

Foreword

Did you know the “Small Wonder”, an unofficial nickname for Delaware, produces over 1 billion dollars in value of agricultural commodities each year? Did you know Delaware agricultural operations grow 1.6 billion pounds of broilers each year? Did you know Delaware has lost 45,000 acres of land in farms since 2000? Do you know how important accurate agricultural statistics are to Delaware agricultural producers? The answer to this last question is: extremely valuable.

From the Governor’s office to the young student working on a homework paper, this office receives hundreds of data requests annually on Delaware agriculture.

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 USDA, 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 accurate data 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 from their busy schedules to respond to our surveys. We extend our sincere appreciation to them.

A very special “Thank you” goes out to all who took the time to complete their 2007 Census of Agriculture report form. The Census of Agriculture is the only reliable source of agricultural data at the county level and also provides information at the state level on many topics which are not available annually. The results of the 2007 Census of Agriculture will be released on February 4, 2009.

For those with access to the internet, all of the information contained in this bulletin and much more can be accessed at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/de>

The Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service is dedicated to serving the data needs of those within the agricultural community and all others needing information about agriculture in Delaware. Please contact us at any time with your questions, comments, or requests for information.

We wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2009.


Chris Cadwallader
Director
Delaware Field Office, NASS,
USDA