



# NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture  
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## **Still Time to be Counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture** *NASS to follow-up with producers who have not yet responded*

**SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – March 2, 2018** – Farmers and ranchers still have time to be counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Although the first deadline has passed, NASS will continue to accept Census information through the spring to get a complete and accurate picture of American agriculture that represents all farmers and ranchers.

"We thank everyone who has completed their Census form to date. Utah currently has a return rate of almost 45 percent of the more than 25,000 Census questionnaires mailed last fall," said Utah State Statistician John Hilton. "A lot is at stake if producers are not represented in this data. Census data have and will continue to influence important decisions for Utah agriculture. The data will affect every operation and every farming community at some point, whether it be through farm policy, disaster relief, insurance or loan programs, infrastructure improvements, or agribusiness setup. There is accuracy and strength in numbers, which is why NASS is committed to giving producers every opportunity to respond."

Federal law mandates that everyone who received the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete it and return it even if not currently farming. NASS will continue to follow-up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. To avoid these additional contacts, farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their Census either online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail as soon as possible. Responding online saves time by skipping sections that do not apply and automatically calculating totals. The online questionnaire is accessible on desktops, laptops, and mobile devices.

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). For questions or assistance filling out the Census, call toll-free (888) 424-7828.

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Editor's Note: For an image to accompany this press release, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov/Partners/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Partners/).

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