Expanding Usability of the U.S. Census of Agriculture

Moving from General Information to Specific Details through Follow-on Surveys

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Christina S. Messer
Virginia Harris
United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
E-mail: chris_messer@nass.usda.gov virginia_harris@nass.usda.gov
• U.S. Census of Agriculture
  – Brief background
• U.S. Follow-on Surveys
  – History
  – Purpose
  – Advantages
  – Planning
• U.S. Census of Agriculture - History
• U.S. Census of Agriculture – Regulation

• Title 13
• Title 7
• U.S. Census of Agriculture – Mandatory Reporting

• Everyone who receives a form must return one by mail or via the Internet at [www.agcensus.nass.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.nass.usda.gov)

• Your report is due by February 4, 2008.

• To fill out the paper form, use a black or blue ballpoint pen.

• Duplicate forms? If you received extra census report forms for the SAME farming operation, return all report forms in the same envelope with this completed report.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Questions? Call us toll free at 1-888-424-7828.

¿Preguntas? Llámenos libre de cargos al 1-888-424-7828.

PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT

NOTICE: Response to this inquiry is required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). By the same law, YOUR REPORT IS CONFIDENTIAL and it will only be used for statistical purposes. Your report CANNOT be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation. The law also provides that copies retained in your files are immune from legal process.
• U.S. Census of Agriculture – Farm Definition

– A farm is any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold during the census year.
• U.S. Follow-on Survey - History
• U.S. Follow-on Survey – Purposes
  – Reduce response time on the Census of Agriculture
• U.S. Follow-on Survey – Purposes
  – Target subgroups of the population with specific questions
• U.S. Follow-on Survey – Purposes
  – Measure new sectors of agriculture
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• U.S. Follow-on Survey – Advantages

  – Meet new data needs through less frequent surveys
  – Mandatory reporting applied
  – Determine benchmark for program evaluation
  – Reduces overall respondent burden
• U.S. Follow-on Survey – Planning
  – Follow-on survey should be decided prior to mailing the agricultural census
    • Concentrate on the report form content
• U.S. Follow-on Survey – Planning
  – Can the target sample be drawn from census population?
    • Consideration of non-sampling errors
• U.S. Follow-on Survey – Planning
  – Consideration of open versus closed sampling frames
  • Decision impacts the nonresponse weight and coverage weight (fully adjusted weight) from the Census of Agriculture
• U.S. Follow-on Survey – Timing
  – Resources could be strained resulting in difficult decisions
  – Survey data compared to Ag Census data
• Conclusions
  – Follow-on surveys have tangible advantages
    • Defined population
    • Increased response rates
    • Decreased respondent burden
    • Summary weights

BUT.....
• Conclusions
  – Follow-on surveys require thorough planning
    • Content of the Ag Census report form
    • New agricultural enterprises
    • Closed versus open sampling frames
      – Open sampling frames impact weights
    • Expect more questions on data comparison as length between reference period extends
• Conclusions
  – Follow-on survey techniques followed in the U.S. may need adjustment in other countries
    • Mandatory reporting may not be supported by law
    • Data collection modes may be limited so budget could be impacted
Questions?

Chris Messer
chris_messer@nass.usda.gov

Virginia Harris
Virginia_harris@nass.usda.gov

Web Site
www.agcensus.usda.gov