



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural and Food Business Microdata: New Opportunities and Initiatives in U.S. Context

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29th Meeting of the OECD's Farm Level Analysis Network

Monday, March 14, 2022

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Background and Context

- ERS and NASS collaborate on production of data for research and reporting on **farm production** and natural resources.
- Census Bureau and BLS collect data and report on non-**farm** economy.
- NAICS/SIC classification schemes are designed largely for aggregate economy-wide reporting, equate agriculture with farming.
- Access to business microdata permit construction of new classification relevant to ag and rural.



Three New Initiatives at ERS

- Support Services for Agriculture (NAICS 115)
- Cooperatives Businesses
- Agricultural and Food Business Data



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NAICS 115: Support Services for Agriculture

- Historically, the **only** 3-digit NAICS category not covered by an economic census
- Deliver key production inputs to farms and **often perform farm operations** (useful to think of farmers as general contractors).
- Census bureau **will** be including NAICS 115 in the upcoming 2022 Economic Census. ERS and NASS are helping scope list frame and assess data quality.



Cooperative Business

- A type of economic/social organization not identified with LFO. Problems of coverage/difficulty using
- Census Bureau added a question to 2017 economic census that it will continue in 2022. [2017 Economic Census Survey Repository](#)
- ERS staff (and external collaborators) are working on an internal project at Census Bureau to assess data quality and prepare reporting.



Agricultural and Food Business Data

- Work just initiated to construct longitudinal frame for AFBD on business microdata
- General methodology and documentation for a public (restricted access) data product with associated public-use tables.
- Planning underway to apply methodology on CBPBR/LBD.



Data Infrastructure Collaborations

- Many researchers/communities have targeted interest and expertise that don't fit economy-wide reporting classification and aggregation frameworks
- Broad access to business microdata permits construction of wider range of research data frames with new thematic and spatial taxonomies
- Greater opportunity for remote access permit collaboration across agencies and institutional boundaries (e.g., university and non-profit)

