

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. Farmers and ranchers who did not receive the [2017 Census of Agriculture](#) and did not receive other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) surveys or censuses have until June 30, 2022 to sign up to receive the 2022 Census of Agriculture at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail Ag Census survey codes for responding securely online to every known U.S. producer this November 2022. Hard copy questionnaires will follow in December 2022. Key dates are as follows:

- June 30, 2022 – sign-up ends
- November 2022 – census mails out
- February 2023 – response deadline
- Spring/summer 2024 – data release

The Ag Census, conducted for more than 180 years, remains the only source of comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. Issued every five years, it includes every operation – large or small, urban or rural – from which \$1,000 or more of

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agricultural products are produced and sold, or would typically be produced and sold, in the Ag Census year.

The data collected through the Ag Census will influence action and inform policy and program decisions that directly impact producers, their operations, and others in the distribution chain for agricultural products.

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

NASS builds its distribution list for every Census of Agriculture between and during Ag Census years through the official sign-up 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.