



Ohio County Farm & Home News

**Cooperative
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CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE CRUCIAL TO VARIETY OF FARM PROGRAMS

The 2022 Census of Agriculture is underway as farmers have receive notice to go online to complete the census.

The Census of Agriculture gives producers across the Commonwealth a voice to share their story. The Census of Agriculture, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), is a complete count of U.S. farms and the people who operate them. The survey is for all producers, even those with small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables, or some food animals count, if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year.

The Census is taken once every five years and looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and county in the nation. In fact, it is the only time produce production is measured in Kentucky by NASS.

Many grant monies and federal funds are allocated on the basis of data collected during the Census. This makes it critically important that every Kentucky agriculture producer be counted for the state to get the funding it needs to continue to have farming success.

To learn more about the 2022 Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

Census of Agriculture Facts:

- Taken every five years, it's a complete count of U.S. farms and the people who operate them.
- The only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every county and state in

the nation.

- A farm is defined as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

Why Respond?

- Combined responses show the value and importance of U.S. agriculture.
- Only measure of produce production in Kentucky by NASS.
- Census data inform decisions about policy, farm and conservation programs, infrastructure and rural development, research, education, beginning farmer programs, and more.
- Response is required by federal law. The same law requires USDA to keep all personal information confidential.
- The Census of Agriculture is your opportunity to have a voice in the future of U.S. agriculture.

SHOOTING FOR 300-PLUS-BUSHEL CORN?



Every farmer wants to grow a corn crop with the highest yield and quality. Hybrid selection plays a key role in a farm's strategy to achieve 300-plus bushels per acre in yield. Hybrid selection is one of the most important management decisions made by a corn producer, because the genetic yield potential of different hybrids directly impacts yield and input costs.

With many factors to consider such as yield potential, maturity rating, drought resistance, nutrient efficiency and pest resistance, where should you start? Obtaining reliable information from state testing

programs, on-farm research, independent agronomists and company trials can help with the selection process.

The three most important considerations for selecting corn hybrids are yield, yield and yield. A hybrid with poor yield potential cannot be made into a good hybrid with better management.

If you look at the 2022 Ky Corn Performance Summary for the medium maturity varieties, there was a 36.7 bushel-per-acre yield difference seen between the highest- and lowest-yielding hybrid. That difference can really add up across a field.

When looking at hybrid performance trials, a local source such as a land-grant university should be evaluated to determine performance expectations on your farm. For Kentucky farmers, information is available from the Kentucky Corn Hybrid Performance Testing Program.

When reviewing these trial and yield results, it's important to note not only the yield performance of a hybrid but also the least significant difference (LSD) of the hybrid yield averages. This least significant difference is used to determine the way hybrids are statistically different from one another.

Coefficient of variation (CV) is another important statistic to consider with hybrid selection. The CV is an indicator of the repeatability and reliability of the measurements. The lower the CV the better.

Use the maturity group summaries for selecting a variety that has yielded well over a wide range of environmental conditions. This was especially true given the 2022 growing season over the state. Selecting a genetically diverse lineup of locally adapted hybrids that vary in maturity and agronomic strengths can help growers lower their risk of crop loss. Consult with seed experts to understand the agronomic characteristics of locally adapted hybrids is a good starting point.

2022 CORN & SOYBEAN VARIETY PERFORMANCE TEST AVAILABLE ONLINE

The 2022 Kentucky Corn Hybrid Performance Tests are available online at:
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/PR/PR815/PR815.pdf>

The 2022 Kentucky Soybean Variety Performance Tests are available online at:
<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/PR/PR828/PR828.pdf>

Both the corn and soybean performance test reports are also linked to the Grain Crops Website at:
<https://graincrops.ca.uky.edu/>

Remember, the summary or all locations averages for each maturity group, is by far the best yield numbers to use for this season, due to rainfall and weather variability. Do not look at a single location and try to compare maturity groups. Differences in yield among maturity groups is most likely to be from timing of rainfall and water than from anything else.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 13 – U.K. Beef Management Webinar Series: **Packer and Consumer Trends with Some Holiday Beef Ideas** – Gregg Rentfrow, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky and Alison Smith, Kentucky Beef Council Retail and Foodservice
- Dec. 14 – From the Woods Today Webinar: **Holiday Wood Products, Wreath Making & Roasting Chestnuts**; This program is hosted each week by the U.K. Forestry Department starting at 10:00 a.m. CT. The program can be viewed on Facebook Live at:
<https://www.facebook.com/ForestryExtension/>
or
Zoom at :
<https://uky.zoom.us/j/92172044126#success>
- Jan. 3&4 – Ky Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference; Holiday Inn Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green; Pre-registration is available online at
<https://2023KYFruitVegConference.eventbrite.com>