



# News Release

## Census Countdown Begins for Ohio Farmers

Farmers in Ohio will soon have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census, to be mailed at the end of this year, is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them.

"The Census remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation," said Cheryl Turner, State Statistician. "It's a critical tool that gives farmers a voice to influence decisions that will shape the future of their community, industry, and operation."

The Census highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, expenditures, and other topics. This information is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations. For example, legislators use the data when shaping farm policy and agribusinesses factor it into their planning efforts.

"Your answers to the Census impact farm programs and rural services that support your community," Turner said. "So do your part and be counted when you receive your form, because there's strength in numbers that only the Census can reveal."

Every agricultural producer in Ohio is required under Federal law to complete a Census. Farmers should receive a Census in the mail no later than December 30. If a farmer does not receive a Census, they should contact Marlo Johnson, Regional Director, at 800-453-7501.

For more information about the Census, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). The Census of Agriculture is:

***Your Voice, Your Future, Your Opportunity.***

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