

# Foreword

The 2007 Census of Agriculture was released in February and a small portion of the results are contained within this bulletin. Did you know Delaware produces a higher value of agricultural production (more than \$1 billion) than 10 other states, even though Delaware is the second smallest state? I would like to sincerely thank every agricultural producer who took the time to complete their Ag Census report. I encourage you to visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) and select "Delaware" to learn more about the census results.

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. 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 agencies, farm publication economists, and agricultural researchers use the statistics summarized from the information you and others provide. Financial institutions, agricultural businesses, educational institutions, community planners and agricultural producers 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.

In these extremely challenging economic times, Governor Markell's administration is committed to keeping Delaware agriculture profitable and sustainable. Delaware now has over 100,000 acres of land in farms permanently preserved.

A special thanks to Sheldaria Sellman and Debbie Lindgren for their excellent work in compiling the information contained in this publication. 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 2010.



Chris Cadwallader

Director

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