



**News Release**  
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[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

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**CENSUS DELIVERS OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE**  
**2007 Census of Agriculture to Arrive in Mailboxes Across America**

HARRISBURG, PA, Dec 20, 2007 – It's not every day that a walk to your mailbox leads to an opportunity to shape the future of the agricultural industry. But for farmers across Pennsylvania, that opportunity soon will become a reality. The 2007 Census of Agriculture, the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation, is currently being mailed to farmers across the United States.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture. Government organizations, lawmakers, town planners and individual farm operations can use this vital information to help them plan for future facilities, services and community growth.

"The 2007 Census of Agriculture provides farmers with a powerful voice. The information gathered through the Census influences policy decisions that can have a tremendous impact on farmers and their communities," said Marc Tosiano, director of the NASS Pennsylvania Field Office. "I strongly encourage all farmers in Pennsylvania to promptly complete and return the Census, so they can voice to the nation the value and importance of agriculture."

Tosiano added that in addition to affecting policy decisions, Census information also influences community growth. Many companies review Census data when determining where to establish their businesses, which further emphasizes the importance of supplying accurate information. One recent example is the use of corn and soybean county production figures in the planning of ethanol and bio-diesel facilities.

"The 2007 Census of Agriculture is an opportunity to shape the future of the agricultural industry and rural communities for years to come," said Tosiano. "Every producer, no matter how big or small the operation, should take advantage of that opportunity."

Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online. For more information about the Census, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call toll-free (888) 4AG-STAT or (888) 424-7828. The Census is your voice, your future, and your responsibility.

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