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 times 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