

**Patricia D. Hastings**

---

**From:** "Patricia D. Hastings" <hastings@NJAES.Rutgers.edu>  
**To:** "NJinPAS Advisory Committee" <NJinPASadvisory@AESOP.Rutgers.edu>; "MAINPAS" <mainpaspartners@AESOP.Rutgers.edu>; "NJinPAS Vegetable" <NJinPASvegetable@AESOP.Rutgers.edu>; "NJinPAS Fruit" <NJinPASFRUIT@AESOP.Rutgers.edu>; "NJinPAS Field and Forage" <NJinPASfieldforage@AESOP.Rutgers.edu>  
**Cc:** "Richmond, Lynne" <lynne.richmond@ag.state.nj.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2008 3:42 PM  
**Subject:** 2007 Census of Agriculture Surveys Mailed- Due Feb 4th 2008!

Monday January 7, 2008: Press release from the NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, courtesy of Lynne Richmond; PO Box 330 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0330; [www.nj.gov/agriculture](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture) . For more information, see press release. (*Download and submit your survey online!!!!-- make sure you see excerpts of 'Frequently Asked Questions' below and [www.agcensus.usda.gov/Online\\_Response/what.asp](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Online_Response/what.asp)*)

---

## **2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE ON ITS WAY**

### ***NJ Agriculture Secretary Urging Producers to Fill Out and Return Surveys***

(TRENTON) – New Jersey farmers will soon have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come when the 2007 Census of Agriculture arrives in their mailboxes. The surveys have been mailed and must be filled out and returned by February 4, 2008.

Conducted every five years by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the other source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

"We urge every farmer in New Jersey to fill out the Census of Agriculture and return it promptly to ensure the most accurate count," said New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus. "The Census provides information that benefits producers and their communities with data that can be used to guide production strategies and help policymakers develop precise plans for the future."

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) field offices will collect the data for the 2007 calendar year and compile it. The Census will generate details on both a statewide and countywide basis.

"The Census of Agriculture is about the future of agriculture and rural communities in our state," said Troy Joshua, director of the New Jersey Field Office of NASS.

"Regardless of how large or small their operation is or what kinds of products they produce, New Jersey producers will help themselves and their communities by filling out the Census and returning it by the February 4th deadline. We want producers to know: the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future and their responsibility."

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.

###

---

**Highlights** excerpted from the USDA's ' Frequently Asked Questions' on the Census (<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>):

1. United States **law (Title 7, U.S. Code)** requires all those who receive a **Census report form to respond** even if they did not operate a farm or ranch in 2007.
2. Respondents are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code) that their **individual information will be kept confidential**. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals. The report cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation. The privacy of individual Census records is also protected from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.
3. In order to take the **Census online**, you will need to have a unique Census ID code. This code is on the mailing label of the Census form that was mailed to you. It is the series of 17 numbers and letters that appear on the first line of the label, immediately above the bars.  
NASS will release Census data, in both electronic and print formats, beginning in February 2009. Detailed reports will be published for all counties, states and the nation.
4. **Census of Agriculture data** is available through the NASS field office in your state, many depository libraries, universities and state government offices. It is also available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) or [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). For additional information on the Census of Agriculture or any NASS survey, call the Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540.

---

Patricia D. Hastings  
Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator  
NJ School IPM Outreach Coordinator  
Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station  
Cooperative Extension  
Pest Management Office  
93 Lipman Drive  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

p. 732-932-9801  
f. 732-932-9751  
[hastings@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:hastings@njaes.rutgers.edu)  
[www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu](http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu)