







Statistics Canada's Enterprise Portfolio Management & Large Agricultural Operations Statistics Unit Approach

Current Best Practices from Statistical Agencies

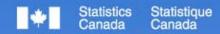
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LARGE AGRICULTURE OPERATION STATISTICS (LAOS)

- Background
- LAOS contribution to sector statistics
- Determining who's in scope
- LAOS program activities
 - Establishing the reporting relationship
 - Profiling program
 - Managing response burden
 - Survey program
- Challenges and opportunities



Contribution to Sector Statistics

- LAOS operations make up less than 1% of the total number of farming operations in Canada but have a significant impact on sector statistics.
- LAOS operations are top contributors to data for:
 - Hog industry
 - Cattle industry
 - Poultry industry
 - Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery sector

DETERMINING WHO'S IN SCOPE

- Very Large Operations and Multi (complex) operations included in LAOS program.
- Inclusion in LAOS program based on gross revenues:
 - Very large: \$ 5 000 000.00 threshold (\$ 7 mill AB);
 - Multis: \$ 2 500 00.00 threshold.
- Determination:
 - Revenues: tax data, survey data, producer group lists, self reporting.

*Farm Type also taken into consideration.





ESTABLISHING THE REPORTING RELATIONSHIP

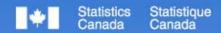
- Introductory package sent to Potential LAOS
- Assigning a profiler as sole contact
- Personal relationship and preferences

PROFILING & DATABASE

 PROFILING: performed annually to ensure current information and to eliminate reporting errors such as double-counting and over reporting.

DATABASE:

- Capture screens for <u>each</u> survey occasion since 1995;
- Profiling, Census, administrative, historical and financial information;
- Response Burden monitoring



MANAGING RESPONSE BURDEN

- Elimination of overlapping questions by combining surveys;
- Multi Operations:
 - LIVESTOCK: limiting contact to 2 times per year (Jan. / Jul.)
 - CROPS: limiting contact to 1 time per year (June Crops).
 - Permanent exemption from Farm Financial Survey
- Large Operations:
 - LIVESTOCK: no more than 2 times per year;
 - CROPS: no more than 2 time per year.
- Other measures include: tracking response rates, assigning special reporting codes, establishing reporting arrangements.





SURVEY PROGRAM

- LAOS collects for the following surveys:
 - CROPS SURVEYS (June, November and December Only exempt from September and March Crops)
 - LIVESTOCK SURVEYS (January all multi operations & sample of large; July – Sample of large only & new multi – exempt from October Hogs and April Hogs)
 - Other Surveys:
 - Mushroom, Fruit & Vegetable, Farm Financial, Atlantic, Honey, Potato, Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery as well as intermittent surveys such as Water Use Survey and Census of Agriculture (each 5 years.)

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES LOOKING FORWARD

- Maintaining balance between need for data and response burden
- Allocating sufficient resources to LAOS program
- Transition from Farm Register to Business Register
- Overlap between LAOS and EPM program