



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **USDA still accepting 2022 Census of Agriculture returns from Illinois producers.**

Springfield, Illinois – April 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is reminding Illinois farmers and ranchers that the window is closing on the opportunity to participate in the 2022 Census of Agriculture. To date, NASS has received completed questionnaires from many Illinois producers for a return rate of more than 60%. NASS is encouraging U.S. producers who have not returned their completed ag census questionnaires to do so as soon as possible to avoid additional mail, phone, email, text and in-person follow-up, which is currently underway.

"I am grateful to all the farmers and ranchers that have responded already," said NASS State Statistician Mark Schleusener. "All the staff of NASS appreciates your efforts to raise a safe and abundant food supply. We really want to increase the response rate in Illinois and around the country. More responses lead to better information and deeper understanding of the agricultural community by lawmakers when considering changes to farm policy and programs."

NASS is reminding producers that if they produced and sold \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in 2022, or normally would have produced and sold that much, they meet USDA's definition of a farm. However, federal law requires everyone who received the 2022 Census of Agriculture questionnaire to complete and return it, even if they do not currently meet this definition. Producers can respond online at [agcounts.usda.gov](https://agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail.

"If you received the ag census but do not fit the definition of a farm, are no longer farming, never farmed or are a landowner who leases your land to a producer for cash or a share of the crop, please write your status on the form and mail it back," said Schleusener.

The Census of Agriculture remains the only comprehensive and impartial source of agriculture data for every state and county in the nation. Census data are used by policymakers, trade associations, researchers, agribusinesses, educators, and many others. The information helps inform decisions on farm policy, rural development, the development of farm technologies

and more. It also aids in the creation and funding of loans, insurance programs and other forms of assistance.

The ag census differs from other NASS surveys. Aside from being conducted just once every five years it provides important demographic information and data on certain commodities such as horses, bison, and Christmas trees, that would not otherwise be available. The Census of Agriculture collects information on nearly every aspect of American agriculture for a complete picture of the health of the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production and updates to internet access questions.

Federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 requires that NASS keep all submissions confidential, use the information for statistical purposes only and publish aggregate data to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation.

NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024. To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus). On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, special study information and more. For highlights of these and the latest information, follow USDA NASS on Twitter at [@usda\\_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass).

For assistance with the Census of Agriculture, or for more information, contact the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014 or [nassrfohlr@usda.gov](mailto:nassrfohlr@usda.gov).

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