



NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Still Time to be Counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture *Wyoming farmers, ranchers, and land owners still have time to respond*

CHEYENNE, WYOMING – March 22, 2018 – Wyoming farmers, ranchers, land owners, and others who received a form 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). NASS will continue to accept Census information through the spring to get a complete and accurate picture of Wyoming agriculture that represents all farmers and ranchers in all counties.

“We thank everyone who has completed their Census to date. The Wyoming agricultural community has shown great support so far,” said Rhonda Brandt, Wyoming State Statistician. “We have reached the 50 percent mark, which is a good start. However, response is about 10% below this date 5 years ago. We need everyone’s help to make sure all aspects of Wyoming agriculture are represented correctly. Receiving every report is crucial because of Wyoming’s small population. Missing even one operation can make an impact at the county level.”

NASS will continue to follow-up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls, and personal visits. Even if you have only a few acres or head of livestock on the outside of town, your response is needed. In 2012, 8,050 operations with less than \$50,000 gross value of sales added \$61.2 million to Wyoming’s economy. Those smaller operations accounted for 69 percent of all farms and ranches in the state.

Brandt says “I receive many requests for Wyoming data that I would not be able to answer without the Census of Agriculture. A few of the recent requests include: farmers and ranchers on the Wind River Indian Reservation used Census data to help create an agriculture resource management plan; one young Wyoming rancher patented a tool and used county cattle inventory in several states as market research to know where to expand his business next; and another rancher looking for alternative income used county-level goat inventories across the U.S compared with human populations to know where potential markets were located. Dr. Jim Logan, the Wyoming State Veterinarian, uses the number of operations and livestock inventory in each county to complete a brucellosis report every year showing the need for continued investment to control the disease. County-level officials use the data to report the numbers of jobs and economic activity agriculture creates in their county.”

Brandt continues “The requests for data are far-reaching. From land rental values to what commodities are grown to the costs of producing all types of commodities, I receive requests for data from all across Wyoming, the United States, and other countries. The Census of Agriculture is the way Wyoming’s farmers and ranchers tell their story to the world. I am asking all who received a Census of Agriculture form to respond now so we can continue to tell that story accurately.”

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.

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Editor’s Note: For an image to accompany this press release, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov/Partners/.

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