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*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 each 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