



# PRESS RELEASE



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## 2012 CENSUS PROFILES NORTHWEST FARMERS AND AGRICULTURE

**[Olympia, WA], May 2, 2014** – Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the final 2012 Census of Agriculture results sharing a wide range of information about what agricultural products were raised in the Northwest and the United States in 2012, and where, how and by whom they were grown. The data, which is reported at the national, state and county level, will help farmers, ranchers, local officials, agribusinesses and others make decisions for the future.

“The 2012 Census of Agriculture provides a wide range of demographic, economic, land, and crop and livestock production information as well as first-time or expanded data,” said Christopher Mertz, Northwest Regional Director. “Many of these data about Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska counties are only collected and reported as part of the every-five-year Census. Many people and organizations are looking forward to utilizing the information. We also wish to thank the producers that provided us with information, without their cooperation this wouldn’t be possible.”

The Census provides a wide range of demographic, economic, land, and crop and livestock production information as well as first-time or expanded data. Topics are as varied as:

- Marketing and distribution methods, value added products, organic production, and direct sales to consumers;
- Biomass and renewable energy production, conservation and other on-farm practices, and agroforestry;
- Equine and specialty items as diverse as horseradish, rhubarb, bison and alpaca;
- Internet access, value of production, income and expenses, years farming, and farm ownership

To provide easier access to the data, NASS created a number of online tools for people to find and use Census data, including:

- [Quick Stats 2.0](#) – an online database to retrieve customized tables. For those new to this tool, a new [tutorial video](#) provides easy-to-follow instructions.
- [API](#) – a tool for developers.
- [Agricultural Atlas Maps](#) - profiles of the nation’s agriculture at the county-level in a series of multicolor pattern and dot maps
- [Desktop Data Query Tool](#)- a downloadable desktop tool to analyze data without Internet access once you have downloaded and installed this tool.

For more information about the Census of Agriculture including all the final 2012 Census of Agriculture results, and tools to access and share the data, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

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