



## Community & Home Living

### 2002 Census of Agriculture Report Forms Due. Feb. 3

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has mailed the 2002 Census of Agriculture to every farmer and rancher in the Nation. It marks the 26th national measurement of agriculture since the first agriculture census was taken in 1840.

The census of agriculture provides a complete picture of U.S. farms and ranches every five years. Data from the census are used by many in the public and private sectors to help chart the future of agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers are being asked to report on their operations during 2002 and return their completed forms by Feb. 3, 2003. Everyone who receives a census form is required by law to return it, even those who did not operate a farm or ranch in 2002.

A farm, for census purposes, is 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.

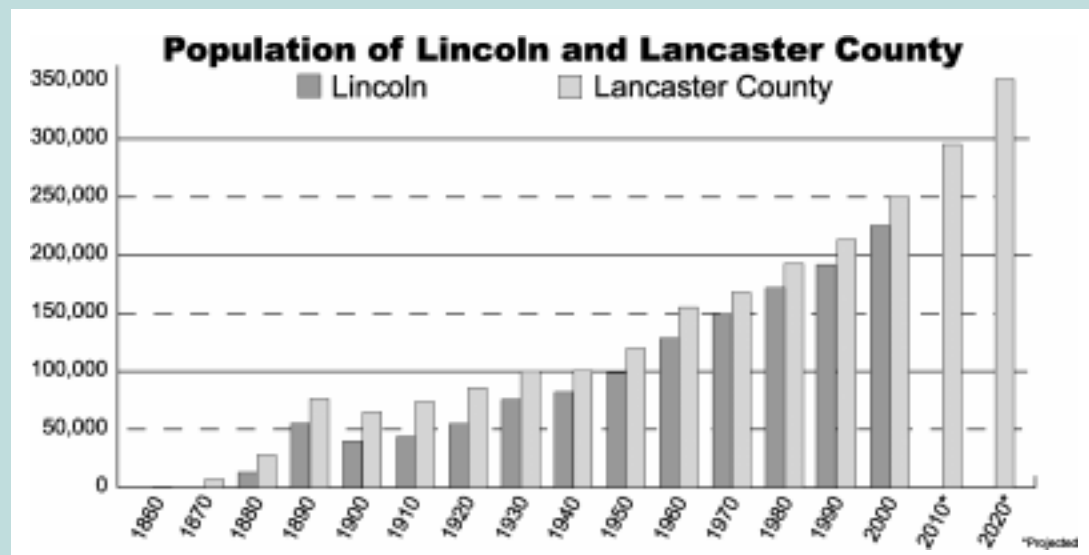
NASS has provided a convenient toll-free number, 1-888-4AG-STAT, for producers who need help completing their form. Farmers and ranchers who do not receive a census report form by the end of January 2003 can call the toll-free number to ensure they are counted.

The same law requiring response also ensures information provided by individual farm operators is held strictly confidential.

Additional information on the census of agriculture is available online at [www.usda.gov/nass](http://www.usda.gov/nass). (GB)

### Population Trends in Lancaster County

Lancaster County ranks second in Nebraska on numeric change in population, 1990 to 2000, and ranks fourth on percentage change in population, 1990 to 2000.



| Population       |           |           |           |           |           |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                  | 1960      | 1970      | 1980      | 1990      | 2000      |
| Lincoln          | 128,521   | 149,518   | 171,932   | 191,972   | 225,581   |
| Lancaster County | 155,272   | 167,972   | 192,884   | 213,641   | 250,291   |
| Nebraska         | 1,411,312 | 1,485,333 | 1,569,825 | 1,578,385 | 1,711,263 |
| Percent Change   |           |           |           |           |           |
|                  | 1960-1970 | 1970-1980 | 1980-1990 | 1990-2000 |           |
| Lincoln          | 16.3%     | 15.0%     | 11.7%     | 17.5%     |           |
| Lancaster County | 8.2%      | 14.8%     | 10.8%     | 17.2%     |           |
| Nebraska         | 5.2%      | 5.7%      | 0.6%      | 8.42%     |           |

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census; Nebraska State Data Center; Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Bureau of Business Research (BBR) population projection; City of Lincoln Planning Department data bank

### 1997 Census of Agriculture Profile for Lancaster County

**Land in farms**

421,089 acres — 2% increase from 414,763 acres in 1992

**Average size in farms**

289 acres — 5% decrease from 305 acres in 1992

**Full-time farms**

670 farms — 6% decrease from 713 farms in 1992

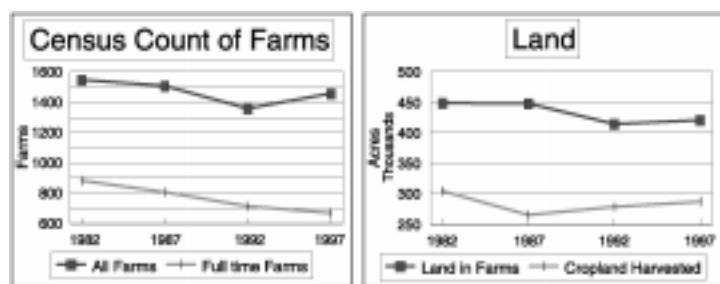
**Market value of agricultural products sold**

\$82,386,000 — 18% increase from 1992

- Crop sales accounted for 72% of the market value.
- Livestock sales accounted for 28% of the market value.

**Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm**

\$56,545 — 10% increase from \$51,500 in 1992



### 2003 Master Conservationist Award Nominations due April 1

Sponsored by the Omaha World-Herald and the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Master Conservationist program was established in 1983 to recognize those who have excelled in soil and water conservation. Award categories include production agriculture, residential, community and youth.

For guidelines, applications or more information, contact Dick Fleming at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 472-8742 or e-mail [rfleming1@unl.edu](mailto:rfleming1@unl.edu).

Award recipients will be recognized during a special presentation at the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts annual banquet Sept. 22 in Kearney and will be featured in the Omaha World-Herald on Sept. 21. (GB)



### Brazil: A Land of Extremes and Opportunities

William Freitas  
Graduate Student

Standing from the top of a mountain, Christ the Redeemer, one of the most well known landmarks in Brazil, contemplates the extremes of Rio de Janeiro. Beauty and ugliness, wealth and misery, progress and chaos are mixed in this land of contrasts. The Redeemer sees breathtaking beaches cutting along the mountains, mixed however by pollution, heavy traffic and construction. He sees sumptuous mansions, expensive cars and yachts but he also sees the 'favelas' — slum houses scattered along the hillsides. He sees children going to excellent schools as well as children on the streets begging for change. Brazil is a country of contrasts, of social inequalities, but also a land of opportunity.

Covering nearly half of South America, Brazil is the fourth-largest democracy in the world, and the strongest economy of South America.

The United States is Brazil's main trading partner. U.S. investments in Brazil are five times greater than the amount going to China. In 2002, Nebraska exports to Brazil were worth \$27 million. Brazil is the world's largest producer of coffee and sugar. It contributes about one-third of the world's oranges and has the second largest herd of cattle in the world. Other major exports include commercial jets, steel, lumber and nuts. Soybean



A 100 ft. statue of Christ the Redeemer stands above Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's second largest city.

production is a growing trend. Farmers are expected to produce 49 million tons of soybeans this harvest, up 13 percent from last year. However, according to specialists, Brazilian production could grow to more than 130 million metric tons a year. The quality and price of land has become attractive to farmers around the world. Prices vary but cleared land in areas of strong soybean production can be bought for \$700 an acre compared with \$3,850 in Illinois.

However, the huge economic contrast in Brazil is a barrier for its development. In a country of 170 million inhabitants, where 50 million live with a minimum wage of \$70 a month and 30 million still go to bed hungry, Brazilians hope for a

better future, a future of more social equality.

Most of Brazilian's hope is now focused on the newly elected president, Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, know as Lula, from Brazil's left-wing Workers' Party. The difference between Mr. Luiz da Silva and former presidents is he has known and lived the dark extreme of Brazil's reality. A former lathe operator and union leader who was born to a poor peasant family, Lula made his way to the presidency winning 61 percent of the votes. He has promised policies that would bring "more justice, brotherhood and solidarity." If only parts of his promises are fulfilled, it might be possible the Christ the Redeemer landmark may overlook Rio and see fewer extremes and more opportunities.

William Manzi Freitas, a extension intern working on the Neighborhood Working Together Project, is from Brazil.

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