

**For Immediate Release
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Governor Beebe Proclaims January 2013 Agriculture Census Month

Little Rock, Arkansas – By the State of Arkansas Executive Department Proclamation, Governor Beebe has proclaimed January 2013 as Agriculture Census Month. Through this proclamation, Governor Beebe encourages fellow citizens to recognize the importance of Arkansas’s agricultural industry to our economy and the role of the Census of Agriculture in supplying uniform, comprehensive, agricultural data for every county in the nation.

Agriculture is one of our state’s largest industries, generating \$8.42 billion in 2011 cash receipts, ranking Arkansas 15th in the nation. Arkansas ranked 11th in the nation in total livestock cash receipts, with 32.4 percent of the total cash receipts for Arkansas coming from the broiler industry. Soybeans and rice accounted for 65 percent of the total cash receipts coming from the crop sector, with 16.9 and 14.1 percent of the total cash receipts, respectively.

The 2012 Census of Agriculture will show the industry and the nation new information on the size and scope of new and smaller agriculture industries developing in the state. Many commodities that are grown in Arkansas are only counted once every five years as part of the Census, so it is important to get an accurate count at the county level.

“Under the current budgetary climate, I would encourage all producers who receive a 2012 Census of Agriculture form in the mail in early January 2013 to complete it on our secure Web site, or fill it out and return it by mail”, says Becky Cross, director of the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Arkansas Field Office. “Completing the form on the Internet or returning it by mail is the most efficient and cost effective way to collect the data needed from each individual producer,” Cross says. If we do not receive a completed form by mail or the Internet, the National Agricultural Statistics Service employees and representatives will do everything they can to obtain a report by phone or by in-person interview from every producer in the state. It is important to note that information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and

publishes data only in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.

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