

(Neb.)-USDA Census Of Agriculture And Minority Farm Register Information

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/26/2012 08:28 AM

2012 Census of Agriculture

(NORTHWEST NEB.)-USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be focused on encouraging all farmers and ranchers to respond to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Ag Census forms were mailed in December. NASS is an important census-taking agency within the US Department of Agriculture.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted only once every five years to accurately collect demographic information about farmers, ranchers and their operations in our country's rural and agricultural communities. USDA and many other agencies, institutions and organizations use the results of the Census for education, research, planning and policy-making decisions within government, as well as business, industry and academia. The use of this valuable information impacts everyone across our nation.

While the Census is particularly vital for rural America, it is important to remember that well-informed policy decisions have a positive impact for everyone. Even for families in our largest cities, a strong rural America means an abundant food supply, cleaner water, extraordinary outdoor recreation and more. That is why it could not be more important to make sure that all of our nation's farmers and farmland are accurately accounted for.

NASS mails the Census of Agriculture in mid December with a return deadline of February 4, 2013. If you receive an Ag Census form, please complete and return it by the deadline.

Producers can easily and securely respond online after receiving their census form at www.agcensus.usda.gov. For questions or help completing the form producers can contact NASS at 888-424-7828.

If you have any questions please contact the Dawes/N. Sioux County FSA Office in Chadron at 432-4616 ext. 2, the Sheridan County FSA Office in Rushville at 327-2489, ext. 2, or the Box Butte County FSA Office in Alliance at 762-4322, ext. 2.

USDA Minority Farm Register

The USDA Minority Farm Register is a tool to promote equal access to USDA farm programs and services for minority farmland owners, farmers, ranchers, tenants, and other individuals with an agricultural interest. Participants may receive information or be personally contacted through USDA outreach efforts. USDA programs include direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans, marketing loans, as well as conservation, housing & rural business, and risk management.

Participation in the Register is voluntary. All minority persons involved in farming or ranching are encouraged to participate. The information you provide may be shared through the USDA Office of Outreach with other USDA-approved outreach partners such as community-based organizations, educational institutions, and other government agencies. If you are involved with farming or ranching and wish to be included in the Minority Farm Register, you are invited to complete the Minority Farm Register form, AD-2035, and mail it to the Farm Service Agency. Only your name, address, signature, and the date you signed the form are required to participate.

Forms are available at your local USDA Service Center, or call 866-538-2610 to request a form or print the online form available at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/eForms/AD2035.PDF>.

Send the completed form to Minority Farm Register, USDA Stop Code 0503, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0503. You may also submit the form electronically if you have a USDA eAuthentication account.

--USDA Farm Service Agency