21st U.S. Census of Agriculture beginning now

WASHINGTON, D.C. The 1978 Census of Agriculture gets underway this week with the mailing of report forms to all farms and ranches in 50 States, the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Farmers and ranchers are being asked to report on their agricultural operations during 1978. This 1978 census, the Nation's 21st farm census in a series that started in 1840, will update most recently obtained in 1975 for 1974 operations. Information will be sought on all agricultural operations.

With report forms for the 1978 census drastically reduced from the 22 pages of the last census, most agricultural operators will receive a four-page form in the mail, and about 20 per cent will receive a five-page version. The overall time required by farmers to complete the form has been reduced by more than onethird.

The census will continue to monitor trends in domestic ownership and control of land. The last census showed a five-year gain in the number of U.S. corporate farms from 22,000 to 29,000; the amount of acreage they farmed rose from 80 to 97 million acres, and the value of their farm products rose from \$6 billion to \$14 billion.

The census asks whether the farm is operated by a family or individual, a partnership, a family-held corporation, an investorowned corporation more than 10 stockholders, or some other legal entity such as cooperative, estate or trust, grazing association,

The apparent increase in foreign ownership of land has raised questions in the Congress and with business and agricultural groups. In 1974 a Department of Commerce survey showed about 5 million acres of the Nation's one billion acres of farm land were owned by foregin interests, or less than one-half of one per cent of the total. The new farm census will measure the ıncrease

Each report form will have a control number printed on the address label. Because response is required by law (Title 13, U. S. Code), each control number must be accounted for by the Bureau of the Census Follow-up letters will be sent to nonrespondents. Everyone who receives the agriculture census report form should answer the first four items and as much more of the report as applies, and return

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Despite careful screening of the mailing lists used, some persons not engaged in agricultural activities will receive report forms. Those persons should return the form with that fact noted in order to stop additional mailings.

The 1978 Census of Agriculture will be conducted as follows:

the following information: amount of farm acreage by type of ownership; land use; acreage, production, and sales of crops; inventory, number sold, and sales value of livestock and poultry; and selected characteristics of farm operators and farm management.

About 20 per cent will All respondents will be receive an additional page

asked to report either from seeking answers to: value of their records or by estimate, land and buildings; selected production expenses; -selected farm equipment; hired farm labor; fertilizer and pesticide use; and petroleum fuel usage and storage capacity.

. Congress and Federal agencies, as well as agricultural and business organizations, universities and other groups rely on this information to develop and

revise farm programs. Individual farmers may benefit from a railroad allocating storage cars during grain harvest, or from farm machinery or bulk fertilizer dealerships being located in new areas of farm development.

Stressing that publication of its data will be accomplished more speedily in this census, Burerau officials are setting October

1979 as the beginning d issuance deadline for m than 3,00 individual count They expect to publish additional volumes statistical information the State and Nation w the following two years

Census officials also to these features of the census:

A second copy of the re form which the respon (Turn to Page 42)

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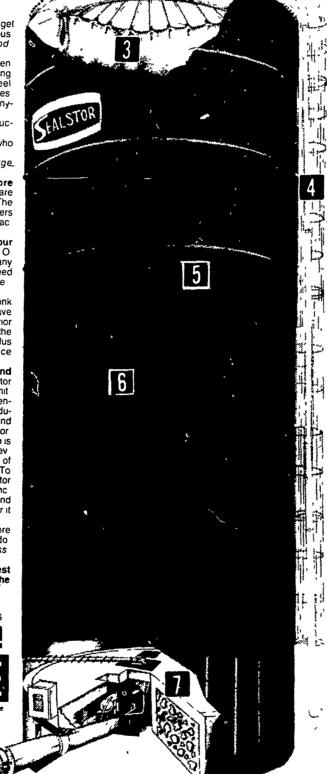
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Our fiberglas roof is smooth, tough and durable, too Just ike a top quality boat. And fiberglas doesn't absorb heat like steel So there's less heat build up in a Sealstor

Our roof panels are larger. We require fewer panels. Fewer panels fewer seams fewer nuts fewer bolts. That adds up to less chance of leakage



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