



We develop the South African Agriculture Industry.
Ons ontwikkel die Suid-Afrikaanse Landbou Industrie.

11 October 2018

To: Agri SA Affiliates

Stats SA Commercial Agriculture Census 2017

Agri SA wishes to brief our members on the Stats SA Census of Commercial Agriculture (CoCA). We realise that good decision-making on the spectrum of matters that affect agriculture should be based on accurate and reliable information. This includes aspects such as infrastructure, services, housing, finance and employment. CoCA 2017 is therefore very important for both farmers and the agricultural industry.

The CoCA presents an important tool for understanding trends in the industry, supporting policy development and long-term planning. Furthermore, the data can assist organised agriculture in our mandate of promoting and supporting the development and sustainability of the industry.

During March 2018, Agri SA distributed the CoCA 2017 questionnaire to all its members for possible inputs. Agri SA has actively engaged with Stats SA on the CoCA on numerous occasions during the year. Very successful provincial consultation processes also took place. This process, in brief, was to seek stakeholder-input on which information they want to be collected in this census – i.e. the kind of questions they want to see in the questionnaire.

Stats SA derives its mandate from the Statistics Act, which ensures that Stats SA treats individual data as confidential. Individual data is not published, the data will only be published in an aggregate format. There are farmers who are sceptical regarding the extent to which census information will be treated as confidential. Agri SA can confirm that Statistics SA is obliged by law to keep the information confidential and has given its assurance that it would do so. Agri SA therefore encourages farmers to answer all questions that will be asked by the data collectors, who will administer a questionnaire using a tablet - Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI).

The Statistics Act (Act 6 of 1999) places a legal obligation on every person and entity in the country to respond to questionnaires that are administered by Stats SA. The information that you disclose will be kept confidential and will not be shared with other research agencies and government structures. In line with the Statistics Act, data on individuals and households are kept confidential.

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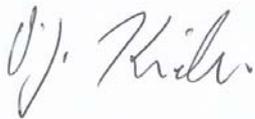
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The act provides for a fine of up to R10 000 or imprisonment of up to six months or both for employees of Stats SA who are found guilty of communicating to any unauthorised person information collected under the Act. The same fine goes for individuals for non-response

It is important to understand that security on farms requires precautions – also in respect of census takers. To this end, Stats SA was informed of the Protocol on Farm Access and has accepted it. According to the protocol, census enumerators must make an appointment with a farmer for when the survey will be conducted. The census enumerators can be identified by their official Stats SA identification card displaying the Stats SA logo. Vehicles they use will also display the Stats SA Logo. If farmers are still in doubt as to the legitimacy of a census enumerator, they can call the toll-free number (0800 212 169) to verify the person's particulars.

The data collected can assist Agri SA in our mandate, therefore I urge farmers to actively participate and support the Census of Commercial Agriculture 2017.



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If you have questions regarding the census in your province, please contact your provincial organisation.