farms not on the CML. The records in the JAS that are not on the CML are said to be in the Not-on-the-Mail List (NML) domain. If a JAS record in the NML domain is determined to be a farm during the census, it is an NML farm. The NML farms are used to measure coverage associated with the census.

The JAS is based on an area frame, which covers all land in the U.S. and includes all farms. The land in the U.S. is stratified by characteristics of the land. A probability sample of segments is drawn within each stratum for the JAS. Segments of approximately equal size are delineated within each stratum and designated on aerial photographs. The JAS sample of segments is allocated to strata to provide accurate measures of acres planted to widely grown crops, farm numbers, and inventories of cattle. Sampled segments in the JAS are personally enumerated. Each operation identified within a segment boundary is known as a tract.

The 2017 JAS sample was increased to improve the farm counts for operations that produced specialty commodities or had socially disadvantaged or minority producers. The total JAS sample consisted of 13,972 segments of which 3,012 were additional segments. This set of additional segments is referred to as the Agricultural Coverage Evaluation Survey (ACES) segments. The ACES segments were selected using a multivariate sampling design that targeted specific items at the U.S. level. The 2017 JAS consisted of sample segments from all States, with the exception of Alaska where NASS does not maintain an area frame.

During the JAS/ACES enumeration process, each tract is identified as either agricultural or non-agricultural. Each JAS/ACES agricultural tract is identified as a farm or non-farm in June based on the farm definition of $1,000 of sales or potential sales of agricultural products. Non-agricultural tracts are further classified into categories: with farm potential, with unknown farm potential, or with no farm potential. The names and addresses collected in the 2017 JAS/ACES were matched to the CML. Those from the 2017 JAS/ACES that did not match were determined to be in the NML domain and sent a yellow census report form so that they could be differentiated from the green report form sent to those addressees on the CML. Instructions on the census report form directed any respondent who received duplicate forms to complete the CML form and to mail all duplicate forms back together. Those who returned a CML and an NML form had been misclassified as NML and were removed from the NML domain.

The initial NML mailout consisted of 42,430 records. A total of 41,787 NML records were summarized of which 2,799 records were confirmed to be NML and in-scope.

The farm/nonfarm status of each NML domain operation was determined based on the reported data in the census form. An operation in the NML domain that was determined to be a farm is referred to as an NML farm. Characteristics of NML farms and their producers provided a measure of the undercoverage of farms on the CML. The percentage of farms not represented on the CML varied by State. In general, NML farms tended to be small in acreage, production, and sales of agricultural products. Farm operations were missing from the CML for various reasons, including the possibility that the operation started after development of the CML, the operation was so small that it did not appear in any agriculture-related source list, or the operation was misclassified as a nonfarm prior to census mailout. The CML was used with the NML in a capture-recapture framework to represent all farming operations across all States in the JAS sample.

DATA COLLECTION OUTREACH AND PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS

NASS planned and executed a multi-phase strategic communications campaign for the 2017 Census of Agriculture, to increase the level of awareness and response among all U.S. agricultural producers.

- Phase 1 ran from December 2016 − June 2017. It raised awareness about the census and list building, encouraged producers to sign up in response to NASS mailings and at community, association, and other stakeholder meetings where NASS partners reached out.

- Phase 2 ran from July 2017 − December 2017. It notified farm producers and agricultural organizations that the census would be mailed in December, and encouraged communications regarding the census.

- Phase 3 ran from December 2017 – July 2018. It focused on census data collection with messaging urging response, reminding producers that it was not too late to respond.

- Phase 4 ran from August 2018 – February 2019. It thanked producers for their participation and NASS partners for their support, and informed all of the February 2019 data release plan.

The communications campaign focused on these primary areas: partnership building, local-level outreach, public relations, media relations, paid media, and social media. Some external support was provided by a private communications agency (i.e. primarily assistance with paid media/advertising strategy and ad creation) and a freelance writer.

The unifying force behind the 2017 communications campaign was the theme "Your Voice. Your Future. Your Opportunity." This was accompanied by supporting messages and artwork that created a consistent look and feel for all census communications. All messages and materials served the purpose of inspiring action: *Grow Your Farm Future - Shape Your Farm Programs - Boost Your Rural Services - Fill out your Census of Agriculture - Do your part to be counted - The Census of*

Agriculture is Your Voice, Your Future, Your Opportunity.

Partnership and Local-Level Outreach

At the national level, NASS officials met with leaders from dozens of agricultural organizations, State Departments of Agriculture, and other USDA agencies to successfully secure their support in promoting the census among their constituencies. Stakeholders partnered with NASS to promote the 2017 Census of Agriculture through publications (e.g. newsletters), special mailings, speeches, social media, websites, and other communications. In addition, through grassroots-level outreach and efforts, NASS partnered with a number of community-based organizations to reach minority and limited-resource farmers and ranchers. National-level outreach was encouraged and mirrored at the regional, State, and local levels. Among the highlights of these partnership efforts was the production of multiple television and radio public service announcements featuring the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, State secretaries, directors, and commissioners of agriculture and leaders from community-based organizations.

Coverage of American Indian and Alaska Native Farm Producers

To maximize coverage of American Indian and Alaska Native agricultural producers, special procedures were followed in the census. A concerted effort was made to get individual reports from every American Indian and Alaska Native farm or ranch producer in the country. If this was not possible within some reservations, a single reservation-level census report was obtained from knowledgeable reservation officials. These reports covered agricultural activity on the entire reservation. NASS staff reviewed these data and removed duplication with any data reported by American Indian or Alaska Native producers who responded on an individual census report form. Additionally NASS obtained, from knowledgeable reservation officials, the count of American Indian and Alaska Native producers (on reservations) who were not counted through individual census report forms, but whose agricultural activity was included in the reservation-level report form.

Table D, **American Indian and Alaska Native Producers: 2017** provides the number of producers (1) reported as American Indian or Alaska Native in the race category, either as a single race or in combination with other races, on the individual census report forms (for up to four per farm) and (2) identified as American Indian or Alaska Native producers farming on reservations by reservation officials. The count from the individual report forms is summarized in the "Individually reported" column. It includes up to four producers on or off reservations. The "Other" column provides counts of producers on reservations as reported by a reservation or tribal official. The "Total" column is simply a sum of the "Individually reported" and the "Other" columns. Tables in other parts of the publication count the reservation-level reports as single farms.

Public Relations

In the public relations arena, NASS worked with internal and external stakeholders to equip them with communications tools and resources to deliver the census communications message to their audiences. NASS utilized its Intranet and the Partner Tools page on the census website to deliver materials to the 12 regional and 46 field offices as well as to external stakeholders. The materials included but were not limited to: customizable news releases, public service announcement scripts, and a PowerPoint template; Secretary of Agriculture video public service announcements, and drop-in advertisements; informational, instructional, and testimonial videos; website buttons and banners; brochures in multiple languages; flyers; posters; FAQ sheets, talking points, and more. In addition, at the national level, NASS issued six news releases during data collection (three more were produced before data collection to inform and prepare producers) citing department and agency spokespeople, published half a dozen timely and relevant pieces to the USDA blog highlighting the census, and conducted three social media campaigns. These public relations efforts at the national and local-levels helped ensure that NASS' message about the census was continually in the media, including print and online publications, a variety of social media, radio, and some television programs. Media outlets included both those specializing in agriculture and more general outlets.

Paid Media

Even with increasingly limited budgets and resources, NASS was able to apply a small portion of funds toward paid media. For the 2017 Census of Agriculture, NASS strategically advertised in regional print publications, online, and with national agriculture news services (i.e. TV, radio) to bolster reach both in general and within geographically-specific, previously under-represented populations and lower response areas.

DATA COLLECTION

Method of Enumeration

Data collection was accomplished primarily by mail, Computer-Assisted Self Interview (CASI) on the Internet, and personal enumeration for special classes of records in the census operations. Personal enumeration (interviewing) involved the use of both Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) and Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) data collection instruments. Enumerators at the five NASS Data Collection Centers conducted CATI data collection. In addition, enumerators under contract with NASS through the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) conducted phone and personal interviews with respondents. For the 2017 Census of Agriculture, NASS implemented a pre-notification strategy in an effort to increase awareness, improve overall responses, and encourage respondents to report early to avoid continued correspondence. All records with an e-mail address received an e-mail message marketing the improved web form and announcing the census mail packets were coming.

Report Forms

Four versions of report forms were used for the 2017 Census of Agriculture:
- General form (17-A100)
- Short form (17-A200)
- Hawaii form (17-A101)
- American Indian form (17-A300)

The general form facilitated reporting crops and livestock most commonly grown and raised in the U.S. The short form expedited reporting specific crops or livestock for pre-identified farms and ranches in the U.S. The Hawaii form targeted crops and

livestock specifically grown or raised on farms and ranches in Hawaii. The American Indian form focused on crops and livestock for farms and ranches on reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. All of the report forms allowed respondents to write in specific commodities that were not prelisted on their report form.

Report Form Mailings

Pre-notification of census data collection began on November 17, 2017. Approximately 600,000 producers with an active e-mail address on the census mail list received a message informing them of the upcoming census data collection period and encouraging them to utilize the new census web form. Between November 27 and November 30, 2017, approximately 1 million producers received a letter with their survey code and instructions for completing their census online. The letter encouraged producers to report online early to avoid receiving mail and phone follow-up. Approximately 3 million mail packets were mailed in December 2017 and January 2018. Each packet contained a cover letter, instruction sheet, a labeled report form, and a return envelope. The Census Bureau's National Processing Center (NPC) in Jeffersonville, IN was contracted to perform mail packet preparation, initial mailout, and two follow-up mailings to nonrespondents.

The initial mailout was followed by a thank-you reminder postcard that was delivered in January 2018 to all operations that received mail packets. First follow-up mail packets were mailed in mid-February 2018 to approximately 1.5 million nonrespondents. Second follow-up mail packets were mailed in mid-March 2018 to approximately 1 million nonrespondents.

Nonresponse Follow-up

Operating concurrently with NPC's mail data collection efforts, NASS Data Collection Centers targeted selected groups of census nonrespondents for telephone enumeration. NASS regional field offices targeted selected groups of census nonrespondents for in-person enumeration. These efforts were referred to as:

- Must Case Follow-up

- American Indian Producer Follow-up
- National Nonresponse Follow-up
- Not on Mail List (NML) Follow-up

Must Case Follow-up. Must cases are known large or unique operations, the absence of which could have significantly affected the accuracy of census results. For the 2017 Census of Agriculture, 125,697 records were categorized as Must cases. Each active Must operation was accounted for by mail receipt, phone interview, or personal enumeration; if an operation was no longer in business, its nonfarm status was documented. Call centers conducted CATI calling of nonrespondent Must cases from March 2018 through May 2018, after the initial and first follow-up mailings. Following the CATI calling, the remaining nonresponse Must cases were assigned to regional field offices for personal enumeration. Because of the potential importance of Must cases, they were all accounted for and therefore not eligible for nonresponse weighting adjustment.

American Indian Producer Follow-up. The American Indian report form (17-A300) was mailed to all operations in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah thought to have an American Indian producer. It was included in the initial mailout, but due to poor mail response, a personal enumeration data collection strategy was utilized with no additional mail follow-up. A concerted effort was made to get individual reports from every American Indian farm producer in the country. If this was not possible within a reservation, a single reservation-level census report was obtained from knowledgeable reservation officials. These reports covered agricultural activity on the entire reservation. NASS staff reviewed these data and removed any duplicate data reported by American Indian producers from that reservation who responded on an individual census report form. Additionally NASS obtained, from knowledgeable reservation officials, the count of American Indian farm producers (on the reservations) who were not counted through individual census report forms, but whose agricultural activity was included in the reservation-level report form.

National Nonresponse Follow-up (Excludes Must Records). The National Nonresponse follow-up activity was designed to focus nonresponse follow-up in a manner that would both reflect the characteristics

of the nonresponders and increase response rates. In April 2018, a sample of 249,521 nonrespondents was selected from the remaining 864,260 nonrespondents using a stratified random design. The strata were based on State, county, size of farm, type of farm, producer race, and propensity to respond. Beginning in mid-April 2018 and continuing through July 2018, extensive efforts were made to collect data for the sampled records, including an additional CASI push, autodial calls, CATI, and CAPI. Records in the same stratum received the same set of collection methods. Of the 80,504 responses, 51,846 records were identified as being in-scope, resulting in a weighted farm count of 143,847 from the sample.

Not-on-the-Mail List (NML) Follow-up. To account for farming operations not on the CML, NASS used its 2017 JAS sample from the NASS area frame, augmented with the ACES segments. Because the NASS area frame covers all land in the U.S. with the exception of Alaska, it includes all farms. As previously described, NASS conducted a record linkage operation between the CML records and the records from the 2017 JAS/ACES. Those 2017 JAS records that did not match records on the CML were designated as "Not-on-the-Mail List" (NML) records. These records were mailed a yellow census form so that it could be differentiated from the green forms mailed to CML records. The NML records were mailed at the same time as the census mailing and received the same follow-up procedures as the census mailing through the first follow-up in mid-February 2018. Beginning in March 2018, CATI was used for nonresponse follow-up for NML nonrespondents.

REPORT FORM PROCESSING

Data Capture

The Census Bureau's National Processing Center (NPC) in Jeffersonville, IN was contracted to process returned mail packets. NASS staff on site at the NPC provided technical guidance and monitored NPC processing activities. All report forms returned to the NPC were immediately checked in, using bar codes printed on the mailing label, and removed from follow-up report form mailings. All forms with any data were scanned and an image was made of each page of a report form. Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) was used to capture categorical responses and to identify the other answer zones in which some type of mark was present.

Data entry operators keyed data from the scanned images using OMR results that highlighted the areas of the report forms with respondent entries. The keyer evaluated the contents and captured pertinent responses. Ten percent of the captured data were keyed a second time for quality control. If differences existed between the first keyed value and the second, an adjudicator handled resolution. The decision of the adjudicator was used to grade the performance of the keyers, who were required to maintain a certain accuracy level.

The images and the captured data were transferred to NASS's centralized network and became available to NASS analysts on a flow basis. The images were available for use in all stages of review.

Editing Data

Captured data were processed through a computer formatting program that verified that records were valid – that the record ID number was on the list of census records, that the reported counties of operation and production were valid, and other related criteria. Rejected records were referred to analysts for correction. Accepted records were sent to a complex computer batch edit process. Each execution of the computer edit in batch mode consisted of records from only one State and flowed as the data were received from NPC, the NASS Computer-Assisted Self Interview (CASI), or the Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) applications.

The computer edit determined whether a reporting operation met the qualifying criteria to be counted as a farm (in-scope). The edit examined each in-scope record for reasonableness and completeness and determined whether to accept the recorded value for each data item or take corrective action. Such corrective actions included removing erroneously reported values, replacing an unreasonable value with one consistent with other reported data, or providing a value for an item omitted by the respondent. To the extent possible, the computer edit determined a replacement value. Strategies for determining replacement values are discussed in the next section. Operations failing to meet the qualifying criteria for being classified as a farm were categorized as out-of-scope for the census. Records that NASS had reason

to believe might have been erroneously classified as out-of-scope (indications of recent and/or significant agricultural activity reported on NASS surveys, for example) were referred to analysts for verification.

The edit systematically checked reported data section-by-section with the overall objective of achieving an internally consistent and complete report. NASS subject-matter experts had previously defined the criteria for acceptable data. Problems that could not be resolved within the edit were referred to an analyst for intervention. Prior to the census mail-out, NASS established a group of analysts in a Census Editing Unit in the National Operations Center in St. Louis, MO who examined the scanned images, consulted additional sources of information, and determined an appropriate action. Regional field office analysts also participated using an interactive version of the edit program to submit corrected data and immediately re-edit the record to ensure a satisfactory solution.

Short Form Editing

From the CML, 400,000 records were selected to receive a short form; this short form was derived from the full census report form by reducing a number of sections to a 'total' question – for example, instead of asking the respondent to report the acreage for each specific type of fruit or vegetable, the short form only asked for total fruit acreage or total vegetable acreage. In some cases, the same questions were asked on the general form, in which case the edit treated the short form responses as though they were incomplete general forms, as described in the previous paragraphs. In other cases, several items on the general form were collapsed – for example, total acres of Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops were asked as a single item on the short form, instead of separately as on the general form. In such cases, different approaches were taken in the edit to create a general form item or items from the short-form specific items. Any short form record that reported values above a certain threshold (in practice this threshold was 0 for almost all items) for these short-form-specific questions was 'flagged' by the edit; these records were later called back and the respondent asked for additional information about the items reported – for example, a producer reporting 10 acres of fruit on the short form was called back and asked for the total, bearing, and nonbearing acres for each type of fruit grown, as was asked on the general

form. If the producer was successfully contacted and these additional data collected, the information was added to the record as additional reported data, and the edit was 'reset to original' – that is, the effects of the previous edit were undone – and the record was reedited with the new additional information. A flag was passed to the edit so that the short form record was not flagged for callback in such cases. In many cases, of course, it was not possible to recontact the respondent. In such cases, a flag was passed to the edit system, and the record was unlocked and available for review.

Imputing Data

The edit determined the best value to impute for reported responses that were deemed unreasonable and for required responses that were absent. If an item could not be calculated directly from other current responses, the edit determined whether acreage, production, or inventory items had been reported for that farm on a recent NASS crop or livestock survey. For producers who had not changed in five years, demographics such as race and gender were taken from the previous census. Administrative data from the Farm Service Agency were used for a few items, such as Conservation Reserve Program acreage. When deterministic edit logic and previously-reported data sources were unable to provide a current value, data from a reporting farm of similar type, size, and location were considered. In cases where automated imputation was unable to provide a consistent report, the record was referred to an analyst for resolution.

Separate system processes were established to efficiently provide data from a similar farm to the edit when donor imputation was required. The farm characteristics used to define similarity between a recipient record and its donor record were determined dynamically by the edit logic. Euclidean distance was used for similarity computations, with each contributing similarity characteristic scaled appropriately. The most similar farm based on this criterion (the "nearest neighbor") was identified and returned to the edit for use as a donor. The calculated distance between the centroids of the principal counties of production of the donor and recipient was always included as one of the measures of similarity.

To provide donors to the automated edit, a pool of successfully edited records was maintained for each section of the report form. These donor pools began with 2012 census data, reconfigured to emulate 2017 data and then edited using 2017 logic. Data from the 2015 Census Content Test were similarly remapped and edited before being added to the original donor pools. As 2017 records were successfully processed, they were added to the donor pools, which maintained the most recent data for each farm. Donor pools were updated approximately every other week, as determined by edit processing schedules. After several updates, all initial data records were dropped, leaving only 2017 records in the donor pools. After each update, donor pool records were grouped into strata containing farms in the same State of similar type and size, using a data-driven algorithm to define strata. Certain American Indian farms were treated as a separate group, effectively having their own donor pool.

In response to each donor request issued by the edit, a dedicated system process would search the appropriate stratum and respond with the most similar donor, while giving preference to more recent donors. In relatively rare instances where it was unable to provide a donor, the donor selection process issued an appropriate failure message to the edit. Imputation failures occurred for several different reasons. The requirement that an imputed value be positive could have ruled out all available donors, as could have the necessity for the donor record to satisfy a particular constraint – say, that the donor record has cattle, but no milk cows. In general, an imputation failure occurred if there were no satisfactory donors in the same profile as the report being edited. Records with imputation failures were either held until more records were available in the donor pool or referred to an analyst. In addition, when such a failure occurred in finding a donor for expenditure data, donor pool averages were provided in lieu of an individual donor, wherever possible. This "failover" utility was first introduced for the 2012 census imputation process, and significantly reduced the number of imputation failures among the expenditure and labor variables. During the early stages of editing, records requiring imputation for production (and hence yields) of field crops or hay, land values, or certain expenditure variables, were set aside or "parked." These records were edited when the donor pools contained only 2017 records, ensuring that 2017 data were used in the imputations for the variables.

After receiving a donor's data, the edit substituted the values into the edited record. In many cases, the donor record's data value was scaled using another data field specified in the edit logic. In such cases, the size of the auxiliary field's value in the edited record, relative to its value in the donor record, was used to appropriately scale the donor record's value for the field to be imputed. The imputed data were then validated by the same edit logic to which reported data were subject. Since imputation was conducted independently for each occurrence, reports requiring multiple imputations may have drawn from multiple donors.

Substantial changes were introduced to the Personal Characteristics section of the form in 2017. Information on an additional (fourth) producer was collected, and several new questions were added for each producer – specifically, whether or not the person was considered a "principal producer," whether the person was a spouse of a principal producer, and whether the person was involved in any of five types of decisions with respect to the operation. These changes necessitated a new imputation process for records reporting three or more persons as producers. Records with one or two persons reported as producers had these data edited and imputed using the decision logic table edit and donor pool imputation process. Records with three or more persons reported as producers, and for which it was determined that these data were inconsistent or missing, had these data imputed using a fully conditional specification method. During the edit for records reporting three or more producers, the items needing imputation were marked, and the record was flagged. Periodically the data for these records (both the items needing to be imputed and the other variables needed by the model) were pulled and run through the imputation program. The resulting imputed values were loaded back to the records, and the records were made available for review. This process was conducted 19 times for the CML, and 6 times for the NML, during census production editing.

Data Analysis

The complex edit ensured the full internal consistency of the record. Successfully completing the edit did not provide insight as to whether the report was

reasonable compared to other reports in the county. Analysts were provided an additional set of tools, in the form of listings and graphs, to review record-level data across farms. These examinations revealed extreme outliers, large and small, or unique data distribution patterns that were possibly a result of reporting, recording, or handling errors. Potential problems were investigated and, when necessary, corrections were made and the record interactively edited again.

When NASS summarizes data from the census of agriculture, each individual report is typically assigned to a single "principal" county. The principal county is the county in which the majority of an operation's agricultural products are produced, as reported by the producer. For large operations that have significant production in multiple counties, their reports may be broken up into multiple source counties to more accurately summarize the data. Similarly, for large farms operating in more than one State, separate report forms are completed by State in order to assign the proper portion of the farm's total agricultural production to each State in which the farm operates.

ACCOUNTING FOR UNDERCOVERAGE, NONRESPONSE, AND MISCLASSIFICATION

Although much effort was expended making the CML as complete as possible, the CML did not include all U.S. farms, resulting in list undercoverage. Some farm producers who were on the CML did not respond to the census, despite numerous attempts to contact them. In addition, although each operation was classified as a farm or a nonfarm based on the responses to the census report form, some were misclassified; that is, some nonfarms were classified as farms and some farms were classified as nonfarms. NASS's goal was to produce agricultural census totals for publication at the county level that were fully adjusted for list undercoverage, nonresponse, and misclassification.

In 2012 NASS used capture-recapture methodology to adjust for undercoverage, nonresponse, and misclassification. This same methodology was implemented for the 2017 Census of Agriculture. To implement capture-recapture methods, two independent surveys were required. The 2017 Census of Agriculture (based on the CML) and the 2017 JAS

(based on the area frame) were those two surveys. Historically, NASS has been careful to maintain the independence of these two surveys.

A second assumption was that the proportion of JAS farms with a given set of characteristics captured by the census was equal to the proportion of U.S. farms with those same characteristics captured by the census.

For a farm to be identified as a farm, and thus captured by the census, it must be on the CML, respond to the census report form and, based on the census response, be classified as a farm. Only those nonrespondents included in the nonresponse sample had an opportunity to be captured and had a probability π_s of being included in the sample; respondents prior to drawing the nonresponse sample had $\pi_s = 1$. Thus, the capture probability π_c is of interest:

$$\pi_c = \pi(\text{CML, Responded, Farm on Census}|\text{Farm}) \, \pi_s$$

Two types of classification error can occur. First, a farm can be misclassified as a nonfarm. This type of misclassification is accounted for in determining the probability of capture π_c. The second type of classification error results when a response to the census is classified as a farm operation when it does not meet the definition of a farm. That is, some farms on the CML may be misclassified from their census report response and may be nonfarms. To account for the misclassification of nonfarms as farms, the probability of a farm on the census being classified correctly must be estimated; that is,

$$\pi_{CCFC} = \pi(\text{Farm} \mid \text{Farm on Census})$$

where *CCFC* represents Correct Census Farm Classification. To adjust for undercoverage, nonresponse, and misclassification, each CML record classified as a farm based on its response to the census report form was given a weight of the ratio of the estimated probability of correct classification of a farm on the census and the estimated probability of capture ($\hat{\pi}_{CCFC}/\hat{\pi}_c$ where the hat symbol ($\hat{}$) denotes an estimate). To estimate the number of farms with a given set of characteristics, the weights of CML records responding as farms on the census and having that set of characteristics were summed. This

estimator is referred to as the capture-recapture estimator (*CR*):

$$CR = \sum_{i \in F} \frac{\hat{\pi}_{CCFC,i}}{\hat{\pi}_{C,i}}$$

where *F* is the set of all CML records classified as farms based on their responses to the census report form.

To estimate the capture and correct census farm classification probabilities, a matched dataset consisting of JAS records and census records was created. Records in the 2017 JAS sample were matched to the 2017 census using probabilistic record linkage. The CML records that matched with JAS tracts represent the Census Sample.

Note: The Census Sample is a subset of the CML records and includes only those records matching a JAS tract. Both agricultural and non-agricultural tracts were included in the matched dataset.

Resolving Farm Status

The farm status based on census responses to either the CML or NML census data collection and the JAS agreed in most cases; these records are referred to as having resolved farm status. However, in other cases, a record was identified as a farm (nonfarm) on the JAS and as a nonfarm (farm) by the census through either the CML or the NML. Such records are said to have conflicting or unresolved farm status. An operation identified as a farm is referred to as in-scope; an operation identified as a nonfarm is referred to as out-of-scope. From the set of matched records, two groups with conflicting farm status were identified: 1) in-scope JAS records that were out-of-scope on the census and 2) census in-scope and JAS out-of-scope records. The records with conflicting farm status were sent to NASS regional field offices for review. In each case, efforts were made to determine whether (1) the status had changed between June and December when the census was conducted, (2) the JAS farm status was correct, (3) the census farm status was correct, (4) the records were incorrectly matched, or (5) the farm status could not be resolved. Not all of the records with conflicting farm status could be resolved. In 2017, 8.1 percent of the records in the Census Sample had unresolved farm status.

The probability an operation is a farm was estimated for the records with unresolved farm status. Using the 2017 matched dataset, a logistic model of the probability an operation is a farm based on the records with resolved farm status was developed; that is, the operations where the farm (or nonfarm) status agreed between the JAS and the census were used to develop a missing data model, which was then used to resolve farm status. The final missing data model was used to impute the probability that each of the agricultural operations with unresolved farm status is a farm. For the resolved farms and nonfarms, the probability of the operation being a farm was 1 and 0, respectively. Five-fold cross-validation was used to develop and to compare competing models. The accuracy of the model was thereby not overstated due to fitting and evaluating the model on the same set of data. To ensure that each of the cross-validation samples covered the U.S., the five cross-validation samples of JAS segments were drawn within State-stratum combinations. Characteristics of the JAS tracts were considered as potential covariates in the model. Because limited information is available for JAS nonfarm tracts, other covariates considered included county-level socio-demographic variables from the most recent U.S. population census, segment-level data from the Cropland Data Layer, the county-level rural-urban code, state-level response rates, an indicator for records that are thought to be out-of-business, and an indicator for records in the national nonresponse sample. The sample weight associated with each JAS tract was multiplied by the probability of being a farm. This adjusted weight was used in all subsequent modeling.

Capture Probabilities

Recall that, for a farm to be identified as a farm, and thus captured, by the census, it must be on the CML, respond to the census report form and, based on the census response, be classified as a farm. These adjustments are dependent. Further, those nonrespondents at the time the nonresponse sample was drawn had a known probability π_S of being included in the sample; respondents before the sample was drawn had $\pi_S = 1$. Therefore, the probability of capture π_C may be written as

$\pi_C = \pi(\text{CML, Responded, Farm on Census}|\text{Farm})\ \pi_S$
$= \pi(\text{CML}|\text{Farm})\pi(\text{Responded}|\text{CML, Farm})\pi(\text{Farm on Census}|\text{CML, Responded, Farm})\ \pi_S$

The probability of being included in the sample π_S is known for all responding farms. The other terms in the probability of capturing a farm depend on the characteristics of the farm. Using five-fold cross-validation, three logistic models were developed based on the matched dataset. The first model estimated the probability of a farm being on the CML. The second model estimated the probability that a farm on the CML responded to the census report form. The final model estimated the probability that a farm that was on the CML and responded to the census was identified as a farm based on its response. The probability that a farm is captured by the census of agriculture is then the product of the three conditional probabilities that a farm is on the CML, responds, and is identified as a farm.

Note 1: Responses were required for Must cases. These operations were only excluded in modeling the probability of a farm responding given that it was on the CML.

Note 2: Because Alaska is not included in the JAS and thus has no area frame, the Alaskan agricultural operations were not included in the capture-recapture process. No adjustments were made for undercoverage or misclassification. To account for nonresponse, the CML records were divided into three groups: (1) the Must records, (2) the Criteria Records, and (3) the remaining CML records. The must records received a weight of one, thereby receiving no adjustment for nonresponse. The probability of response for each of the other two groups was the proportion of responders within the group. Each record within the group was then given a weight equal to the reciprocal of the probability of response.

Misclassification

An operation is misclassified if: (1) it meets the definition of a farm, but is classified as a nonfarm on the census or (2) it does not meet the definition of a farm, but is classified as a farm on the census. The first type of misclassification is accounted for when modeling the probability of capture. An adjustment is still needed for the misclassification of nonfarms as farms. As with farm status and capture, the probability of this misclassification depends on an operation's characteristics. Thus, a final logistic model was developed. Given that an operation was classified as a farm on the CML, the probability of its being a farm was modeled based on its characteristics. Five-fold cross-validation was used to ensure that the model was not over-fitted.

CALIBRATION

Each operation identified as being in-scope on the CML was given a weight equal to the probability of misclassification divided by the probability of capture. This weight accounted for undercoverage, nonresponse, both types of misclassification, and the nonresponse sample.

The record weighting processes were initially applied at the State level to produce adjusted estimates of farm numbers and land in farms for 63 different categories of 8 characteristics of the farm operation or the farm producer -- value of agricultural sales (9); age (2); female; race (3); Hispanic origin of principal farm producer; 4 sales categories for each of 10 major commodities (40); and farm type groups (7). The State-level number of farms and land in farms were two additional adjusted estimates, resulting in 65 categories. To reduce the intercensal variation at the State level, the State targets were smoothed by averaging the 2017 estimates from capture-recapture and the published 2012 State estimates with the restrictions that the smoothed targets were within two standard errors of the capture-recapture estimates. The smoothed State targets were rescaled so that they summed to the national capture-recapture estimates.

These State estimates were general purpose in that they did not provide any control over expected levels of commodity production of the individual farm operation. As a result of this limitation, the procedures could have over-adjusted or under-adjusted for commodity production. To address this, a second set of variables, known as commodity targets, was added to the calibration algorithm. These targets were commodity totals from administrative sources or from NASS surveys of nonfarm populations (e.g. USDA Farm Service Agency program data, Agricultural Marketing Service market orders, livestock slaughter data, cotton ginning data). The introduction of these

commodity coverage targets strengthened the overall adjustment procedure by ensuring that major commodity totals remained within reasonable bounds of established benchmarks.

Each State was calibrated separately. The calibration algorithm addressed commodity coverage. The algorithm was controlled by the 65 State farm operation coverage targets and the State commodity coverage targets. Because calibration targets are estimates subject to uncertainty, NASS allowed some tolerance in the determination of the adjusted weights. Rather than forcing the total for each calibration variable computed using the adjusted weights to equal a specific amount, NASS allowed the estimated total to fall within a tolerance range.

Tolerance ranges for the farm operation coverage targets were determined differently from the commodity targets. The tolerance range for the 65 State farm operation coverage targets was the estimated smoothed State total for the variable plus or minus one standard error of the capture-recapture estimate. This choice limited the cumulative deviation from the estimated total for a variable when State totals were summed to a U.S. total. Commodity coverage targets with acceptable ranges were established based on the administrative source for each State. Ranges were not necessarily symmetric around the target value.

To ensure that all subdomains for which NASS publishes summed to their grand total, integer weights were produced by a discrete calibration algorithm. This eliminated the need for rounding individual cell values and ensured that marginal totals always added correctly to the grand total. If a weight was initially not in the interval [1,6], it was trimmed so that in was in that interval. That is, adjusted weights less than 1 were set to 1, and those greater than 6 were set to 6. The remaining non-integer weights were then rounded sequentially to reduce the distance of the estimated totals from the targets.

Calibration adjustments began with the computation of a priority index for each record. The priority index was the absolute value of the gradient of the relative error associated with increasing or decreasing a record's weight by one. The record with the highest priority index was then selected as a candidate to increase or decrease its weight by one to reduce the

cumulative distance from the targets as measured by the relative error. If the new value produced an improvement and satisfied the range restrictions, the weight was updated and new priorities were assigned; otherwise, the record with the next highest priority index was processed. This process was iteratively performed until convergence was attained. Because census data collection was assumed to be complete for very large and unique farms, their weights were controlled to 1 during the calibration adjustment process. For all other farms, the final census record weights were forced to be an integer number in the interval [1, 6]. The calibration process considered all targets simultaneously through the priority index. Although calibration was seldom able to adjust weights so that all State targets were met, all targets were brought collectively as close to the targets as possible.

The proportions of selected census data items that were due to coverage, response, and classification adjustments are displayed in Tables A and C.

DISCLOSURE REVIEW

After tabulation and review of the aggregates, a comprehensive disclosure review was conducted. NASS is obligated to withhold, under Title 7, U.S. Code, any total that would reveal an individual's information or allow it to be closely estimated by the public. Farm counts are not considered sensitive and are not subject to disclosure controls. Cell suppression was used to protect the cells that were determined to be sensitive to a disclosure of information.

Based on agency standards, data cells were determined to be sensitive to a disclosure of information if they failed either of two rules. The threshold rule failed if the data cell contained less than three operations. For example, if only one farmer produced turkeys in a county, NASS could not publish the county total for turkey inventory without disclosing that individual's information. The dominance rule failed if the distribution of the data within the cell allowed a data user to estimate any respondent's data too closely. For example, if there are many farmers producing turkeys in a county and some of them were large enough to dominate the cell total, NASS could not publish the county total for turkey inventory without risking disclosing an individual respondent's data. In both of these

situations, the data were suppressed and a "(D)" was placed in the cell in the census publication table. These data cells are referred to as primary suppressions.

Since most items were summed to marginal totals, primary suppressions within these summation relationships were protected by ensuring that there were additional suppressions within the linear relationship that provided adequate protection for the primary. A detailed computer routine selected additional data cells for suppression to ensure all primary suppressions were properly protected. These data cells are referred to as complementary suppressions. These cells are not themselves sensitive to a disclosure of information but were suppressed to protect other primary suppressions. A "(D)" was also placed in the cell of the census publication table to indicate a complementary suppression. A data user cannot determine whether a cell with a (D) represents a primary or a complementary suppression.

Regional field office analysts reviewed all complementary suppressions to ensure no cells had been withheld that were vital to the data users. In instances where complementary suppressions were deemed critically important to a State or county, analysts requested an override and a different complementary cell was chosen.

CENSUS QUALITY

The purpose of the census of agriculture is to account for "any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year." To accomplish this, NASS develops a CML that contains identifying information for operations that have an indication of meeting the census definition, develops procedures to collect agricultural information from those records, establishes criteria for analyst review of the data, creates computer routines to correct or complete the requested information, and provides census estimates of the characteristics of farms and farm producers with associated measures of uncertainty.

It is not likely that either the CML includes all operations that meet the definition of a farm or that all those that do meet the definition of a farm respond to the census inquiry. The goal is to publish data with a high level of quality. The quality of a census may be measured in many ways. One of the first indicators used is a measure of the response to the census data collection as it has generally been thought that a high response rate indicates more complete coverage of the population of interest. This is a valid assumption if the enumeration list, the CML here, has complete coverage of the population of interest. In the case of the census of agriculture, the definition requiring advance knowledge of sales makes achieving a high level of coverage difficult. To ensure that the census of agriculture is as complete as possible, records are included that might not meet the census definition of a farm – in fact, almost 50 percent more records than the anticipated number of qualifying farm operations were included in the 2017 CML. A second indicator of quality then is the coverage of the farm population by the CML. Other indicators of quality relate to the accuracy and completeness of the data, and the validity of the procedures used in processing the data.

In some cases, NASS was able to produce measures of quality – such as the response rate to the data collection, the coverage of the census mail list, and the variability of the final adjusted estimates. In other cases, measures were not produced but descriptions of procedures that NASS used to reduce errors from the procedures were subsequently provided.

Census Response Rate

The response rate is one indicator of the quality of a data collection. It is generally assumed that if a response rate is close to a full participation level of 100 percent, the potential for nonresponse bias is small, although this has been questioned in the literature. The response rate for the 2017 Census of Agriculture CML was 71.8 percent, as compared with the 2012 Census of Agriculture's response rate of 74.6 percent and 78.2 percent for the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

The 2017 Census of Agriculture's response rate used the fourth response rate formula (RR4) from the American Association of Public Opinion Research's Response Rate Standard Definitions manual:

$$RR4 = \frac{C_{adj}}{C_{adj} + R + NC + O + Replicated + e(U)}(100)$$

where

C_{adj} = number of fully and partially completed records, excluding replicated records
R = number of explicit refusals
NC = number of non-contacted operations known to be eligible
O = number of other types of nonrespondents
Replicated = number of replicated records
U = number of operations of unknown eligibility
$e(U)$ = estimated number of operations of unknown eligibility assumed to be eligible

Records were classified into the above variables based on the combination of their active status (AS) codes, in-scope status, and replication status. Active status refers to the eligibility status of records for selection on the CML. All replicated records were considered to be a form of nonresponse and were classified into other nonrespondents; in-scope status was considered immaterial.

Certain active status classifications indicated records of unknown agricultural status. These classifications included records to be removed from the CML but had data from outside sources indicating agricultural activity, new records from outside data sources, nonrespondents and refusals to the NACS, records for regional office handling only, and records with Farm Service Agency or Conservation Reserve Program data on operations that are not owned by the principal producer. These records were stratified (grouped) based on their probabilities of being in-scope had they responded. The estimated number of in-scope nonrespondents was calculated for the hth stratum (group) by the following formula:

$$e(U_h) = \left(\frac{C_{in-scope,h}}{C_h} \right) U_h$$

where

$e(U_h)$ = estimated number of operations of unknown eligibility assumed to be eligible in the hth group
$C_{in-scope,h}$ = the number of completed and in-scope census records in the hth group
C_h = the number of completed census records in the hth group
U_h = number of operations of unknown eligibility in the hth group

Census Coverage

As a side-product of the statistical adjustment used to account for undercoverage, nonresponse of farms on the CML, and misclassification of responses to the census, the proportion of the adjustments due to each of those factors can be derived. The percentages of final census estimates due to adjustments for undercoverage, nonresponse, and misclassification as well as the total percent adjustment for selected items are displayed in Tables A and C.

MEASURED ERRORS IN THE CENSUS PROCESS

Although the census of agriculture does not inherently rely on a sample, NASS used a national nonresponse sample as part of its follow-up efforts in 2017. In addition to the uncertainty introduced by the nonresponse sample, NASS uses statistical procedures in compiling the CML, in its data collection procedures, in data editing and processing, and in compiling the final data. Additionally, it uses statistical procedures to both measure errors in the various processes and in making adjustments for those errors in the final data. One example is the statistical process used to account for undercoverage, nonresponse of farms on the CML, and misclassification of responses to the census. The basis of the undercoverage adjustment is the capture-recapture procedure that uses the area sample enumeration from the JAS. The largest contributors to error in the census estimates are due to the adjustments for nonresponse, undercoverage, misclassification, calibration, and integerization.

Variability in Census Estimates due to Statistical Adjustment

In conducting the 2017 Census of Agriculture, efforts were initiated to measure error associated with the adjustments for farm operations that were not on the CML, for farm operations that were on the CML but did not respond to the census report form, and for farms and nonfarms that were misclassified as nonfarms and farms, respectively, for calibration. These error measurements were developed from the standard error of the estimates at the national, State, and county levels and were expressed as coefficients of variation (CVs) at the national and State levels and

as generalized coefficients of variation (GCVs) at the county levels.

The standard error of an estimate is an estimate of the standard deviation of the sampling distribution of the estimator. Because Alaska was modeled separately from the other States, the variances of a national-level data item for this State was computed separately and added to the variance of that data item for the rest of the U.S. The standard error was then the square root of the total variance. In each case, standard errors were computed using an approach based on a combination of group jackknife and bootstrap methodologies. To conduct the jackknifing, $k = 10$ mutually exclusive and exhaustive groups of JAS segments were formed. The groups were selected using a stratified random design so that each group reflected the survey design, including State and agricultural strata within a State. The weight of record i in jackknife group j is $CR_i^{(j)}$ for $j = 1, 2, …, k$. Based on these weights, a group jackknife estimator to estimate the variance would account for the uncertainty associated with modeling the capture-recapture probabilities. To account for the additional uncertainty due to calibration, the weights within each jackknife group were transformed through bootstrap simulation; these transformed weights are called calibration-adjusted-jackknife weights. The full dataset, which is composed of the records of all responding farms on the CML, is calibrated as described in the Calibration section, and the final calibration-adjusted weight of record i is denoted by $\hat{w}_i$. For each record i in jackknife group k, the calibration-adjusted-jackknife weights of that record can be approximated as $w_i^{(j)} = a_i^{(j)} CR_i^{(j)}$ where $a_i^{(j)} \sim N(1, (\hat{w}_i - 1)/\hat{w}_i)$. The bootstrap process simulated the value of the adjustment $a_i^{(j)}$ for each record on the CML to obtain the calibration-adjusted-jackknife weights. For a given data item, such as the number of farms, the estimate $T^{(j)}$ was computed at the specified geographical level, such as nation, State, or county, using the $(k-1)$ groups remaining after deleting the calibration-adjusted jackknife group j. Estimates of the variance and standard error associated with the estimator T_i are then, respectively,

$$\sigma_i^2 = \frac{k-1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \left(T_i^{(j)} - \sum_{l=1}^{k} \frac{T_i^{(l)}}{k} \right)^2 ; \quad SE(T_i) = \sqrt{\sigma_i^2}$$

Increasing k improves the estimate of the variance but, as k increases, the observations become too sparse to reflect the survey design and to provide countrywide coverage. Ten (10) calibration-adjusted jackknife groups were used to provide standard errors for 2017 State and national estimates. For the estimate of the number of farms with a given set of characteristics, only the CML records with those characteristics were used to obtain the overall estimate as well as the estimates from each calibration-adjusted jackknife group.

Note that the calibrated jackknife groups were only constructed once, and different subsets of the records were used to compute estimates and standard errors for the data items.

The CV is a measure of the relative amount of error associated with the sample estimate:

$$CV_i = \frac{SE(T_i)}{T_i} 100\%$$

where $SE(T_i)$ is the standard error of the capture-recapture estimate for data item i. This relative measure allows the reliability of a range of estimates to be compared. For example, the standard error is often larger for large population estimates than for small population estimates, but the large population estimates may have a smaller CV, indicating a more reliable estimate. For county-level estimates, a generalized coefficient of variation (GCV) was determined for each estimate within a State. A generalized variance function relates a function of the variance of an estimator to a function of the estimator. Within a State, the standard error of an estimate for a data item was often found to be linearly related to the estimate of that item with an intercept of zero. Based on this modeled relationship, the GCV is the slope of the line relating the standard error to the estimate, multiplied times 100 to represent the GCV as a percentage.

The standard error is the product of the CV (or GCV for county estimates) and the estimate divided by 100. As an example, if the GCV for a State is 25 percent and a county's estimate is 4, then the standard error is 25(4)/100 = 1. The standard error of an estimated data item from the census provides a measure of the error variation in the value of that estimated data item based on the possible outcomes of the census collection,

including variants as to who was on the CML, who returned a census form, who was misclassified either as a farm or as a nonfarm, and the uncertainty associated with calibration and integerization. With 95 percent confidence, an estimate is within two standard errors of the true value being estimated. For this example, with 95 percent confidence, the estimate of 4 is within $2(1) = 2$ of the true county value.

Table B presents the fully adjusted estimates with the coefficient of variation for selected items.

NONMEASURED ERRORS IN THE CENSUS PROCESS

As noted in the previous section, sampling errors can be introduced from the coverage, nonresponse and misclassification adjustment procedures. This error is measureable. However, nonsampling errors are imbedded in the census process that cannot be directly measured as part of the design of the census but must be contained to ensure an accurate count. Extensive efforts were made to compile a complete and accurate mail list for the census, to elicit response to the census, to design an understandable report form with clear instructions, to minimize processing errors through the use of quality control measures, to reduce matching error associated with the capture-recapture estimation process, and to minimize error associated with identification of a respondent as a farm operation (referred to as classification error). The weight adjustment and tabulation processes recognize the presence of nonsampling errors; however, it is assumed that these errors are small and that, in total, the net effect is zero. In other words, the positive errors cancel the negative errors.

Respondent and Enumerator Error

Incorrect or incomplete responses to the census report form or to the questions posed by an enumerator can introduce error into the census data. Steps were taken in the design and execution of the census of agriculture to reduce errors from respondent reporting. Poor instructions and ambiguous definitions lead to misreporting. Respondents may not remember accurately, may estimate responses, or may record an item in the wrong cell. To reduce reporting and recording errors, the report form was tested prior to the census using industry accepted cognitive testing procedures. Detailed instructions for completing the report form were provided to each respondent. Questions were phrased as clearly as possible based on previous tests of the report form. Computer-assisted telephone interviewing software included immediate integrity checks of recorded responses so suspect data could be verified or corrected. In addition, each respondent's answers were checked for completeness and consistency by the complex edit and imputation system.

Processing Error

Processing of each census report form was another potential source of nonsampling error. All mail returns that included multiple reports, respondent remarks, or that were marked out of business and report forms with no reported data were sent to an analyst for verification and appropriate action. Integrity checks were performed by the imaging system and data transfer functions. Standard quality control procedures were in place that required that randomly selected batches of data keyed from image be re-entered by a different operator to verify the work and evaluate key entry operators. All systems and programs were thoroughly tested before going on-line and were monitored throughout the processing period.

Developing accurate processing methods is complicated by the complex structure of agriculture. Among the complexities are the many places to be included, the variety of arrangements under which farms are operated, the continuing changes in the relationship of producers to the farm operated, the expiration of leases and the initiation or renewal of leases, the problem of obtaining a complete list of agriculture operations, the difficulty of contacting and identifying some types of contractor/contractee relationships, the producer's absence from the farm during the data collection period, and the producer's opinion that part or all of the operation does not qualify and should not be included in the census. During data collection and processing of the census, all operations underwent a number of quality control checks to ensure results were as accurate as possible.

Item Nonresponse

All item nonresponse actions provide another opportunity to introduce measurement errors. Regardless of whether it was previously reported data, administrative data, the nearest neighbor algorithm,

the fully conditional specification method, or manually imputed by an analyst, some risk exists that the imputed value does not equal the actual value. Previously reported and administrative data were used only when they related to the census reference period. A new nearest neighbor was randomly selected for each incident to eliminate the chance of a consistent bias.

Record Matching Error

The process of building and expanding the CML involves finding new list sources and checking for names not on the list. An automated processing system compared each new name to the existing CML names and "linked" like records for the purpose of preventing duplication. New names with strong links to a CML name were discarded and those with no links were added as potential farms. Names with weak links, possible matches, were reviewed by staff to determine whether the new name should be added. Despite this thorough review, some new names may have been erroneously added or deleted. Additions could contribute to duplication (overcoverage) whereas deletions could contribute to undercoverage. As a result, some names received more than one report form, and some farm producers did not receive a report form. Respondents were instructed to complete one form and return all forms so the duplication could be removed.

Another chance for error came when comparing June Area Survey tract producer names to the CML. Area producers whose names were not found on the CML were part of the measure of list incompleteness, or NML. Mistakes in determining overlap status resulted in overcounts (including a tract whose producer was on the CML) or undercounts (excluding a tract whose producer was not on the CML). All tracts determined to not be on the list were triple checked to eliminate, or at least minimize, any error. NML tract producers were mailed a report form printed in a different color. In order to attempt to identify duplication, all respondents who received multiple report forms were instructed to complete the CML version and return all forms so duplication could be removed.

Records in the 2017 JAS were matched to the 2017 census using probabilistic record linkage. The records of operations with differing farm status were sent out to be reviewed by NASS regional field offices. If farm status could not be resolved, the probability of an operation being a farm was imputed using a missing data model. The uncertainty associated with this estimate, with the exception of model uncertainty, was accounted for, but errors not found through this process were not.

Table A. Summary of State Coverage, Nonresponse, and Misclassification Adjustments: 2017

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	Total	Standard error	Adjustment as percent of total	Percent of total adjustment from coverage	Percent of total adjustment from nonresponse	Percent of total adjustment from misclassification
Farms ....number	47,641	2,276	38.2	16.4	13.3	8.5
Land in farms ....acres	9,764,090	371,324	21.7	5.8	11.3	4.7
Farms by size:						
1 to 9 acres ....farms	5,154	902	57.7	28.5	17.1	12.1
acres	23,780	4,250	57.5	27.0	16.7	13.7
10 to 49 acres ....farms	16,920	1,451	45.1	21.1	14.0	10.0
acres	439,602	36,224	43.5	19.9	13.1	10.5
50 to 69 acres ....farms	3,697	159	35.0	16.3	11.7	7.0
acres	215,779	9,065	34.9	16.1	11.7	7.0
70 to 99 acres ....farms	4,931	415	35.5	14.3	12.5	8.7
acres	401,015	33,284	35.3	14.2	12.4	8.6
100 to 139 acres ....farms	3,681	321	32.1	11.8	11.6	8.6
acres	427,531	38,648	32.0	11.8	11.6	8.6
140 to 179 acres ....farms	2,230	233	28.4	9.2	8.8	10.4
acres	350,242	36,621	28.5	9.1	9.0	10.4
180 to 219 acres ....farms	1,526	119	28.4	9.5	13.8	5.1
acres	301,459	23,883	28.5	9.5	13.9	5.1
220 to 259 acres ....farms	1,191	132	28.1	8.5	14.8	4.7
acres	283,954	31,216	28.0	8.6	14.7	4.7
260 to 499 acres ....farms	3,591	121	26.6	5.6	15.6	5.4
acres	1,289,424	47,502	26.8	5.5	15.7	5.6
500 to 999 acres ....farms	2,560	236	26.4	4.4	19.2	2.7
acres	1,787,990	149,744	26.4	4.3	19.4	2.7
1,000 to 1,999 acres ....farms	1,504	261	19.1	1.8	13.6	3.7
acres	2,029,547	266,969	18.2	1.9	12.5	3.8
2,000 acres or more ....farms	656	26	4.8	1.4	1.7	1.6
acres	2,213,767	69,859	4.8	1.5	1.3	2.1
Irrigated land use:						
Harvested cropland ....farms	4,914	514	31.1	12.9	13.1	5.1
acres	666,976	17,319	13.7	4.2	5.2	4.4
Pastureland and other land ....farms	316	(H)	51.5	13.7	25.8	12.0
acres	3,236	548	32.0	12.2	12.5	7.3
Market value of agricultural products						
sold (see text) $1,000	8,220,935	264,720	13.9	2.9	8.2	2.8
Farms by value of sales:						
Less than $1,000 (see text) ....farms	13,700	1,545	55.4	25.4	15.1	14.9
$1,000	2,494	416	65.2	30.9	18.0	16.3
$1,000 to $2,499 ....farms	4,177	255	44.2	24.1	12.4	7.7
$1,000	6,991	408	43.9	24.1	12.0	7.8
$2,500 to $4,999 ....farms	4,268	353	38.9	19.5	12.3	7.2
$1,000	15,370	1,405	38.7	19.3	12.3	7.2
$5,000 to $9,999 ....farms	4,545	425	34.6	17.1	11.2	6.4
$1,000	32,413	3,314	34.4	16.6	11.5	6.4
$10,000 to $19,999 ....farms	4,393	270	29.4	11.3	12.3	5.8
$1,000	62,300	3,621	29.2	11.4	12.0	5.8
$20,000 to $24,999 ....farms	1,238	154	23.2	9.6	8.7	4.9
$1,000	27,610	3,547	23.0	9.5	8.7	4.8
$25,000 to $39,999 ....farms	2,459	209	25.0	7.6	12.2	5.2
$1,000	78,038	7,285	24.7	7.5	12.0	5.2
$40,000 to $49,999 ....farms	1,060	125	26.7	8.2	12.4	6.1
$1,000	47,137	5,721	26.7	8.3	12.3	6.0
$50,000 to $99,999 ....farms	3,084	150	29.5	9.0	15.2	5.3
$1,000	219,685	10,645	29.5	9.0	15.2	5.3
$100,000 to $249,999 ....farms	3,310	240	26.3	4.4	16.2	5.7
$1,000	524,748	39,069	26.0	4.2	16.3	5.5
$250,000 to $499,999 ....farms	2,184	306	31.2	3.1	23.8	4.3
$1,000	774,377	127,525	30.7	2.9	23.5	4.3
$500,000 to $999,999 ....farms	1,601	260	22.8	1.7	18.9	2.1
$1,000	1,115,689	202,804	21.0	1.6	17.4	2.0
$1,000,000 or more ....farms	1,622	49	12.9	3.2	6.8	2.9
$1,000	5,314,085	85,083	7.5	2.7	2.4	2.5
Legal status for tax purposes (see text):						
Family or individual ....farms	40,523	2,107	39.3	17.3	13.2	8.8
acres	6,181,513	260,569	24.5	7.0	12.2	5.3
Partnership ....farms	3,246	247	29.8	8.3	15.7	5.8
acres	2,091,147	87,534	17.1	2.4	11.5	3.2
Corporation:						
Family held ....farms	2,540	275	32.4	11.8	14.1	6.5
acres	1,205,096	68,539	15.8	4.0	8.2	3.6
Other than family held ....farms	340	210	38.3	14.9	13.1	10.3
acres	110,465	26,487	19.3	6.5	6.0	6.8
Other - estate or trust, prison farm, grazing association,						
American Indian Reservation, etc ....farms	992	55	34.8	18.1	7.8	8.9
acres	175,869	17,202	20.8	11.5	3.2	6.1
Tenure:						
Full owners ....farms	32,208	1,683	41.7	19.4	12.6	9.8
acres	2,460,702	66,530	29.9	12.4	9.4	8.0
Part owners ....farms	13,383	481	29.1	8.8	15.0	5.4
acres	6,818,076	282,370	19.0	3.1	12.4	3.5
Tenants ....farms	2,050	391	41.1	14.9	20.1	6.1
acres	485,312	48,876	19.0	4.7	11.9	2.5
All principal producer characteristics by [1]						
Sex of operator:						
Male ....farms	41,931	2,225	36.3	15.0	13.6	7.7
acres	9,384,764	372,569	21.1	5.3	11.4	4.4
Female ....farms	17,202	1,379	45.2	19.3	15.1	10.8
acres	2,284,224	277,083	26.6	6.8	13.6	6.1
Primary occupation:						
Farming ....farms	29,347	1,790	33.3	11.9	13.9	7.5
Other ....farms	34,280	3,036	43.0	18.1	15.5	9.5

See footnote(s) at end of table. --continued

Item	Total	Standard error	Adjustment as percent of total	Percent of total adjustment from coverage	Percent of total adjustment from nonresponse	Percent of total adjustment from misclassification
All principal producer characteristics by [1]- - Con.						
Hispanic, Latino, or						
Spanish origin (see text) ....farms	721	316	52.4	23.3	20.0	9.0
acres	71,514	17,482	36.9	13.1	17.2	6.5
Race:						
American Indian or						
Alaska Native ....farms	255	84	50.6	21.0	19.5	10.1
acres	34,306	3,685	24.0	10.7	7.6	5.6
Asian ....farms	109	108	54.5	17.6	25.1	11.8
acres	5,626	(H)	52.3	8.1	30.5	13.7
Black or African American ....farms	221	133	56.7	14.5	29.0	13.3
acres	13,761	9,197	26.6	6.9	12.0	7.7
Native Hawaiian or						
Other Pacific Islander ....farms	8	(H)	50.0	39.7	2.1	8.2
acres	691	(H)	53.0	41.5	2.6	8.9
White ....farms	47,033	2,017	38.0	16.5	13.1	8.4
acres	9,698,053	366,900	21.6	5.8	11.2	4.6
More than one race reported ....farms	364	333	52.0	14.9	25.2	11.9
acres	50,697	5,674	38.7	15.8	11.4	11.5
Military service (see text):						
Never served ....producers	56,809	3,259	38.7	15.4	14.9	8.4
Served ....producers	6,818	1,251	36.9	15.0	12.2	9.7
All producers by age group [1]:						
Under 25 years ....farms	1,488	418	52.0	15.7	25.4	10.8
25 to 34 years ....farms	5,697	1,080	47.4	17.1	20.7	9.5
35 to 44 years ....farms	9,612	1,269	44.8	19.3	19.4	6.1
45 to 54 years ....farms	14,706	1,660	40.0	14.6	16.9	8.5
55 to 64 years ....farms	23,131	929	36.6	16.7	11.9	8.1
65 to 74 years ....farms	16,495	910	35.3	15.5	9.3	10.5
75 years and over ....farms	8,275	373	32.4	12.7	9.2	10.5
Net cash farm income of operations (see text):						
Farms with gains of [2]-						
Less than $1,000 ....farms	1,520	150	34.9	17.5	9.7	7.8
$1,000	710	27	33.8	18.7	7.7	7.4
$1,000 to $4,999 ....farms	3,955	260	32.2	15.2	10.5	6.5
$1,000	10,943	658	32.1	15.2	10.4	6.5
$5,000 to $9,999 ....farms	2,764	137	28.0	11.6	10.5	5.8
$1,000	20,358	986	28.4	11.5	11.0	5.9
$10,000 to $24,999 ....farms	3,887	283	26.4	9.5	10.8	6.0
$1,000	63,903	4,187	26.7	9.7	10.9	6.1
$25,000 to $49,999 ....farms	2,581	158	26.9	7.3	13.7	6.0
$1,000	93,058	5,677	27.0	7.2	14.0	5.9
$50,000 or more ....farms	6,302	453	24.6	4.0	16.4	4.2
$1,000	1,817,720	88,606	16.8	3.0	10.8	3.1
Farms with losses of -						
Less than $1,000 ....farms	1,964	396	41.8	18.4	14.1	9.3
$1,000	1,005	274	43.4	17.6	15.8	10.0
$1,000 to $4,999 ....farms	8,098	523	47.9	25.3	11.8	10.8
$1,000	23,803	1,560	48.5	26.1	11.4	11.0
$5,000 to $9,999 ....farms	6,171	978	48.9	22.1	15.7	11.1
$1,000	44,466	7,367	48.9	21.9	15.8	11.3
$10,000 to $24,999 ....farms	6,605	732	49.2	21.1	16.5	11.7
$1,000	102,772	10,738	48.8	20.9	16.2	11.7
$25,000 to $49,999 ....farms	2,046	305	41.8	15.7	16.3	9.9
$1,000	70,202	11,290	41.4	15.5	16.2	9.7
$50,000 or more ....farms	1,748	189	28.9	10.7	12.6	5.6
$1,000	267,785	18,276	21.7	7.5	9.8	4.4
Livestock and poultry:						
Cattle and calves inventory ....farms	12,221	557	35.0	13.4	16.2	5.4
number	1,201,383	146,206	13.4	2.0	9.6	1.8
Beef cows inventory ....farms	7,445	378	34.1	13.7	14.7	5.7
number	103,522	8,957	19.8	4.1	12.5	3.2
Milk cows inventory ....farms	2,158	275	32.5	7.9	22.1	2.4
number	442,032	17,154	6.7	1.3	4.6	0.8
Hog and pigs inventory ....farms	2,017	392	42.5	19.3	16.7	6.6
number	1,236,567	83,137	19.4	6.9	4.4	8.1
Layers inventory ....farms	7,039	367	52.3	24.6	18.1	9.6
number	15,074,549	473,977	0.8	0.3	(Z)	0.4
Broilers sold ....farms	1,582	124	62.9	29.9	22.4	10.7
number	8,868,690	6,624,681	11.1	6.0	2.1	3.0
Aquaculture sold ....farms	57	12	17.5	8.5	4.6	4.5
$1,000	8,834	481	2.4	1.4	0.1	0.9
Selected crops harvested:						
Corn for grain ....farms	11,195	634	26.2	6.2	15.1	4.9
acres	2,168,204	103,540	19.0	2.7	12.5	3.7
Durum wheat for grain ....farms	-	-	-	-	-	-
acres	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other spring wheat for grain (see text) ....farms	14	5	28.6	14.3	7.2	7.1
acres	869	329	26.0	11.5	6.1	8.4
Winter wheat for grain ....farms	4,962	181	22.8	5.1	13.4	4.4
acres	486,142	19,278	15.9	2.5	10.5	3.0
Sorghum for grain ....farms	27	(H)	-4.7	-3.1	-0.3	-1.4
acres	1,888	303	5.1	2.9	0.3	1.9
Soybeans for beans ....farms	11,988	483	26.0	6.9	14.2	4.9
acres	2,487,343	210,312	20.8	3.1	13.8	3.9
Rice ....farms	-	-	-	-	-	-
acres	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cotton ....farms	-	-	-	-	-	-
acres	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts ....farms	-	-	-	-	-	-
acres	-	-	-	-	-	-

See footnote(s) at end of table. --continued

Item	Total	Standard error	Adjustment as percent of total	Percent of total adjustment from coverage	Percent of total adjustment from nonresponse	Percent of total adjustment from misclassification
Selected crops harvested: - Con.						
Barley ....farms	183	21	27.3	10.1	10.4	6.8
acres	5,740	573	17.7	4.6	9.3	3.8
Oats ....farms	1,167	58	31.4	11.3	13.6	6.5
acres	34,492	3,666	32.1	9.1	16.4	6.5
Forage - land used for all hay and all haylage, grass silage, and						
greenchop (see text) ....farms	18,833	1,115	37.2	15.2	13.2	8.9
acres	1,009,570	48,367	24.9	6.8	13.2	4.8
Land in vegetables (see text) ....farms	3,047	268	34.8	16.8	13.4	4.6
acres	160,923	5,065	11.5	3.2	5.8	2.6
Potatoes ....farms	761	124	36.9	16.5	15.6	4.8
acres	50,511	1,133	2.6	1.1	0.3	1.2
Tomatoes in the open ....farms	1,216	165	37.6	18.5	14.4	4.7
acres	5,102	157	6.7	2.4	2.8	1.4
Sweet corn ....farms	835	164	33.2	12.9	16.1	4.2
acres	8,466	2,658	16.2	2.6	11.6	2.0
Lettuce ....farms	495	116	44.0	20.2	18.2	5.6
acres	1,027	45	6.2	2.2	2.8	1.2
Land in orchards (see text) ....farms	2,552	171	33.6	16.3	12.1	5.3
acres	98,220	6,190	10.0	2.8	5.4	1.8
Apples ....farms	1,551	100	32.3	16.8	10.6	4.9
acres	38,563	4,912	10.5	2.4	6.4	1.6
Grapes ....farms	791	159	32.8	16.7	11.2	4.9
acres	13,127	481	5.5	2.2	1.8	1.4
Oranges ....farms	-	-	-	-	-	-
acres	-	-	-	-	-	-
Almonds ....farms	-	-	-	-	-	-
acres	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land in berries ....farms	1,566	117	32.5	14.8	12.6	5.1
acres	25,006	1,183	9.5	3.9	3.9	1.7

[1] Data were collected for a maximum of four producers per farm.
[2] Farms with total production expenses equal to market value of agricultural products sold, government payments, and farm-related income are included as farms with gains of less than $1,000.

Item	Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)	Item	Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)
Farms .... number	47,641	4.8	All principal producer characteristics by [1]- - Con.		
Land in farms ....acres	9,764,090	3.8			
			Hispanic, Latino, or		
Farms by size:			Spanish origin (see text) .... farms	721	43.8
1 to 9 acres ....farms	5,154	17.5	acres	71,514	24.4
acres	23,780	17.9			
10 to 49 acres ....farms	16,920	8.6	Race:		
acres	439,602	8.2	American Indian or		
50 to 69 acres ....farms	3,697	4.3	Alaska Native .... farms	255	32.8
acres	215,779	4.2	acres	34,306	10.7
70 to 99 acres ....farms	4,931	8.4	Asian .... farms	109	98.8
acres	401,015	8.3	acres	5,626	(H)
100 to 139 acres ....farms	3,681	8.7	Black or African American .... farms	221	60.0
acres	427,531	9.0	acres	13,761	66.8
140 to 179 acres ....farms	2,230	10.4	Native Hawaiian or		
acres	350,242	10.5	Other Pacific Islander .... farms	8	(H)
180 to 219 acres ....farms	1,526	7.8	acres	691	(H)
acres	301,459	7.9	White .... farms	47,033	4.3
220 to 259 acres ....farms	1,191	11.1	acres	9,698,053	3.8
acres	283,954	11.0	More than one race reported .... farms	364	91.6
260 to 499 acres ....farms	3,591	3.4	acres	50,697	11.2
acres	1,289,424	3.7			
500 to 999 acres ....farms	2,560	9.2	Military service (see text):		
acres	1,787,990	8.4	Never served .... producers	56,809	5.7
1,000 to 1,999 acres ....farms	1,504	17.3	Served .... producers	6,818	18.4
acres	2,029,547	13.2			
2,000 acres or more ....farms	656	3.9	All producers by age group [1]:		
acres	2,213,767	3.2	Under 25 years .... farms	1,488	28.1
			25 to 34 years .... farms	5,697	19.0
Irrigated land use:			35 to 44 years .... farms	9,612	13.2
Harvested cropland ....farms	4,914	10.5	45 to 54 years .... farms	14,706	11.3
acres	666,976	2.6	55 to 64 years .... farms	23,131	4.0
Pastureland and other land ....farms	316	(H)	65 to 74 years .... farms	16,495	5.5
acres	3,236	16.9	75 years and over .... farms	8,275	4.5
Market value of agricultural products			Net cash farm income of operations (see text):		
sold (see text) $1,000	8,220,935	3.2	Farms with gains of [2]-		
			Less than $1,000 .... farms	1,520	9.9
Farms by value of sales:			$1,000	710	3.8
Less than $1,000 (see text) ....farms	13,700	11.3	$1,000 to $4,999 .... farms	3,955	6.6
$1,000	2,494	16.7	$1,000	10,943	6.0
$1,000 to $2,499 ....farms	4,177	6.1	$5,000 to $9,999 .... farms	2,764	5.0
$1,000	6,991	5.8	$1,000	20,358	4.8
$2,500 to $4,999 ....farms	4,268	8.3	$10,000 to $24,999 .... farms	3,887	7.3
$1,000	15,370	9.1	$1,000	63,903	6.6
$5,000 to $9,999 ....farms	4,545	9.4	$25,000 to $49,999 .... farms	2,581	6.1
$1,000	32,413	10.2	$1,000	93,058	6.1
$10,000 to $19,999 ....farms	4,393	6.2	$50,000 or more .... farms	6,302	7.2
$1,000	62,300	5.8	$1,000	1,817,720	4.9
$20,000 to $24,999 ....farms	1,238	12.4			
$1,000	27,610	12.8	Farms with losses of -		
$25,000 to $39,999 ....farms	2,459	8.5	Less than $1,000 .... farms	1,964	20.1
$1,000	78,038	9.3	$1,000	1,005	27.3
$40,000 to $49,999 ....farms	1,060	11.8	$1,000 to $4,999 .... farms	8,098	6.5
$1,000	47,137	12.1	$1,000	23,803	6.6
$50,000 to $99,999 ....farms	3,084	4.9	$5,000 to $9,999 .... farms	6,171	15.8
$1,000	219,685	4.8	$1,000	44,466	16.6
$100,000 to $249,999 ....farms	3,310	7.2	$10,000 to $24,999 .... farms	6,605	11.1
$1,000	524,748	7.4	$1,000	102,772	10.4
$250,000 to $499,999 ....farms	2,184	14.0	$25,000 to $49,999 .... farms	2,046	14.9
$1,000	774,377	16.5	$1,000	70,202	16.1
$500,000 to $999,999 ....farms	1,601	16.2	$50,000 or more .... farms	1,748	10.8
$1,000	1,115,689	18.2	$1,000	267,785	6.8
$1,000,000 or more ....farms	1,622	3.0			
$1,000	5,314,085	1.6	Livestock and poultry:		
			Cattle and calves inventory .... farms	12,221	4.6
Legal status for tax purposes (see text):			number	1,201,383	12.2
Family or individual ....farms	40,523	5.2	Beef cows inventory .... farms	7,445	5.1
acres	6,181,513	4.2	number	103,522	8.7
Partnership ....farms	3,246	7.6	Milk cows inventory .... farms	2,158	12.8
acres	2,091,147	4.2	number	442,032	3.9
Corporation:			Hog and pigs inventory .... farms	2,017	19.5
Family held ....farms	2,540	10.8	number	1,236,567	6.7
acres	1,205,096	5.7	Layers inventory .... farms	7,039	5.2
Other than family held ....farms	340	61.6	number	15,074,549	3.1
acres	110,465	24.0	Broilers sold .... farms	1,582	7.9
Other - estate or trust, prison farm, grazing association,			number	8,868,690	74.7
American Indian Reservation, etc ....farms	992	5.6	Aquaculture sold .... farms	57	20.6
acres	175,869	9.8	$1,000	8,834	5.5
Tenure:			Selected crops harvested:		
Full owners ....farms	32,208	5.2	Corn for grain .... farms	11,195	5.7
acres	2,460,702	2.7	acres	2,168,204	4.8
Part owners ....farms	13,383	3.6	Durum wheat for grain .... farms	-	-
acres	6,818,076	4.1	acres	-	-
Tenants ....farms	2,050	19.1	Other spring wheat for grain (see text) .... farms	14	36.2
acres	485,312	10.1	acres	869	37.9
			Winter wheat for grain .... farms	4,962	3.6
All principal producer characteristics by [1]-			acres	486,142	4.0
Sex of operator:			Sorghum for grain .... farms	27	(H)
Male ....farms	41,931	5.3	acres	1,888	16.0
acres	9,384,764	4.0	Soybeans for beans .... farms	11,988	4.0
Female ....farms	17,202	8.0	acres	2,487,343	8.5
acres	2,284,224	12.1	Rice .... farms	-	-
			acres	-	-
Primary occupation:			Cotton .... farms	-	-
Farming ....farms	29,347	6.1	acres	-	-
Other ....farms	34,280	8.9			

See footnote(s) at end of table.   --continued

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)	Item	Total	Coefficient of variation (percent)
Selected crops harvested: - Con.			Selected crops harvested: - Con. Land in vegetables (see text) - Con.		
Peanuts ....farms	-	-	Sweet corn ....farms	835	19.7
acres	-	-	acres	8,466	31.4
Barley ....farms	183	11.7	Lettuce ....farms	495	23.4
acres	5,740	10.0	acres	1,027	4.3
Oats ....farms	1,167	5.0	Land in orchards (see text) ....farms	2,552	6.7
acres	34,492	10.6	acres	98,220	6.3
Forage - land used for all hay and all			Apples ....farms	1,551	6.4
haylage, grass silage, and			acres	38,563	12.7
greenchop (see text) ....farms	18,833	5.9	Grapes ....farms	791	20.1
acres	1,009,570	4.8	acres	13,127	3.7
Land in vegetables (see text) ....farms	3,047	8.8	Oranges ....farms	-	-
acres	160,923	3.1	acres	-	-
Potatoes ....farms	761	16.2	Almonds ....farms	-	-
acres	50,511	2.2	acres	-	-
Tomatoes in the open ....farms	1,216	13.6	Land in berries ....farms	1,566	7.4
acres	5,102	3.1	acres	25,006	4.7

[1] Data were collected for a maximum of four producers per farm.
[2] Farms with total production expenses equal to market value of agricultural products sold, government payments, and farm-related income are included as farms with gains of less than $1,000.

Table C. Summary of Coverage, Nonresponse, and Misclassification Adjustments by County: 2017

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Geographic area	Total (number)	Standard error	Adjustment as percent of total	Percent of total adjustment from coverage	Percent of total adjustment from nonresponse	Percent of total adjustment from misclassification
ALL FARMS (NUMBER)						
State Total						
Michigan	47,641	2,276	38.2	16.4	13.3	8.5
Counties						
Alcona..	223	21	44.0	25.9	8.0	10.1
Alger	126	29	45.0	25.7	9.3	10.1
Allegan...	1,172	190	36.8	17.9	11.2	7.7
Alpena	415	105	43.0	18.7	16.0	8.2
Antrim	333	58	36.8	19.8	9.0	7.9
Arenac	350	67	29.9	12.6	8.6	8.6
Baraga	65	17	40.0	27.2	5.6	7.2
Barry	938	96	38.5	20.7	8.6	9.1
Bay	726	124	32.7	9.3	16.0	7.5
Benzie..	197	35	42.3	29.0	4.9	8.5
Berrien	872	131	35.4	16.3	12.0	7.1
Branch	789	211	35.1	12.2	16.1	6.8
Calhoun	958	237	38.4	16.8	13.5	8.2
Cass	747	199	41.3	18.1	13.7	9.5
Charlevoix..	271	99	39.0	16.2	14.9	7.9
Cheboygan	330	183	47.3	14.1	21.7	11.5
Chippewa	427	200	40.7	15.6	14.8	10.3
Clare	396	213	38.2	15.2	13.6	9.4
Clinton	1,017	166	33.0	15.8	9.1	8.2
Crawford	45	34	60.0	26.8	18.5	14.7
Delta	253	32	44.4	24.8	6.9	12.7
Dickinson	158	24	42.6	24.9	8.0	9.7
Eaton	962	111	34.3	17.8	8.7	7.8
Emmet	324	83	43.3	21.4	13.3	8.6
Genesee	820	145	41.2	23.0	9.2	9.0
Gladwin	459	72	37.9	20.6	8.7	8.6
Gogebic	54	8	40.3	25.1	6.0	9.2
Grand Traverse..	497	51	35.9	20.1	8.4	7.4
Gratiot	812	269	32.8	6.8	18.5	7.6
Hillsdale	1,205	200	33.2	12.5	12.2	8.4
Houghton	208	137	47.7	13.3	17.2	17.2
Huron...	1,153	118	27.1	8.1	13.7	5.4
Ingham	912	512	44.8	17.6	16.8	10.4
Ionia	954	173	34.4	16.3	11.2	6.9
Iosco	244	148	37.3	20.9	3.3	13.1
Iron	133	29	43.0	27.6	3.4	12.0
Isabella	959	265	38.6	9.8	21.3	7.6
Jackson	923	115	43.1	22.0	9.5	11.6
Kalamazoo..	707	183	40.1	18.8	11.1	10.1
Kalkaska	225	25	45.8	25.7	7.7	12.5
Kent	1,010	154	39.5	17.5	13.7	8.2
Keweenaw	9	(H)	77.8	49.4	8.2	20.2
Lake	168	35	42.2	25.6	5.6	11.0
Lapeer	1,013	226	40.9	14.9	17.2	8.8
Leelanau	470	246	35.3	15.1	13.7	6.5
Lenawee	1,361	145	31.3	14.3	10.2	6.8
Livingston	724	236	46.5	23.6	13.5	9.4
Luce	71	25	56.3	36.7	5.2	14.4
Mackinac	101	36	43.2	25.4	8.8	9.0
Macomb	404	259	42.2	13.5	20.4	8.3
Manistee	274	65	43.9	23.0	10.3	10.7
Marquette	179	34	43.4	22.7	11.8	8.9
Mason	472	70	42.1	17.8	13.9	10.4
Mecosta	694	93	38.9	20.3	10.3	8.2
Menominee	353	60	36.9	17.6	10.0	9.3
Midland	530	79	37.3	20.1	8.9	8.4
Missaukee	406	96	43.7	16.6	18.1	9.1
Monroe	1,085	101	36.7	18.1	10.6	8.0
Montcalm	962	180	40.9	19.5	12.6	8.9
Montmorency..	178	48	49.0	25.3	13.1	10.6
Muskegon	476	128	41.9	17.2	15.2	9.5
Newaygo	850	131	40.5	21.5	10.8	8.3
Oakland	514	105	50.8	26.0	15.1	9.7
Oceana	545	137	41.9	15.7	14.6	11.7
Ogemaw	294	65	38.5	13.5	18.7	6.3
Ontonagon	114	20	39.5	20.5	8.7	10.3
Osceola	625	116	39.6	15.2	12.7	11.7
Oscoda	144	88	48.0	19.7	20.5	7.8
Otsego	193	43	40.8	16.9	16.7	7.1
Ottawa	1,130	184	32.4	13.5	13.1	5.8
Presque Isle...	322	122	41.6	14.3	18.1	9.2
Roscommon	48	19	50.0	27.4	12.0	10.7
Saginaw	1,250	109	31.3	10.3	14.8	6.2
St. Clair..	1,077	114	43.1	19.7	14.9	8.5
St. Joseph..	896	135	38.9	20.7	10.4	7.8
Sanilac	1,315	255	31.2	10.3	15.6	5.3
Schoolcraft...	62	11	43.5	27.1	3.4	13.1
Shiawassee	972	329	36.7	14.0	11.5	11.3
Tuscola	1,241	180	34.0	13.2	13.7	7.0
Van Buren	953	215	38.5	14.5	16.0	8.0
Washtenaw	1,245	226	42.1	18.6	14.2	9.2
Wayne	248	56	44.8	31.7	6.1	7.0
Wexford	304	53	42.3	19.9	13.1	9.3

Geographic area	Total (number)	Standard error	Adjustment as percent of total	Percent of total adjustment from coverage	Percent of total adjustment from nonresponse	Percent of total adjustment from misclassification
LAND IN FARMS (ACRES)						
State Total						
Michigan...	9,764,090	371,324	21.7	5.8	11.3	4.7
Counties						
Alcona...	36,431	11,071	29.6	11.3	12.8	5.5
Alger...	20,961	3,865	27.6	15.5	3.3	8.8
Allegan..	229,743	17,391	19.9	6.4	8.6	4.9
Alpena...	65,388	7,387	29.3	13.8	8.4	7.1
Antrim..	55,565	7,842	18.6	8.4	5.9	4.3
Arenac...	87,174	11,483	24.6	8.1	10.1	6.3
Baraga...	17,604	3,870	31.6	18.3	7.0	6.4
Barry	154,624	10,730	19.9	8.2	6.9	4.8
Bay..	209,848	52,638	16.5	1.9	11.8	2.8
Benzie...	18,516	2,559	21.3	13.8	2.7	4.8
Berrien..	144,583	18,305	20.5	4.2	12.6	3.7
Branch...	239,418	24,003	16.4	4.2	8.8	3.4
Calhoun...	213,946	41,542	21.8	6.3	11.1	4.5
Cass..	198,515	20,281	19.5	5.8	7.7	6.0
Charlevoix..	29,940	5,636	26.7	12.0	7.6	7.1
Cheboygan..	44,024	8,610	29.7	12.6	9.2	7.9
Chippewa..	89,066	11,104	24.3	10.0	7.2	7.2
Clare...	54,609	5,447	25.4	10.3	9.3	5.8
Clinton...	229,763	28,714	13.4	4.7	5.0	3.7
Crawford..	2,941	1,620	55.3	24.0	9.9	21.4
Delta..	58,764	4,944	23.5	11.9	3.8	7.8
Dickinson...	22,043	3,663	30.9	16.7	4.4	9.7
Eaton...	210,120	18,358	23.0	8.2	9.1	5.7
Emmet...	39,256	2,759	32.7	18.2	5.2	9.3
Genesee...	123,920	13,174	24.0	8.6	10.1	5.3
Gladwin..	58,586	12,762	27.8	12.1	9.5	6.1
Gogebic..	5,535	790	24.7	14.9	3.2	6.5
Grand Traverse...	50,886	4,372	25.4	10.8	8.9	5.7
Gratiot...	296,702	38,154	15.8	2.6	10.0	3.2
Hillsdale...	254,245	25,063	19.7	6.9	7.2	5.6
Houghton..	26,016	22,604	36.0	6.5	14.6	15.0
Huron...	495,258	54,668	19.2	1.9	14.6	2.8
Ingham...	178,200	20,098	20.9	6.4	8.7	5.8
Ionia..	233,990	46,550	16.5	3.5	9.9	3.1
Iosco..	33,828	23,142	22.2	10.8	2.5	9.0
Iron...	23,450	4,818	32.7	19.7	4.4	8.6
Isabella..	211,752	23,239	24.3	5.2	13.4	5.6
Jackson..	160,412	14,247	20.0	6.6	7.7	5.8
Kalamazoo..	138,569	20,217	22.6	9.5	7.3	5.8
Kalkaska..	27,137	7,445	37.9	16.3	12.8	8.8
Kent...	157,466	14,561	22.6	5.1	13.3	4.3
Keweenaw..	240	(H)	75.0	44.5	6.9	23.6
Lake...	21,630	4,457	29.4	16.6	3.9	8.9
Lapeer..	165,464	22,113	22.7	5.3	12.3	5.1
Leelanau..	50,053	4,724	27.6	9.6	12.7	5.4
Lenawee...	385,784	47,679	24.5	4.4	16.1	4.0
Livingston...	89,370	18,564	24.7	6.7	13.3	4.7
Luce..	9,895	2,085	28.2	15.7	2.5	10.0
Mackinac..	25,046	3,562	19.0	10.8	2.9	5.3
Macomb..	73,660	(H)	36.8	1.3	28.3	7.1
Manistee..	41,371	8,653	30.3	12.1	11.0	7.2
Marquette...	30,250	9,234	32.0	10.7	16.6	4.7
Mason..	85,429	12,450	27.6	9.3	12.5	5.8
Mecosta..	115,118	17,129	21.4	9.0	7.2	5.2
Menominee...	79,621	9,032	20.3	7.6	8.0	4.8
Midland..	87,688	7,442	23.8	10.7	7.4	5.6
Missaukee..	113,624	13,895	19.4	6.9	7.4	5.1
Monroe...	209,838	24,300	19.1	4.9	10.5	3.8
Montcalm..	230,362	18,694	18.8	6.5	7.2	5.1
Montmorency...	26,099	7,578	38.5	21.7	7.9	8.9
Muskegon..	63,182	6,789	18.4	5.3	8.4	4.6
Newaygo...	136,232	17,520	24.6	8.7	10.3	5.6
Oakland..	28,856	6,741	29.6	4.5	21.6	3.4
Oceana	127,077	16,771	23.5	6.6	11.0	5.9
Ogemaw..	70,099	18,549	23.6	3.7	16.8	3.0
Ontonagon..	27,106	4,319	28.5	14.5	5.0	9.0
Osceola..	103,633	10,606	23.3	8.9	8.3	6.1
Oscoda...	16,177	4,491	38.9	23.0	5.9	10.0
Otsego...	33,273	7,502	21.8	7.0	10.1	4.7
Ottawa...	171,883	12,260	15.6	4.0	8.8	2.9
Presque Isle...	64,490	20,764	24.0	7.8	10.0	6.2
Roscommon..	5,757	2,065	32.9	10.8	12.6	9.5
Saginaw..	327,025	20,659	27.0	6.2	15.4	5.4
St. Clair..	182,185	51,002	28.5	4.9	19.6	4.1
St. Joseph...	244,952	63,865	23.6	4.8	15.2	3.7
Sanilac...	436,511	163,492	18.3	2.1	13.3	2.9
Schoolcraft...	15,034	3,640	36.6	19.8	3.3	13.5
Shiawassee..	210,473	17,225	16.9	5.5	6.7	4.7
Tuscola	329,785	25,423	21.6	4.7	13.2	3.7
Van Buren...	151,784	9,366	15.7	4.5	7.3	3.9
Washtenaw...	178,995	28,252	24.6	6.9	12.8	4.9
Wayne..	10,037	2,034	25.0	14.4	4.8	5.7
Wexford..	40,208	7,431	27.0	8.8	12.5	5.7

Geographic area	Total (number)	Standard error	Adjustment as percent of total	Percent of total adjustment from coverage	Percent of total adjustment from nonresponse	Percent of total adjustment from misclassification
SALES ($1,000)						
State Total						
Michigan	8,220,935	264,720	13.9	2.9	8.2	2.8
Counties						
Alcona..	11,494	5,044	23.6	4.3	16.0	3.3
Alger	4,225	787	33.0	12.8	9.3	10.9
Allegan	584,373	17,733	7.9	2.7	2.1	3.1
Alpena	25,896	8,501	30.4	12.8	12.1	5.5
Antrim	35,472	7,431	19.0	4.9	10.9	3.1
Arenac	43,001	6,410	23.1	5.0	14.0	4.1
Baraga	2,210	800	45.7	23.1	12.7	9.9
Barry	139,682	5,945	11.1	2.8	6.1	2.2
Bay	116,537	35,763	11.8	1.2	8.7	1.9
Benzie	10,027	1,113	9.0	5.8	1.1	2.1
Berrien	171,350	32,430	12.6	2.1	8.6	1.8
Branch	162,296	10,054	20.0	3.8	12.6	3.6
Calhoun	113,869	15,746	14.9	3.7	7.8	3.4
Cass	153,388	10,250	14.5	4.7	4.2	5.6
Charlevoix	8,415	812	14.0	6.5	3.1	4.4
Cheboygan	7,146	478	17.0	8.1	4.3	4.6
Chippewa	10,675	1,635	17.1	6.8	6.3	3.9
Clare	22,059	3,400	19.2	2.9	13.4	3.0
Clinton	224,284	25,891	7.5	1.8	4.3	1.4
Crawford	215	138	47.6	18.1	20.3	9.2
Delta	10,800	724	22.0	6.8	8.0	7.2
Dickinson	4,372	485	8.7	4.3	2.6	1.8
Eaton	83,305	6,135	22.5	6.3	11.0	5.2
Emmet	8,714	2,429	23.9	11.5	5.9	6.4
Genesee	70,413	8,038	18.0	4.4	11.0	2.7
Gladwin	15,759	2,810	22.7	6.4	12.8	3.5
Gogebic	747	229	30.2	15.0	10.4	4.7
Grand Traverse	34,099	3,403	15.3	5.2	6.7	3.4
Gratiot	281,445	26,248	9.3	2.1	5.2	2.1
Hillsdale	165,110	17,703	16.2	5.1	6.2	4.9
Houghton	6,307	(H)	53.5	4.6	45.3	3.5
Huron	610,778	33,463	13.6	1.8	9.8	2.0
Ingham	113,798	9,828	19.7	6.0	8.3	5.4
Ionia	382,945	53,763	9.0	1.7	4.9	2.5
Iosco	14,892	1,107	11.3	6.2	2.2	2.9
Iron	3,665	2,111	41.9	15.2	17.1	9.7
Isabella	116,848	9,142	19.0	3.5	10.9	4.6
Jackson	70,807	7,391	18.9	4.7	9.9	4.3
Kalamazoo	236,922	10,911	13.5	6.9	2.6	4.1
Kalkaska	8,325	497	10.1	4.2	2.9	3.0
Kent	262,815	14,416	8.6	1.6	5.4	1.6
Keweenaw	2	(H)	83.3	59.4	10.9	13.0
Lake	3,247	237	10.6	6.1	1.3	3.1
Lapeer	86,954	7,283	18.7	3.4	12.1	3.2
Leelanau	42,442	5,752	31.4	7.6	18.6	5.3
Lenawee	259,884	24,282	21.2	4.2	13.8	3.2
Livingston	48,482	15,089	13.7	2.9	8.9	1.9
Luce	3,771	280	8.7	4.4	0.8	3.5
Mackinac	7,140	2,529	25.7	10.5	6.6	8.6
Macomb	78,824	(H)	19.6	1.1	14.7	3.8
Manistee	10,325	4,319	37.8	6.5	26.9	4.4
Marquette	3,676	3,447	51.4	7.0	40.9	3.5
Mason	56,686	8,442	16.6	5.6	7.7	3.3
Mecosta	180,065	6,013	3.5	0.8	1.2	1.5
Menominee	37,598	2,719	7.3	1.8	4.3	1.1
Midland	46,896	4,490	15.2	5.1	5.9	4.3
Missaukee	148,708	29,316	14.1	2.1	10.0	2.0
Monroe	174,504	12,857	10.7	3.3	5.1	2.3
Montcalm	180,469	8,439	8.8	2.7	3.3	2.9
Montmorency	9,169	2,444	27.4	12.9	7.6	6.9
Muskegon	74,677	8,780	10.3	3.7	4.3	2.4
Newaygo	128,314	4,087	10.4	4.2	3.3	2.9
Oakland	22,329	6,983	29.9	2.9	23.9	3.1
Oceana	124,691	9,845	11.2	2.8	4.8	3.6
Ogemaw	49,812	13,365	16.9	1.0	14.5	1.3
Ontonagon	3,096	964	31.1	19.1	4.0	8.1
Osceola	43,531	7,543	11.5	2.0	8.3	1.2
Oscoda	5,566	1,212	29.2	12.5	11.1	5.6
Otsego	6,235	768	13.4	4.3	5.9	3.2
Ottawa	506,662	32,482	8.0	2.3	4.2	1.5
Presque Isle	18,889	3,550	7.5	1.9	4.0	1.6
Roscommon	782	388	29.8	7.7	13.5	8.7
Saginaw	170,258	12,337	27.2	5.3	16.5	5.4
St. Clair	80,888	23,572	25.4	2.7	19.6	3.1
St. Joseph	230,675	36,591	18.7	5.0	10.1	3.6
Sanilac	357,672	184,189	19.1	1.3	15.6	2.2
Schoolcraft	2,109	324	17.8	7.6	1.1	9.2
Shiawassee	97,476	4,593	13.3	4.3	5.0	4.0
Tuscola	230,955	19,936	23.1	4.6	14.8	3.7
Van Buren	205,549	12,735	8.3	2.6	3.6	2.0
Washtenaw	91,167	12,894	20.1	4.5	11.7	3.8
Wayne	23,132	1,130	8.0	4.4	1.6	2.0
Wexford	18,149	2,209	18.9	8.9	5.2	4.9

Table D. **American Indian or Alaska Native Producers: 2017**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Geographic area	American Indian or Alaska Native farm producers			Geographic area	American Indian or Alaska Native farm producers		
	Total	Individually reported [1]	Other [2]		Total	Individually reported [1]	Other [2]
State Total				**Counties** - Con.			
Michigan...	777	777	-	Kalamazoo	24	24	-
				Kalkaska..	8	8	-
Counties				Kent..	25	25	-
				Lake	2	2	-
Alcona..	1	1	-	Lapeer	18	18	-
Alger...	9	9	-	Leelanau..	5	5	-
Allegan...	18	18	-	Lenawee...	10	10	-
Alpena..	1	1	-	Livingston	3	3	-
Antrim...	2	2	-	Luce	13	13	-
Arenac..	14	14	-	Mackinac	7	7	-
Baraga	2	2					
Barry	5	5	-	Macomb..	2	2	-
Bay	5	5	-	Manistee...	5	5	-
Benzie	4	4	-	Mason...	6	6	-
				Mecosta..	9	9	-
Berrien	7	7	-	Menominee...	14	14	-
Branch...	9	9	-	Midland...	2	2	-
Calhoun...	22	22	-	Missaukee	1	1	-
Cass..	24	24	-	Monroe...	16	16	-
Charlevoix	4	4	-	Montcalm..	13	13	-
Cheboygan..	19	19	-	Montmorency..	2	2	-
Chippewa..	36	36	-				
Clare	4	4	-	Muskegon...	6	6	-
Clinton...	23	23	-	Newaygo...	11	11	-
Crawford	12	12	-	Oakland..	7	7	-
				Ogemaw..	2	2	-
Delta..	13	13	-	Ontonagon..	5	5	-
Eaton...	16	16	-	Osceola	9	9	-
Emmet...	16	16	-	Ottawa..	15	15	-
Genesee	11	11	-	Roscommon	8	8	-
Gladwin...	1	1	-	Saginaw..	12	12	-
Gogebic...	3	3	-	St. Clair...	10	10	-
Grand Traverse.....................................	11	11	-				
Gratiot	4	4	-	St. Joseph	2	2	-
Hillsdale	25	25	-	Sanilac..	19	19	-
Houghton	4	4	-	Schoolcraft	5	5	-
				Shiawassee	16	16	-
Huron	7	7	-	Tuscola...	13	13	-
Ingham..	17	17	-	Van Buren	8	8	-
Ionia	6	6	-	Washtenaw..	27	27	-
Iosco...	3	3	-	Wayne	20	20	-
Isabella...	18	18	-	Wexford..	9	9	-
Jackson...	12	12	-				

[1] Data were collected for a maximum of four producers per farm.
[2] Data represent American Indian or Alaska Native farm or ranch producers on reservations who did not report individually. Data obtained by reservation officials.