

# **CENSUS** OF **COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE**

**CoCA  
2017**

**The Census of Commercial  
Agriculture covers farmers  
who are producing for income.**

**Collection period**  
**October 2018 to June 2019**



THE SOUTH AFRICA I KNOW, THE HOME I UNDERSTAND

## **Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) will embark on a full-scale Census of Commercial Agriculture in 2018. Results are expected to be released in November 2019.**

### **1 Scope of CoCA**

The agricultural census will cover commercial farmers, which are farms producing for income/profit.

### **2 Why conduct CoCA for 2017?**

The last CoCA was conducted for 2007, and one was conducted for 2002. The census for 2012 (the census is scheduled to take place every five years) was not funded and didn't take place. Thus, the 2017 census will enable us to cover the ten-year gap. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recommends that a country conducts a census of agriculture at least once every ten years.

### **3 Who is Statistics South Africa?**

Stats SA is an organisation mandated by government in terms of the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) to collect, process, analyse and disseminate official statistics. The organisation collects data on the population, economy, unemployment and price changes as measured by inflation on a continuous basis.

### **4 Why the need for accurate information?**

Agriculture is important for the country in terms of food security, contribution to the economy and job creation. Accurate information is vital for planning and decision-making on policy research and development of the agricultural sector.

### **5 What is in it for a commercial farmer?**

A farmer can use the data to make business decisions on what, where and when to invest. The information will help farmers' associations/unions to influence policy-making decisions on agricultural development in the country.

### **6 Who will be interviewed?**

All commercial farmers who engage in any form of farming, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry.

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### **Will my information be kept confidential?**

Stats SA is governed by the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999), and information about individuals and businesses must be treated as strictly confidential.

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### **How will the data be collected?**

Stats SA is digitising its collection methods, replacing paper questionnaires with Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI), using tablets.

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### **How do I participate in CoCA 2017?**

By answering all questions that will be asked by the data collectors, who will administer a questionnaire using a tablet. If your farm hasn't been visited by 30 November 2018, please contact Stats SA at 0800 212 169.

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### **How do I identify the data collectors?**

All Stats SA data collectors will have an official Stats SA identification card (ID) displaying the Stats SA logo. The vehicles they use will also display the Stats SA logo.

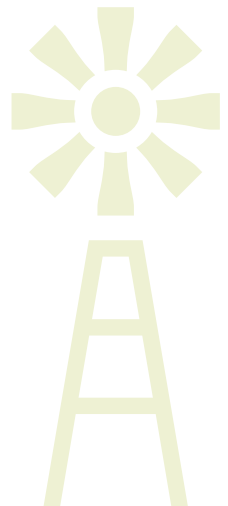
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### **What if I refuse to participate?**

Commercial farmers must answer all questions. As per section 16 of the above Act, the provision of information sought is compulsory. Refusing to participate is a criminal offence in terms of the Statistics Act.










## **CoCA 2017 will collect information such as:**

- Farm size, land use, land tenure, farm losses;
- Crop production, livestock numbers and use of machinery;
- Employment as at 30 June 2018;
- Registration details; and
- Financial information for the financial year-end which ends on any date between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2018 (e.g. income, expenditure, capital expenditure and carrying value of assets).



**We call on all commercial farmers to open their gates and actively participate in the Census of Commercial Agriculture 2017.**

## Contact details

-  **Toll-free number:** 0800 212 169
-  **Email:** [Agriculture@statssa.gov.za](mailto:Agriculture@statssa.gov.za)
-  **Facebook:** Stats SA
-  **YouTube:** [StatisticsSouthAfrica](https://www.youtube.com/StatisticsSouthAfrica)
-  **Twitter:** @StatsSA
-  **Flickr:** [StatisticsSA](https://www.flickr.com/photos/StatisticsSA/)
-  **Website:** [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za)
-  **Webpage:** [CoCA.statssa.gov.za](http://CoCA.statssa.gov.za)
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**For queries, contact our toll-free number  
or visit our social media platforms**



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