2012 Census of Agriculture
Preliminary Data Release
Rhode Island
February 19, 2014
CENSUS HISTORY

• The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840 in 26 states and the District of Columbia.
170 YEARS LATER

• NASS has conducted the Census of Agriculture since 1997 with the transfer of authority from the Census Bureau.

• Census of Agriculture encompasses 50 states and Puerto Rico (and Outlying Areas)

• Data are available for:
  • National, State and County levels
  • Congressional Districts
  • Watersheds
  • Organic, Irrigation, Horticulture, Specialty Crops and Aquaculture
FARM DEFINITION

• Any place from which $1,000 of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally, would have been sold, during the Census year.

• This definition is unchanged since 1974.
OUTREACH EFFORTS

- NASS worked with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to assist in building the list of farm operations.

- NASS partnered with CBOs to provide hands-on assistance and support to producers in filling out census forms.

- NASS targeted media advertisements to improve census response rates.
2012 DATA COLLECTION

- NASS mailed 3.0 million questionnaires for the 2012 Census of Agriculture to potential farm and ranch operators in late December 2012.

- All paper forms were mailed from and returned by mail to the Census Bureau’s National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, IN.

- Data collection was conducted through:
  - Online responses
  - Mail questionnaires
  - Telephone Interviews
  - Face-to-face Interviews
Distribution of Responses by Mode, 2012

Forms by Mode of Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>2012 Census</th>
<th>2007 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRELIMINARY REPORT

• Census preliminary data provide a first look at national and state estimates. An earlier release was planned but the government shutdown and sequestration delayed progress during a critical time of data review.

• These preliminary estimates are subject to minor change when the final comprehensive census results are released.
NUMBER OF FARMS

• 1,243 farms and ranches
• 2 percent more than 2007
Farms by Size, 2007 and 2012

Number of farms

Size in acres

1,000 acres or more
500 to 999 acres
180 to 499 acres
50 to 179 acres
10 to 49 acres
1 to 9 acres

Rhode Island 2007
Rhode Island 2012
DEMOGRAPHICS
Principal Operators by Age Group, 2007 and 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Rhode Island 2007</th>
<th>Rhode Island 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75 years and over</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 25 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>