

The 2024 Census of Agriculture

Frequently asked questions

Question 1 What is the Census of Agriculture?

The purpose of the Census of Agriculture is to provide internationally comparable data on the structure of agricultural holdings by which a real picture of agriculture in Montenegro will be presented, and based on which appropriate decisions will be defined, planned, and made for its development.

The Census of Agriculture collects the data on: number of agricultural holdings; used agricultural land by categories of use; livestock by types and categories; persons participating in agricultural production by sex; facilities for housing livestock; machinery, equipment, etc.

Question 2 Who will be covered by the Census of Agriculture?

The Census of Agriculture will include all agricultural holdings which fulfil the conditions pursuant to the Law on Census of Agriculture (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 77/24), Article 4 (Units included in the agricultural census), i.e. will include agricultural holdings that meet at least one of the defined criteria:

- 5 000 m² of used agricultural land;
- 3 000 m² of arable land;
- 1 000 m² of aromatic, medicinal and culinary plants, flowers and ornamental plants, seeds and seedlings;
- 1 000 m² of fruits, berries, nuts, vineyards, olive trees, nurseries and other permanent plants;
- 100 m² greenhouse;
- 100 m² of mushrooms;
- 10 beehives;
- 1 Livestock Unit (LSU).

Based on available official statistical sources and administrative sources, the Statistical Office has defined the population (the list of holdings) that will be covered by the Census of Agriculture.

Question 3 For what purpose will the data collected in the Census of Agriculture be used?

The data collected by the agricultural census will be used for creating public policies, strategies, and plans, as well as producing scientific and research works, etc.

The data collected by the agricultural census will be used for creating a sustainable agricultural policy so that the holdings are able to plan better agricultural production, and to use assistance funds at national and European level.

Question 4 How will data in the Census of Agriculture be collected?

The data collection will be done by interview method and directly on the field enumerators will enter the data through the application model installed on the electronic devices.

Question 5 What questions will be collected by the Census of Agriculture?

The Census of Agriculture collects the data as it follows:

- Identification data on holding;
- Data on land (used agricultural land, other land, and organic production);
- Livestock by type and category;
- Persons that take part in the agricultural production and other gainful activities;
- Facilities for housing livestock;
- Use of fertilizers;
- Land management practices;
- Irrigation;
- Machinery, and equipment, and
- Other.

Question 6 Who will be participants of the census, and how will they be selected?

Pursuant to Article 17 of the Law on Census of Agriculture (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 77/24): *Participants in the agricultural census*: “Participants in the agricultural census shall be enumerators, instructors, state instructors, controllers, and other persons. The director of the Statistical Office shall determine the participants for carrying out activities in the agricultural census. Enumerators and instructors shall be hired through a public invitation issued by the Statistical Office“. According to the activity plan, the implementation of this activity is planned at the end of August.

Question 7 Is the participation in the census compulsory?

Pursuant to the Law on Census of Agriculture (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 77/24), (Article 20: Rights and obligations of persons providing data), a person covered by the agricultural census shall be obliged to participate in it, i.e. to answer all questions and to provide accurate and complete answer to each question in accordance with the Methodology.

Question 8 How respondents can be sure that the data will not be misused by enumerators?

Pursuant to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System, Article 59 Restriction of access to confidential data and Article 60 Protection of confidential data, and pursuant to the Law on Census of Agriculture (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 77/24), Article 21 Data confidentiality and Article 22 Protection of data collected by the agricultural census, a misuse of provided data will not happen.

Pursuant to the Law on Census of Agriculture, Article 18, obligations of persons participating in the census of agriculture are defined. Participants in the agricultural census must:

- Have a written authorization for their work, and when performing their tasks, they shall present this authorization when they enter an agricultural holding;
- Take strict account of accuracy of data entered;
- Keep as the official secret all data on enumerated agricultural holdings obtained during performing tasks assigned to them, for such reason they sign the statement on confidentiality in accordance with the law, and
- Not abuse the enumeration process in such a manner as to in presence of persons being enumerated record or photograph the interview or filled-in census forms and questionnaire, and publish via internet or media outlets the recording or photography.

Measures envisaged to ensure the protection of data by the side of enumerators are:

Pursuant to the Law on Census of Agriculture, Article 30:

A fine in the amount ranging from 30 euro to 2 000 euro shall be imposed on a natural person who performs activities related to the agricultural census if:

- Does not strictly take account of the accuracy of the entered data (Article 18 paragraph 2 indent 2);
- Does not keep as officially confident all data on enumerated agricultural holdings (Article 18 paragraph 2 indent 3);
- Abuses the enumeration procedure in such a way that, in presence of the person included in the census, they will record or photograph the course of the interview or the completed census forms and publish the recording or photograph via the Internet or the media (Article 18 paragraph 2 indent 4).

Question 9 When are preliminary results expected?

The Statistical Office will publish the preliminary results of the agricultural census no later than 90 days after the end of the agricultural census, at the aggregate level for the territory of Montenegro.

Question 10 Are the data collected by the Census of Agriculture protected?

Pursuant to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12, and 47/19), Articles 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 61, and the Law on Census of Agriculture (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 77/24), Articles 21, 22, and 23, the

data collected in the agricultural census for the purpose of official statistics are considered confidential.

The data confidentiality also refers to the data collected from other sources, from the moment of their delivery for the purposes of official statistics.

The collected individual data on agricultural holdings may be only used for the statistical purposes, they are reported at the aggregate level, and represent an official secret.

Pursuant to Article 22 of the Law on Census of Agriculture, the Statistical Office shall take all measures of administrative, technical or organizational nature to protect confidential data collected by the agricultural census.