



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Agriculture Census Data Now Available for American Indian Reservations**

**WASHINGTON**, June 19, 2009 – Information from the 2007 Census of Agriculture is now available for 73 American Indian reservations, including reservation-level information on agricultural production, economics and demographics for individual farms.

“USDA is committed to ensuring that every farmer and rancher has an equal voice and representation in the Census of Agriculture,” said Carol House, deputy administrator for USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). “As part of this commitment, we’ve worked closely with our tribal partners to improve our data collection efforts in Indian country.”

The 2007 Census of Agriculture marks the first time NASS has attempted to collect census forms from individual farm and ranch operators on American Indian reservations in every state.

“In the past, a reservation was counted as a single farm. Now, each individual farmer or rancher on the reservation is counted, providing a truer picture of agricultural activity on our nation’s American Indian reservations,” House said.

During the 2002 Census of Agriculture, NASS conducted a pilot project to collect and publish reservation-level data for individual farms and farm operators on 19 reservations in Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota.

“Because of the success of this project, we significantly expanded our efforts in 2007, collecting data from farm and ranch operators on American Indian reservations in every state,” House said.

The publication, along with all other 2007 Census of Agriculture publications and results, is available online at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or by calling (800) 727-9540.

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