

## Census forms with regional crop patterns ready

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Census of agriculture report forms designed with regional cropping patterns will be mailed to all farm and ranch operators nationwide in late December, according to the U.S. Commerce Department's Census Bureau. This will be the 22nd census of agriculture in a series dating back to 1840.

Crops commonly grown in particular areas will be listed on 12 regional forms, making it easier for the respondent to report on those produced.

In a continuation of improvements to the form which began with the 1978 census, sampling will again be used in this census. Sampling, Bureau officials say, helps reduce the burden on farmers, while still producing needed data.

In general, about 80 percent of the farm and ranch operators will receive a four page form containing the basic census items. Only 20 percent will get a five page form asking additional details.

Both forms will include questions on the acreage in their operation, ownership, type of organization and location of the place, use made of the land, and when their operation began. Other questions on the forms will cover livestock and poultry inventories and sales, amount of government crop loans, income from agricultural services, and crop acreage, amount harvested and

value sold. Questions on crop acreage and yields have been regionalized to fit the various cropping patterns found across the country.

The five page form will be sent to a sample of operators and contains additional questions on selected production expenses, the market value of land and buildings, machinery and equipment inventory and value, interest expenses and expenditures for petroleum and other energy sources.

The 1982 Census of Agriculture form also will contain two new questions requested by data users, one on farm interest expense and another asking when the farmer began the operation.

These items will provide timely data on the costs of financing and the economic stability of the nation's farmers. Bureau officials say other questions on the form have been reworded and changes made in composition for easier understanding.

The results of the census will be used in many ways, some of which are listed below:

- The data help farmers become aware of the trends in agricultural production through published reports.

- Farm suppliers use census data to meet farmer's and rancher's needs for products and services.

- Census data are used by

researchers in developing new technology in agriculture.

- Elected representatives use census data to develop programs to help solve agricultural problems.

- Farmer organizations use census data to evaluate and propose programs and policies that affect farmers and to determine the potential impact of laws and regulations on farm families.

- Private companies and farmer cooperatives use census data to help select when and where marketing facilities are to be built, which helps farmers and ranchers market their products.

- Farm credit agencies and institutions use the data to develop new programs to help provide capital to farmers.

Respondents are requested to return the forms by Feb. 15, 1983, with data covering their operations for 1982. Any form not returned by the due date will require followup mailings, and officials point out that each followup increases cost of the census and delays publication of results. Bureau officials are asking for the respondents' cooperation to keep the cost of the census to a minimum.

Bureau officials note that extensive planning and more than two years of study and research have gone into development of the 1982 form.

- The nation's schools and

universities of agriculture were asked for suggestions and criticisms from their top level researchers and staff members. Contacts also were made with officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Economic Analysis, state departments of agriculture, and private industry for advice and recommendations.

- Census of agriculture officials tested the forms nationwide with over a thousand farmers and ranchers asking for their suggestions and advice on questions on the form.

- Representatives of 21 farm-related groups making up the Bureau's Census Advisory Com-

mittee on Agriculture Statistics counseled the Bureau on items beneficial to the farm industry. The Committee includes representatives of farmer organizations, agribusinesses, consumer groups, farm cooperatives, and others.

Response to the census is required by law. The same law makes confidential the information furnished by farmers and ranchers on their report forms. Even other government agencies cannot obtain or use the individual reports, and copies retained by the operator are immune from the legal process. Only information in the aggregate is published by the Bureau.

## Fit bulls have more sex drive

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Physically fit bulls are sexier.

"Bulls that are physically fit when placed with a cow herd will settle more cows and will have greater libido (sex drive) for a longer time in the breeding season," said John Massey, Extension animal husbandry specialist.

"Fit bulls will tend to stay physically sound, especially if used in multiple sire herds."

He said bulls will exercise themselves in the off-breeding season if their paddock area is big enough. He said bull owners should locate feed and water at opposite ends of the paddock so they force the bull to exercise.

"The ideal bull lot is three to five acres," Massey said. "It should be

at least two to three times longer than it is wide, and it should be located on a well-drained slope with shade and shelter and be isolated from the cow herd.

"This space is enough for two bulls. For each additional bull, add one to two acres, depending on the amount of grass or supplemental feeding desired.

"The worst place to condition herd bulls or yearling bulls off test is in a small, flat, poorly drained, open dry lot."

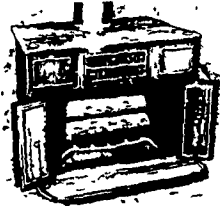
Massey and Homer Sewell, UMC Extension specialist, have co-authored UMC Guide 2020, "Bull Management for Efficient Reproduction," in which they explain how bulls should be kept fit, managed and fed.

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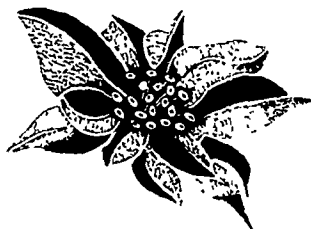
"For He that is mighty hath done for us great things, and holy in His name."

Luke 1:49

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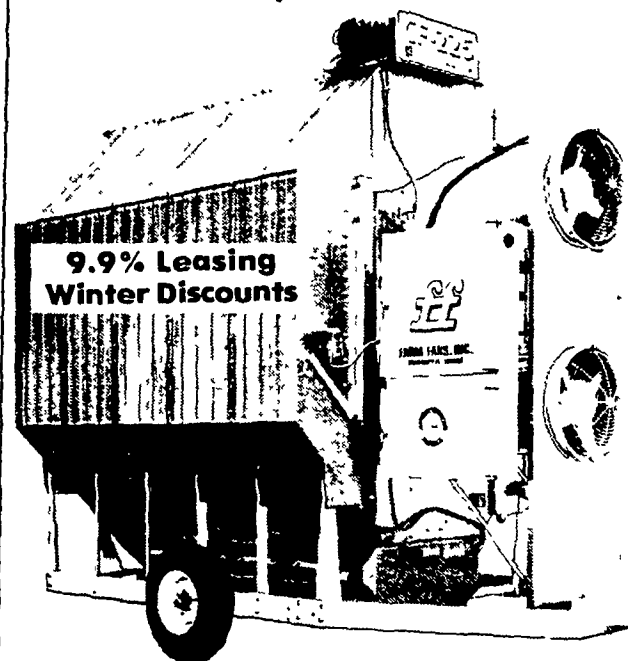
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