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News Release

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2012 CENSUS PROFILES MICHIGAN FARMERS AND AGRICULTURE

Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the final 2012 Census of Agriculture results sharing a wide-range of information about what agricultural products were raised in the United States in 2012, and where, how and by whom they were grown. The data, which is reported at the national, state and county level, will help farmers, ranchers, local officials, agribusiness and others make decisions for the future.

"The 2012 Census of Agriculture provides a wide range of demographic, economic, land, and crop and livestock production information as well as first-time or expanded data," said Jay Johnson, Regional Director. "Many of these data about Michigan and our counties are only collected and reported as part of the every-five-year census."

The 2012 Census of Agriculture data show the following key findings for Michigan:

- Van Buren and Ottawa County were first and third respectively among the Nation's top blueberry counties in terms of acreage. Michigan's blueberry acreage of 20,899 acres is the largest in the U.S. and makes up 21.7% of the National total.
- Huron County topped the state in value of sales that totaled \$654.6 million. Allegan, Ottawa, Sanilac and Ionia rounded out the top five. In 2012, counties where row crops were prominent in their commodity mix fared better because of higher grain prices and weather conditions that hurt fruits and specialty crops.
- The number of operators of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino Origin rose 5.5 percent since the 2007 Census of Agriculture.
- The growth of the Michigan egg industry is evident in the 40 percent increase in layer inventory to 1.27 million.
- The number of farms milking cows fell by 238, to 2,409 farms, while milk cow inventory rose to 376,255, an increase of 9.3 percent.
- There were trade-offs in cropland use, with more corn, soybeans, and wheat harvested with less dry beans and forages.

"I would like to thank all of the operators who responded to the Census of Agriculture because without their input this level of detailed data down to the county level would not be possible" said Jay Johnson, Regional Director.

To provide easier access to the data, NASS created a number of online tools for people to find and use Census data, including:

- [Quick Stats 2.0](#) – an online database to retrieve customized tables. For those new to this tool, a new [tutorial video](#) provides easy-to-follow instructions.
- [API](#) – a tool for developers.
- [Agricultural Atlas Maps](#) - profiles of the nation's agriculture at the county-level in a series of multicolor pattern and dot maps.
- [Desktop Data Query Tool](#) - a downloadable desktop tool to analyze data without Internet access once you have downloaded and installed this tool.

For more information about the Census of Agriculture including all the final 2012 Census of Agriculture results, and tools to access and share the data, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.