

FARMERS AND RANCHERS: IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!



By: [Richard M. Blau](#)

Chair, Nationwide Food Law Group

The **Census of Agriculture**, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, and expenditures. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) will mail the 2022 Census of Agriculture to millions of agriculture producers across the 50 states and Puerto Rico this fall.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail the 2022 Census of Agriculture in phases, starting with an invitation to respond online in November, followed by paper questionnaires in December. The Census of Agriculture includes farm operations of all sizes-urban and rural- that produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural product in 2022.

Key dates include:

- November 2022 – census mails out.
- February 2023 – response deadline.
- Spring/summer 2024 – data release.

The Census of Agriculture, conducted for over 180 years, remains the only source of comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. Data

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collected through the Census of Agriculture influences action and informs policy and program decisions directly impacting producers, their operations, and others in the agricultural product distribution chain.

On the NASS webpage, producers can access frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)), explore past and current census data, and learn about Census of Agriculture special studies. Recent studies include the [latest Local Food Marketing Practices report](#), containing information about the over 147,000 U.S. farms that produced and sold food locally through direct marketing practices, resulting in \$9 billion in revenue in 2020. Producers can also go to the NASS webpage to access [partner tools](#) to help understand and maximize the usefulness of the census.

NASS builds its distribution list for every Census of Agriculture between and during the census years through sign-ups on its official webpage and multiple National Agricultural Classification Surveys.

To learn more about the 2022 Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus, or contact GrayRobinson's [Nationwide Food Law Group](#) via telephone at **(866) 382-5132** or via email at foodlaw@gray-robinson.com.



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Richard leads GrayRobinson's [Nationwide Food Law Group](#), 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.