



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
WEST VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 2018

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NASS still accepting completed Census forms

Charleston, W.V. – As we celebrate National Ag Day Week, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service wants farmers to know they still have time to be counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Although the first deadline has passed, NASS will continue to accept Census information to get a complete and accurate picture of American agriculture that represents all farmers.

“NASS needs a Census of Agriculture response from all West Virginia producers,” said Charmaine Wilson, West Virginia State Statistician. “NASS will continue to accept completed Census questionnaires through the spring to receive an accurate count of West Virginia producers. West Virginia was No. 1 in percentage of farms that are family farms, according to the 2012 Census, and in order to know if we remain No. 1, we need everyone to report.”

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 are encouraged to complete their Census either online 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.

“Our goal is at least 80 percent response, and West Virginia’s response rate is currently at 54 percent,” Wilson said. “We have several counties under 45 percent, and we’re asking every farmer to take the time to respond to the Census. We’ve heard producers may need extra time to gather documents for taxes and the Census. All operations are important and every response matters. NASS is committed to giving producers every opportunity to be represented in these widely-used data.”

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

For more information about West Virginia surveys and reports, call the NASS West Virginia Field Office at (800) 535-7088, or visit https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/West_Virginia/.

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