

# **USING A DIMENSIONAL DATA WAREHOUSE TO STANDARDIZE SURVEY AND CENSUS METADATA**

**Mickey Yost and Jack Nealon**

**National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Easy access to large collections of historical survey and census data, and the associated metadata that describes it, has long been the goal of researchers and analysts. Many questions have gone unanswered, because the datasets were not readily available, access was limited, and information about the business metadata was inconsistent, not well defined, or simply unavailable. This paper focuses on the database modeling techniques that aid in the standardization and tracking of survey and census metadata. A generalized dimensional model is presented that can be used for any census or survey to track the full history of the data series, and to standardize the metadata.