

National Agricultural Classification Survey

FAQs

What is the purpose of NACS?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is currently conducting a national survey to identify potential agricultural activities in the United States and to gather basic agricultural information. Known as the National Agricultural Classification Survey, this form provides a basis for identifying agricultural activities and obtaining the best possible coverage leading up to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The census is the leading source of facts and figures about American agriculture and the only source of statistics on agriculture that is comparable for each county in the United States. It is also the sole source of comprehensive agricultural data tabulated for each state and the nation for farms classified by size, tenure, type of organization, market value of agricultural products sold, and type of farm operation. Farm organizations, policy planners, and farm suppliers use statistical summaries from the Census of Agriculture that have many valuable uses.

Is this survey really required by law?

NASS is required by Public Law 105-113, "The Census of Agriculture Act of 1997," to take a Census of Agriculture for the calendar year 2012. This law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an agriculture census every 5 years. The NACS is part of the census process.

By this same law, your report is **confidential**. It may be seen only by sworn employees and may be used only for statistical purposes. The information you provide is protected from legal process and *cannot* be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation.

How did you get my name?/ Why did I get this form?

To ensure an accurate census of the nation's agriculture, we maintain a list of individuals who have agricultural production. Additionally, we obtain mailing lists from public and private sources associated with agriculture. Some of the lists did not indicate whether the addressee was actually an agricultural producer but did indicate that the addressee likely has the potential to have agricultural

production. You received a census report form because your name appeared on one or more of those lists.