

Missouri Ag News

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The Census of Agriculture

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Crops	Horticulture
Engineering	Livestock
Forestry	Other



In December of 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture will once again rely on the agriculture community to respond to and answer questions for the Census of Agriculture.

What is the Census of Agriculture?

The Census of Agriculture is the leading source of facts and figures about American agriculture. Conducted every five years, the Census provides a detailed picture of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the United States.

What is the definition of a farm?

The census definition of a farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced or sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The \$1,000 value is not adjusted for inflation.

Why is the Census of Agriculture important?

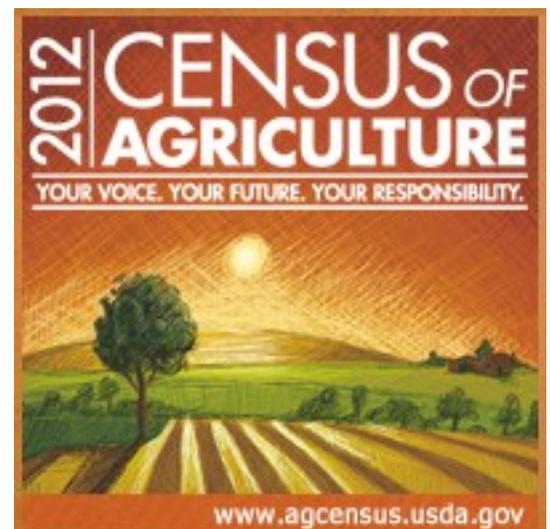
In my experience some producers question why they should take the time to participate in the census of agriculture while others don't even know that it exists.

The information collected from the

census is used by everyone who provides services to farmers and rural communities - including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, and many others. Census data is used to make decisions about things that directly impact farmers, including:

- community planning
- store/company locations
- availability of operational loans and other funding
- location and staffing of service centers
- farm programs and policies

The 2012 Census of Agriculture will collect information concerning all areas of farming and ranching operations, including production



Census.....continued

expenses, market value of products, and operator characteristics.

How can you be involved in the Census?

For the 2012 Census of Agriculture, forms will be mailed in late December 2012 and farmers and ranchers are asked to respond by mail or online by February 4, 2013. Participation by every farmer and rancher, regardless of the size or type of operation, is vitally important. By responding to the Census, producers are helping themselves, their communities and all of U.S. agriculture.

All individual information will be kept confidential guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code, and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347).

Census of Agriculture Online Response Option

Completing your survey online saves you time by allowing you to skip over questions that don't apply to you, by calculating totals automatically, and by providing drop-down menus for common answers.

The on-line survey response site, http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Online_Response/index.php is an official U.S. Department of Agriculture computer system and may only be accessed by individuals authorized with a survey code (found on the mailing label you will receive). If you do not receive a code in the mail then call the NASS customer service line at 800-727-9540.

2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
www.agcensus.usda.gov

YOUR VOICE.
YOUR FUTURE.
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.



Welcome Sarah Kenyon

As of January 1, 2013, there will be a realignment of extension regions throughout Missouri. At that time two counties will be welcomed into the Southeast Region – Shannon and Oregon. With that future move SE Region will gain another Agronomy Specialist, Sarah Kenyon. Sarah is based in Alton, Missouri located in Oregon County. In addition to many other areas of agricultural expertise she works with forage. We look forward to working with Sarah, and adding her knowledge and programming to SE region in January. Sarah has provided some forage information for this month's MO AG Newsletter on page 3 and 7. Welcome Sarah!



Extending Forage Supplies by Strip Grazing

This year's drought has left many farmers with reduced forage supplies. Therefore, stretching available resources can reduce the cost of supplemental feeds and hay. To stretch forage supplies consider strip grazing pastures.



Moving livestock more often can help extend forage inventories. With pasture rotation, the grazing period

is shortened, animals cannot be as selective, and less forage is wasted. University grazing data suggests that continuous grazing systems (animals

remain on the same acreage all of the time) use only 30% of the forage grown. With a slow rotation (three to four paddocks, animals moved every seven to 10 days), the utilization increases to 40-55%. A faster rotation (more than 8 pastures) will increase utilization to 55-70%. It is possible to achieve higher utilization (70-80%) with intensive rotational systems (animals moved once or twice a day).

Strip grazing using a solar fence charger, temporary electric fencing, and step-in posts can be used to subdivide existing paddocks. Using this temporary system, animals can be rotated more frequently, and less forage will be wasted.

Sarah Kenyon, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Alton, MO

2012 Regional Corn Meeting

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Miner Convention Center, Miner, Missouri

(New Location Next to the Drury Inn – E. Malone & I-55)

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CEU's will be applied for.

Topics: Profitable Corn Production Practices; Post Corn Harvest Pigweed Control; Irrigation Systems Wells and Pumps; The Impact of Elections, and Farm Policy; Corn Nutrient Management for High Yields; Grain Marketing Outlook and Strategies; Corn Insects and Emerging Pests

Industry Representatives on hand to answer questions about their products and lunch is sponsored. Pre-registration is requested for meals and handouts.

To pre-register or if you have any questions contact Anthony Ohmes (573-243- 3581) or David Reinbott (573-545-3516).

MO Value Added Grant Application Due 12-28-12

The Missouri Agriculture and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA), an agency under the Missouri Department of Agriculture, has grant funds available. These funds are for the “creation, development and operation of rural agriculture businesses that add value to Missouri agriculture products and aid the economies of rural communities.”

An agricultural product is defined as: “An agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, or vegetable product, growing of grapes that will be processed into wine, bees, honey, fish or other aquacultural product, planting seed, livestock, a livestock product, a forestry product, poultry or a poultry product, either in its natural or processed state, that has been produced, processed, or otherwise had value added to it in this state.”

Typically MASBDA will fund grants for value added agriculture business concepts that (1) result in the development of new or expanded uses of agriculture products and or (2) foster agriculture economic development in Missouri’s rural communities. The grants can be used for feasibility studies, business plans, marketing studies, engineering etc. Grant funds cannot be used for

capital expenditures, paying off debt, buying land equipment etc.

Grants can go to either individuals or groups, however there is more emphasis on group projects. Grant amounts can vary; it is not uncommon for a group to receive over \$50,000 for a project. Recipients of MASBDA grant funds must sell Missouri state tax credits for at least 50% of the funding. There is a 10% cash match requirement along with a \$300 application fee.

The grants are competitive. An applicant is competing with others across Missouri. Over the years I have assisted several groups who have received project funds. In fact this year, I am working on three separate proposals for MASBDA funds. It will take several days to write each proposal.

If you have a value added agriculture project under consideration and would like my input; please contact me. at 573-568-3344 or ayersv@missouri.edu. The sooner one starts on their proposal the better.

Van Ayers, Agriculture and Rural Development Specialist, University of Missouri Extension,

Annual Watermelon Meeting

American Legion in Kennett, MO

December 05, 2012 registration at 8:30 am

Lunch is sponsored at 12:00 pm

Pre-registration is requested for meals and handouts. Call 573-686-8064 to register.

What is Rice Stubble Really Worth?

When growing rice or corn there is plenty of straw and stubble following harvest. With the recent drought there are many people looking to purchase anything that has feed value. **“SELLER BEWARE!”** Making extra money from crop residue that hinders ground preparation is hard to pass up. Examine the economic and agronomic value of that residue before committing.

Crop residues have value beyond phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Crop residues contain other plant essential nutrients (including nitrogen (N), sulfur (S) and zinc (Zn)) which are applied in fertilization programs. Although not included in estimating the fertilizer value of the crop, removal of crop residue represents a removal of nutrients which can influence the soils fertility status. Important to consider is N and carbon (C), primary components of soil organic matter and to soil fertility. Removal of residue reduces the soils organic matter content over time, ability to supply N and S to future crops, plant available water, structure, and ability to store or retain nutrients. Other benefits of crop residue that are difficult to place a dollar value on include: long-term soil fertility, value as a soil cover that reduces soil erosion and its value to waterfowl habitat. Also consider the N content, about 1% nitrogen in rice straw and corn stover which adds a significant amount of economic value to crop residues.

Average N, P and K contents (per ton of dry matter) of three different crops are listed in the accompanying table. The actual nutrient and moisture content of these residues can most accurately be determined by having representative samples analyzed at a laboratory. Samples can be taken before or after baling. When sampling crop stubble (before harvest) take 15-20 (or more) handfuls of straw randomly per field and chop or cut the residue into

6 inch sections and mix thoroughly. After chopping and mixing, take a 1 gallon plastic bag and fill with a subsample. For situations where crop residues have already been baled, farmers can use the same sample probes that are used to sample round hay bales. If a lab analysis is obtained, be sure that the form of phosphorus and potassium is expressed as P_2O_5 and K_2O , respectively, which are the same units that fertilizer is sold (e.g., not in the elemental forms of P and K).

Stubble	Lbs N/ ton stubble	Lbs K ₂ O/ ton stubble	Lbs P ₂ O ₅ / ton stubble
Rice	20	24	6
Corn	20	25	6
Soybean	12	9	4

For growers who have employed aggressive crop fertilization programs aimed at building and maintaining soil fertility levels, crop residues may have greater-than-average nutrient contents. Table values based on average nutrient contents may underestimate the fertilizer value of the residues. For soils that already have low phosphorus and potassium fertility levels, the ‘added’ nutrient removal will likely have an immediate impact on next year’s crop yields and recommended fertilizer rates. In contrast, crop residues that remain in the field for several weeks following grain harvest and are exposed to significant rainfall, may contain lower than average K contents because, unlike the majority of the other nutrients, the K is easily leached from the crop residues and does not require that the residue be decomposed for the nutrient to be returned to the field.

Sam Atwell, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, New Madrid, MO

Kendra Graham, livestock specialist in Wayne County has accepted a position further north in St. Francois County and will be moving out of our region.

Disaster Assistance for Crop Loss

Missouri USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Mark Cadle announced on October 4, 2012 that producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning Oct. 22, 2012. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

"Eligible producers who experienced a 2011 crop loss can contact their local county FSA office to learn more about the SURE program," said Cadle. "All eligible farmers and ranchers must sign up for 2011 SURE benefits before the June 7, 2013, deadline," he said.

To qualify for a SURE payment, the producer's operation must be located in a county, or a contiguous county, that was declared a disaster for 2011 and have at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance. Producers with agricultural operations located outside a disaster county are eligible for SURE benefits if they had a production loss greater or

equal to 50 percent of the normal production on the farm.

In Missouri, all counties received a primary Secretarial Disaster Designation or were contiguous to a county with a Secretarial Disaster Designation during 2011. This means producers in all Missouri counties can apply for SURE benefits as long as all other eligibility requirements are met.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all insurable crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on non-insurable crops, if available, from FSA. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your local county FSA office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.



The Southeast Missouri Food Bank is eager for donations of specialty crops. The food bank will bring a 24 foot box truck to pick up

available produce. Edible produce, including seconds, should be in a crate or box.

Contact James Landewee, Operations Director at 573-651-0400 several days ahead of time if possible and specify if a refrigerated truck is needed. He will provide you with a tax receipt for anything you donate to use as a tax right-off.

Managing Fescue Toxicosis

As I traveled through the region this fall, I have noticed many animals with missing tail switches and herds of animals standing in ponds. These events are likely due to toxic alkaloids produced by a fungus found inside tall fescue plants. These ergot alkaloids constrict the blood vessels, which reduces blood flow to extremities, like the tail. In extreme cases the tail switch or hoof can fall off. The animals also run a low-grade fever, which is soothed by standing in water.

Tall fescue has the ability to survive and persist through extreme drought conditions. The plants ability to persist is due in part to hosting a fungus, known as the “endophyte” because it grows inside (endo) the plant (phyte). Alkaloids produced by the endophyte can be toxic to livestock and cause severe animal disorders which results in lost income. However, the alkaloids also allow the tall fescue host to tolerate drought, insect damage, and diseases. Because of the increased drought survival, many pastures are likely to be more toxic following a drought. There are some management tips to follow to decrease the amount of toxin consumed by the animal.

- Interseed legumes and non-toxic forages. Red clover, white clover, and annual lespedeza are good legume choices for this area. Orchardgrass and perennial ryegrass are grass options that can be interseeded into existing tall fescue.

- Feed supplements or non-toxic hay.
- Fertilize with low levels of nitrogen. The alkaloid contains nitrogen in the chemical makeup; therefore, increased nitrogen produces more alkaloids.
- Rotate to non-toxic pastures during key times of the year. Rotating animals to warm-season grass pastures during the summer can eliminate animal problems during extreme summer heat. Livestock can also be rotated to orchardgrass or novel tall fescue pastures during breeding season, at weaning, or other key times to improve animal health and boost productivity.
- Renovate with novel, endophyte-infected tall fescue. Sometimes called “friendly” or “beneficial” endophytes, can be inserted into tall fescue cultivars. These friendly endophytes will produce alkaloids that help with drought, insect, and disease tolerance but do not produce, or produce very low levels of alkaloids that cause animal disorders. Several varieties are currently on the market. These include: Jessup with MaxQ, Jessup with MaxQII, BarOptima with E34+, Estancia with ArkShield, and DuraMax with Gold.

For more information about novel endophytes, renovating pastures, or strategies for managing fescue toxicosis specific to your operation, please call 417-778-7490.

Missouri Hay Directories

www.mda.mo.gov/abd/haydirectory

www.mocattle.org/haydirectory.aspx

www.agebb.missouri.edu/haylst

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Future Meetings & Events -

Southeast Missouri Watermelon Meeting: December 5, 2012 in Kennett, MO at the American Legion Building. To register call 573-686-8064.

2012 Corn Meeting: December 6, 2012 in Miner, MO at the Miner Convention Center.

Missouri Livestock Symposium: December 7-8, 2012 in Kirksville, MO Call (660) 665-9866 or (660) 341-6625 or go to <http://missourilivestock.com>

Missouri Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention and Trade Show: December 11-13, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO

Great Plains Growers Conference: January 10-12, 2013 in St. Joseph, MO. Contact alpersm@missouri.edu, (816) 279-1691.

2013 Crop Management and Soybean Meeting: January, 2013

Ag Expo: January 18-19, 2013 at the Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, MO.

Missouri Rice Meeting: February, 2013 at the Eagles Lodge in Dexter, MO

Commercial Vegetable Production Workshop: February 26, 2013

Commodities and markets - <http://extension.missouri.edu/seregion/fmmkt.htm>