2012 Census of Agriculture Underway – Respond Now

For many farmers across the nation, this is the time of year to finish paperwork after a busy harvest season and look towards planning for next year. This makes it a perfect time to also fill out and return your 2012 Census of Agriculture form.

The Census of Agriculture is sent to all farmers and ranchers only once every five years by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Taking part in the Census of Agriculture is increasingly important to Florida farmers and their communities because it provides a snapshot of agriculture in every county across the nation.

Companies, cooperatives, planners and lawmakers who serve Florida farmers use Census data to make important decisions affecting them, their industry, and their communities for years to come. Farmers and ranchers also use Census data to help make informed decisions about the future of their own operations.

The Census provides producers an opportunity to help shape farm programs, boost rural services and grow their farm future. Businesses and producers review Census data when determining where to establish or expand their operations, and even when looking for locations they can go to purchase or supply locally-produced food and agricultural products – all examples that emphasize the importance of responding and providing accurate Census information.

All producers should receive their Census form in the mail by early January and must respond by February 4, 2013. Farmers can return their forms by mail or online by visiting a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov. Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential.

For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

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