

## Foreword

The **2007 Census of Agriculture** will be mailed to Delaware agricultural producers on December 28<sup>th</sup>. The Census of Agriculture is the most comprehensive source of information on agriculture. The theme of the 2007 Census is **“Your Voice, Your Future, Your Responsibility”**.

**“Your Voice”**; As a member of the agricultural producer community in Delaware, your voice will be heard by joining with other producers who understand the importance of the Census data and send back their completed Census report. If one declines to participate, they are in effect, refusing to help themselves and all other agricultural producers and supporters in Delaware as the accuracy of the Census data is determined by the level of positive response.

**“Your Future”**; Delaware producers need to be aware the information they report on the Census will be used in many ways to help keep agriculture viable, profitable, and the state’s number one industry. This is your opportunity to have a positive influence on your future and the future of agriculture in your community and state.

**“Your Responsibility”**; As a member of the agricultural community, no matter how small your operation may be, it’s your responsibility to make sure your operation is included in the Census totals. This important information needs to be complete and accurate if it is going to portray the real importance of agriculture in Delaware.

There are countless uses of the statistics which yield both direct and indirect benefits to the agricultural community. Agricultural Extension Service personnel, crop and marketing consultants, farm organizations, commodity organizations, USDA and other Federal, State, and County government officials, farm publication economists, and agricultural researchers use the statistics summarized from the information you and others provide. Financial institutions, agricultural businesses, educational institutions and community planners are just a few examples of other users of agricultural statistics.

Without having unbiased official government statistics from the Census of Agriculture, any proponent of agriculture would be at a great disadvantage trying to engage in dialogue with non-agricultural parties on issues in which agricultural producers have a vested interest. Having unbiased, statistically sound facts to back one’s position is invaluable.

The data presented in this bulletin are the direct result of, and only made possible by, the voluntary cooperation of our Delaware farmers and agribusinesses who have taken the time to respond to our surveys. We extend our sincere appreciation to them.

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*CHRIS CADWALLADER*

Chris Cadwallader  
Director  
Delaware Field Office, NASS, USDA

