



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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West Virginia farmers and ranchers have 6 days left to complete the 2017 Census of Agriculture

Charleston, West Virginia – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) ends all data collection for the 2017 Census of Agriculture on July 31. Anyone in West Virginia who received the Census questionnaire is required by law to respond by that date, and they can complete the form online at www.agcensus.usda.gov or by calling toll-free (888) 424-7828.

“The Census of Agriculture, conducted once every five years, provides the only source of comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “Your information helps ensure that future decisions about U.S. agriculture represent you, your industry, and your community.”

“Every response matters, even the ones that tell us you are not, or are no longer, a farm,” continued Hamer. “If you received a 2017 Census of Agriculture, we need to hear from you by July 31.”

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

“The data collected from your census report is your opportunity to let your voice be heard, and your chance to contribute to making decisions for West Virginia’s agriculture,” said State Statistician Charmaine Wilson.

Data from the 2017 Census of Agriculture is planned to be released in February 2019.

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USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue video PSA – Be counted: Return your 2017 Census of Agriculture Online Today, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4-mnS8z2i4&feature=youtu.be>

How to Respond Online, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOqqJOcsX_c

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. USDA NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <https://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/register.do>.