

HELP SHAPE YOUR FUTURE: RESPOND NOW TO THE 2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



By: [Richard M. Blau](#), Regulated Products Section Chair

As Congress begins fact-finding and negotiations over the upcoming **2023 Farm Bill**, farmers and ranchers still have time to stand up and be counted by responding to the **2022 Census of Agriculture**. The **U.S. Department of Agriculture** (USDA) administered the Ag Census through the **National Agricultural Statistics Service** (NASS).

Although the deadline for submitting the Ag Census has just passed, NASS will continue to accept completed census questionnaires through the Spring of 2023 to ensure all farmers and ranchers take advantage of the opportunity to represent themselves in the widely used data.

If you are a farmer or rancher who has yet to respond to the Ag Census questionnaire, you should! The Ag Census, which occurs only once every five years, produces data to inform decisions about federal government agricultural policy, farm and conservation programs, infrastructure and rural development, research, education, and more. The stronger the response, the stronger the data. Since data collection began last fall, over a million Ag Census recipients across the country have returned their questionnaires, ensuring the inclusion of their operations and communities.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their Ag Census questionnaire online at agcounts.usda.gov or by mail as soon as possible. The online questionnaire is accessible on desktops, laptops, and other mobile devices.

Federal law under Title 7 USC 2204(g), Public Law 105-113, requires NASS to keep all submissions confidential, use the information for statistical purposes only, and publish aggregate data to

prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation. NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus, or contact **the GrayRobinson Nationwide Food Law Team** by telephone at **866.382.5132** or via email at foodlaw@gray-robinson.com.



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Richard leads GrayRobinson's [Nationwide Food Law Team](#), focusing on the laws that govern the production, importation, processing, marketing, distribution, and sale of foods and beverages throughout the United States. Richard works with all levels of the food industry. He has represented international importers and domestic manufacturers, statewide wholesaler trade groups and regional distributors, and retailers (including multistate restaurant and grocery store chains) across the United States. Richard has achieved numerous peer-related accolades for his legal work, including: **Chambers and Partners** - Nationally ranked as "Band 1" for Food and Beverage Law; **Best Lawyers in America** - Nationally listed for Food and Beverage Law; and **Super Lawyers** - Elected member.