



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Nevada Ag Stats Newsletter



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Released: January 7, 2013

Get Connected by Responding to the 2012 Census of Agriculture Online

The number of “connected” farmers in the United States increased from 50 percent in 2002 to 57 percent in 2007, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). And many are wondering if this trend will continue to rise, and if so by how much, when results of the 2012 Census of Agriculture are revealed.

For now, farmers and ranchers across the nation should be on the lookout for their Census of Agriculture forms, which will arrive in mailboxes by January. Completed forms are due February 4, 2013. And because more farmers and ranchers reported having Internet access during the last Census, NASS is again offering producers an option of getting connected to the Census and completing it online by visiting a secure website at www.agcensus.usda.gov.

The Census, conducted only once every five years by NASS, is more than a count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It is a look at land use and ownership, production practices, expenditures and other things that affect the way farmers do business in the 21st Century.

After receiving stakeholder input, NASS made several changes to the Census form to ensure the information gathered reflects the most current information needs of the agriculture industry. One such change was modifying the question on Internet access to gather information on the type of service used to access the Internet, including mobile connections via Smart phones and tablets.

“This type of census information is used by companies, cooperatives, planners and lawmakers who serve farmers and rural communities – including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations and many others,” said Renee Picanso, NASS Census and Survey Division director. “Farmers and ranchers can also use Census data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations.”

Taking part in the Census is increasingly important to farmers and farm communities because it provides insight into every county in every state across the nation. It is also invaluable to help farmers tell the story and value of American agriculture today to their urban and non-farming neighbors.

To get connected and complete the Census online, farmers will need the survey code found on the mailing label of the Census form that was mailed to each farmer. The code is a series of 17 numbers and letters that appears on the first line of the label, immediately above the bars. Farmers may also complete and return their Census form in the mail.

Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential. For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Potato Production

Total United States potato production in 2012 from all seasons is forecast at 467 million cwt, 9 percent above 2011. Harvested area, at 1.14 million acres, is unchanged from the November forecast but up 6 percent from last year. Average yield is forecast at 411 cwt per acre, up 12 cwt from the previous year.

Production of fall potatoes for 2012 is forecast at 422 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 991,500 acres, is unchanged from the November forecast but 6 percent above the previous year. The average yield forecast, at 425 cwt per acre, is up 9 cwt from last year's yield. Estimates for Nevada were not disclosed to avoid privacy issues for individual producers.

In Idaho, growers are expecting a record high yield due to favorable growing conditions, while production is forecast to be the second highest on record. Record high yields are also forecast in North Dakota and Massachusetts due to favorable spring weather and adequate water supplies. In Michigan, growers reported good yields despite the high temperatures and dry conditions experienced during the summer.

Hogs and Pigs Report

United States: Inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2012 was 66.3 million head. This was down slightly from December 1, 2011, and down 2 percent from September 1, 2012. Breeding inventory, at 5.82 million head, was up slightly from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 60.5 million head, was down slightly from last year, and down 2 percent from last quarter.

Nevada: Inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2012 was 2,700 head. This was up 400 head from December 1, 2011. Breeding inventory in the state, at 300 head, was up 200 head from December 1, 2011. Market hog inventory, at 2,400 head, was up 200 head from last year.

Hogs and Pigs Inventory – Nevada and United States: December 1, 2011 and 2012

Class of Livestock	Nevada			United States		
	2011 head	2012 head	'12 as % of '11 percent	2011 head	2012 head	'12 as % of '11 percent
All Hogs and Pigs	2,300	2,700	117	66,361,000	66,348,000	100
Breeding	100	300	300	5,803,000	5,817,000	100
Market	2,200	2,400	109	60,558,000	60,531,000	100

December Weather Summary

A series of storms passed across the northern part of the State leaving some much-needed precipitation. Snow accumulated at the higher elevations. Average temperatures were slightly above normal. Fall seeded crops got a blanket of snow. Winter livestock feeding increased. Hay loads continued to move to California dairies. Onion shipping continued. Potato processing remained active. Planning for 2013 grazing was underway as drought and fires severely hurt some ranges. Herd culling was active. Main farm and ranch activities included equipment maintenance, marketing of stored crops and planning for next season.

Weather data for stations in Nevada: December 2012

Station	Temperature (°F)				Precipitation (inches)		
	Monthly Avg.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Monthly Total	Departure from Normal	Greatest 24 Hour
Reno	36.4	1.1	64	11	2.11	1.08	0.72
Elko	28.3	2.3	56	-9	2.18	0.98	0.54
Ely	25.6	0.3	52	-18	1.72	1.13	0.69
Winnemucca	30.5	1.1	59	-13	1.69	0.76	0.44
Eureka	26.4	1.7	55	-10	0.99	0.38	0.34
Tonopah	32.2	0.3	56	7	0.10	-0.21	0.07
Las Vegas	49.0	1.3	72	30	0.49	-0.01	0.46

Agricultural Statistics: A Historical Timeline

Part 2: 1839 – 1900

1839: The Commissioner of the U.S. Patent Office, Henry Ellsworth, obtains a \$1,000 appropriation for the “collection of statistics and distribution of seed.”

1841: Henry Ellsworth issues the first annual crop estimates based on the 1840 Census of Agriculture. (U.S. Population 1840: 17,069,453)

1849: President Zachary Taylor says he will, “...secure encouragement and protection to the great interests of agriculture.” President Taylor dies in office 16 months later, before an agricultural office is established.

1850: James T. Earle, president of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, proposes that state agricultural societies appoint individuals in each county to report on crops and summarize the reports for all interested. (U.S. Population 1850: 23,191,876 | Number of Farms 1850: 1,449,073)

1858: John Jay, chairman of the American Geological and Statistical Society of New York, gives an address emphasizing that statistics, if adequately provided, could help guide the Nation’s policy in agriculture as well as in social matters.

1859: Orange Judd, editor of *American Agriculturist*, solicits comments on crop conditions from subscribers and publishes his appraisal of crop conditions. Questionnaires are distributed to individuals selected by Judd as crop reporters.

1861: In his State of the Union address to Congress, President Abraham Lincoln says “Agriculture, confessedly the largest interest of the nation, has not a department nor a bureau, but a clerkship only, assigned to it in the government...Annual reports exhibiting the condition of our agriculture, commerce and manufactures would present a fund of information of great practical value to the country. While I make no suggestion as to details, I venture the opinion that an agricultural and statistical bureau might profitably be organized.” (U.S. Population 1860: 31,443,321 | Number of Farms: 2,044,077)

1862: On May 15, President Abraham Lincoln signed the law that created the Department of Agriculture and called it the “people’s department.”

1863: The Department of Agriculture issues the first crop report on July 10. It includes information on crop conditions in the 21 states loyal to the Union and in the Nebraska Territory.

1866: The Department begins a regular reporting series on livestock numbers, monthly crop conditions, and final acreage, yield, and production estimates for principal crops.

1876: The Illinois field office publishes its first annual agricultural statistics bulletin, *Illinois: Crops of 1876*. The report includes data for various crops and livestock by county (U.S. Population 1870: 38,558,371 | Number of Farms 1870: 2,659,985)

1882: Under the direction of the USDA’s Division of Statistics, states appoint part-time statistical agents who develop an independent corps of voluntary crop reporters.” (U.S. Population 1880: 50,155,783 | Number of Farms 1880: 4,008,907)

1890: Herman Hollerith, a U.S. Census Bureau employee, develops the first punch card tabulation machine system. This electromechanical system punches, reads and sorts cards for tallying the massive amounts of data for the population census. Hollerith later forms his own company, which eventually merges to form the International Business Machines Corporation, otherwise known as IBM. (U.S. Population 1890: 62,947,714 | Number of Farms 1890: 4,564,641)

1896: The list of voluntary crop reporters is expanded and renamed the Township List. The goal is to have one reporter for each agricultural township. The reports are sent directly to the Division of Statistics in Washington, D.C. President Grover Cleveland institutes Rural Free Delivery, which enables thousands of Americans living in rural communities, including crop reporters, to receive and send mail through the Post Office Department.

1899: USDA begins publishing the *Crop Reporter* as a means of communication between the Division of Statistics and the crop correspondents.

1900: USDA appoints full-time regional field agents responsible for gathering additional information on crops and livestock to check the returns received by the county and township correspondents; Electric tabulating machines are used in preparing and aggregating data for the 1900 Census of Agriculture.

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Nevada Ag Stats is a monthly newsletter published by the Nevada Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Inquiries may be directed to Martin J. Owens, Director, Nevada Agricultural Statistics Service. This publication is also available on the web at www.nass.usda.gov/nv/

Annual Bulletin

The Nevada Agricultural Statistics 2012 Bulletin is now available and can be downloaded for free from our website at www.nass.usda.gov/nv/. This annual publication contains state level data on crop and livestock production through 2011.

Hay Prices

Nevada: The all hay price, at \$204.00 per ton, is down \$5.00 from November and down \$22.00 from last December. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures came in at \$205.00 per ton, down \$5.00 from November and down \$25.00 from a year ago. All other hay, at \$174.00 per ton, is down \$11.00 from November and up \$14.00 from a year ago.

United States: The all hay price, at \$192 per ton, is down \$1.00 from December but up \$18.00 from last December. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures came in at \$217.00 per ton, up \$2.00 from November. All other hay at \$142.00 per ton, is down \$2.00 from last month.

Hay Prices Received by Type measured in \$ per Ton – Select States & United States: December 2012

State	All Hay			Alfalfa Hay			Other Hay ¹		
	Dec. 2011	Nov. 2012	Dec. 2012	Dec. 2011	Nov. 2012	Dec. 2012	Dec. 2011	Nov. 2012	Dec. 2012
Arizona	248.00	196.00	191.00	250.00	195.00	190.00	200.00	215.00	210.00
California	231.00	205.00	203.00	240.00	212.00	209.00	200.00	180.00	180.00
Idaho	224.00	197.00	198.00	228.00	200.00	200.00	150.00	140.00	140.00
Nevada	226.00	209.00	204.00	230.00	210.00	205.00	160.00	185.00	174.00
Oregon	213.00	213.00	202.00	250.00	222.00	222.00	175.00	200.00	177.00
Utah	191.00	179.00	189.00	192.00	182.00	192.00	154.00	147.00	154.00
United States	174.00	193.00	192.00	195.00	215.00	217.00	131.00	144.00	142.00

¹ Other hay is comprised of grain and grain mixtures, timothy, clover, wild, prairie, range, and other types.