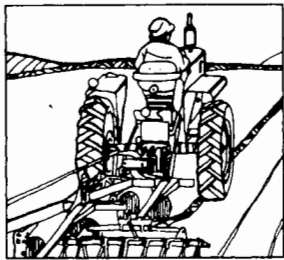
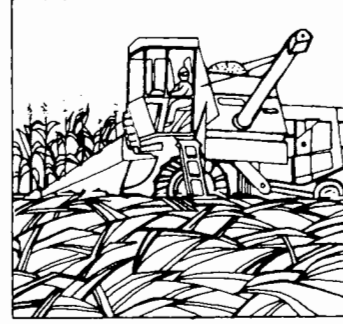
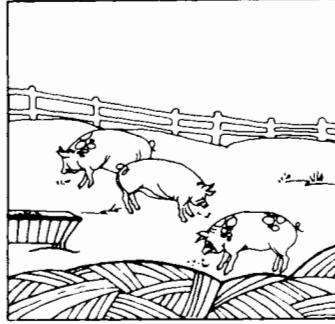
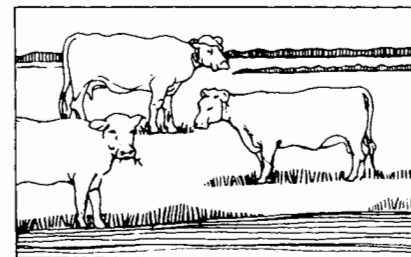
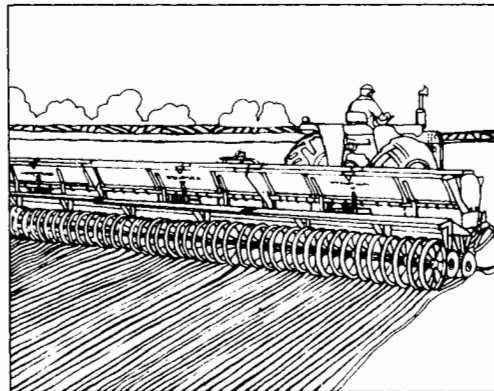
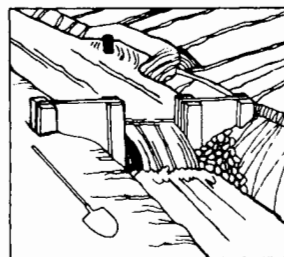
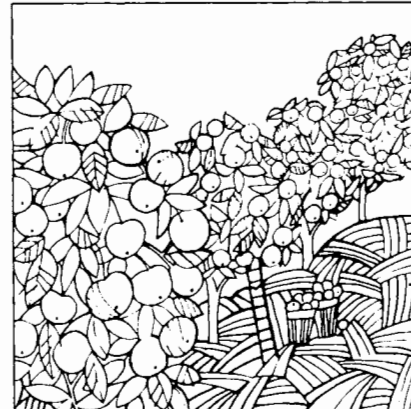
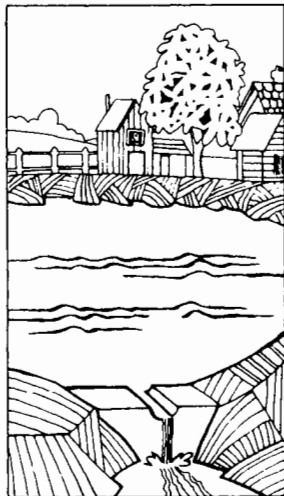


part 13
**DATA-COLLECTION
FORMS AND PROCEDURES**

**VOLUME V
SPECIAL REPORTS**



**1969
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE**



Issued July 1972



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REPORTS OF THE 1969 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Individual County Reports

These eight-page reports are issued for each county and State. They also appear as section 2 of volume 1 for the State to which they pertain. The tables contain totals for farms, land, production, expenses, income and sales, machinery and equipment, livestock, crops, and nursery, greenhouse, and forest products.

Volume I. Area Reports

A separate report is published for each State, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Trust Territory, and the Virgin Islands. The report consists of two sections. Section 1 contains the introduction, State summary data, county summary of selected data, miscellaneous items by counties (crops or livestock appearing in relatively few counties and therefore not listed in the county tables on a nationwide basis), and an appendix giving explanations, definitions, and examples of the report forms used. Section 2 contains the detailed county reports.

Volume II. General Report

Statistics by subject will be presented, with totals for the United States, Regions, and States.

Volume III. Agricultural Services

This is a new report which will contain data relating to agricultural services.

Volume IV. Irrigation

Data will be included on drainage basins, land irrigated, crop production on irrigated land, water conveyed, users, and types of organization.

Volume V. Special Reports

Reports will be based on data obtained from supplemental surveys, such as type of farm, horticulture, and farm finance; and other subjects based on information obtained in the census.

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperated at all levels; local employees in the county offices of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration, the Federal Extension Service, and the Soil Conservation Service aided in the publicity, and provided assistance to the farm operators who requested help in filling out the report forms correctly; State office personnel of the Statistical Reporting Service reviewed the data collection forms and assisted in the review of tabulations for their States; and a large number of persons in the Washington offices of the Department made recommendations, reviewed the forms, procedures, tabulation proposals, and table plans, and assisted in the overall publicity programs. **Harry C. Trelogan**, Administrator; **Glenn D. Simpson**, then Deputy Administrator; **J. Richard Grant**, Department Clearance Officer of the Statistical Reporting Service; and **Melvin L. Upchurch**, Administrator, and **Carl P. Heisig**, then Deputy Administrator of the Economic Research Service, were most prominent in the overall coordination effort and planning for this major program in agricultural statistics.

Members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and representatives from public and private agencies and firms gave generously of their time and effort in establishing the data requirements and priorities for collection and publication of the information.

The following persons working under the supervision of **Sol Dolleck**, then Chief of the Systems Division, developed and were responsible for the systems and processing procedures, including clerical procedures and computer programming: **Jervis Braunstein**, **Barry Cohen**, **Robert S. Taylor**, **Charles Merzel**, **Ralph Graham**, and **Jack Margolis**. **Lowell Wrucke**, Business Division, and **John Adkins**, Agriculture Division, made significant contributions to the computer programming.

A large part of the mail-out, clerical and data-keying operations were performed in the Jeffersonville Census Operations Division (now the Data Preparation Division) under the supervision of **Joseph Arbena** and **Robert L. Hagan**, former chiefs, and **Hobert A. Yerkey**, Chief; and **Rex Pullin**, Agriculture Census Operations Manager, assisted by **Don Adams** and **Kurt Legait**. **John A. Blackledge** and **William Harlan**, Agriculture Division, were responsible for the subject-matter review in Jeffersonville.

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This report was prepared in the Data User Services Office by **William F. Micarelli** of the Census History Staff, under the general direction of **Phyllis G. Carter** of that staff, with the assistance of many persons in the Agriculture Division and other parts of the Bureau of the Census.

Preface

The enumeration forms used in the 1969 Censuses of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Agricultural Services are presented here, together with a brief description of the census procedures. The variations of census procedures and forms used in the 50 States and in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Virgin Islands are included. Forms and procedures used in experimental census pretests and in coverage check are not presented in this report.

Surveys of horticulture and of farm finances, covering the calendar year 1970, were conducted in 1971, and nine surveys of specialized types of agricultural operations, covering the calendar year 1971, were conducted in 1972. The report forms and a brief description of these surveys will be provided in a separate pamphlet.

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Introduction

In compliance with the Census Act (Title 13, United States Code), a census of agriculture is taken every 5 years covering the years ending in 4 and 9. These censuses provide the only source of consistent coordinated data about agriculture, at the county level, on a nationwide basis. The data are used by farmers and their organizations, by farm publications, by Congress and the administrative agencies of the Government, and by the organizations which buy from and sell to farmers. They are also used as benchmarks for current statistical series maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other organizations.

The 1969 Census of Agriculture was the nineteenth nationwide farm census and, like earlier censuses, provided data by county concerning land use, crop and livestock production, livestock and farm equipment inventories, agricultural practices, expenditures, and value of sales on places classified as farms. Information was provided for the first time on establishments providing agricultural services.

Scope of the Census

Generally, the same farm definition used in previous agriculture censuses was used for the 1969 census. In the United States the census covered places of 10 acres or more with annual sales of farm products of at least \$50, and places of less than 10 acres with sales of \$250 or more.

Emphasis was placed on obtaining detailed information for all farms with expected sales of \$2,500 and over. In 1964, the 1,817,000 farms in this group accounted for more than 96 percent of the total value of farm products sold.

The agriculture census was taken in the 50 States, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

Data obtained from the basic agriculture report forms used for the 50 States included:

1. A count of farms by county, acreage, type of ownership and tenure, type of organization, economic class, and type of farm enterprise.
2. An inventory of agricultural land and the manner in which it was used during 1969.
3. The quantity of each crop produced and the value of sales.
4. An inventory of the kinds and numbers of poultry and livestock on farms on December 31, 1969, and a record of sales of livestock and poultry (and their products) for 1969.
5. An inventory of important farm machines and equipment, such as autos, trucks, tractors, combines, and corn pickers, on December 31, 1969, and the age of selected items of equipment.
6. The amount of land irrigated or drained, and the methods used.
7. A record of important production expenditures made by farmers during 1969.
8. A record of farm-related income received in 1969, covering income from agricultural and recreational services provided to others, and payments received for participation in Government farm programs.
9. A record of farm operator characteristics such as age, race, and days of off-farm work.

The agriculture censuses in Puerto Rico and the outlying areas differed from the census in the United States both in general content and amount of detail. (See report forms, pp. 32 to 69.)

As part of the 1969 Census of Agriculture, the Census Bureau conducted a census of irrigation and a census of agricultural services to collect data for establishments that are not classified as farms, but which provide substantial contributions to agricultural production.

Information on drainage will be collected in the 1972 Census of Governments and combined with drainage data collected on the standard agriculture forms to provide decennial data on drainage for comparison with earlier censuses.

Date of Enumeration

In 1970, for the first time, the United States census of agriculture was conducted primarily by mail. The report forms were mailed out late in December 1969. Information requested on the forms covered each farm operation for the entire year of 1969, with a specific inventory reference date of December 31, 1969. Farm operators were requested to fill out and mail back their reports as soon as possible, preferably not later than February 15, 1970. This mail-out/mail-back method allowed farm operators to complete the reports at their convenience, within a reasonable period.

Since respondents received the forms at the end of the reference year (calendar year 1969), they could use records kept for accounting and tax purposes to complete the agriculture forms. In the more recent censuses (1954, 1959, and 1964), the enumeration had been conducted in the fall of the year and required estimates of production, expenditures, and sales for the remaining few weeks of the reference year. The adoption of a December 31 reference date simplified reporting for the respondents, and also made census inventory data more readily comparable to U.S. Department of Agriculture inventory data.

In Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Virgin Islands, the 1969 Census of Agriculture was taken in April 1970 simultaneously with the census of population and housing for those areas.

Organization of the Census

The 1969 Census of Agriculture was planned and conducted by the Agriculture Division of the Census Bureau under the general direction of the Associate Director for Demographic Fields. Other divisions and offices of the Bureau cooperated on various aspects of the program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and other users of census data recommended questions to be asked in the census and related surveys. These recommendations and the plans for the statistics to be published were reviewed by the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics. This committee is comprised of representatives of the major farm organizations, State departments of agriculture, State agricultural colleges, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other major users of agriculture census statistics.

The mail-out/mail-back method of obtaining the data eliminated the need for enumerators hired especially for the agriculture census. Any necessary field followup was performed by the permanent staff of the Bureau's regional field offices, assisted by staff held over from the decennial census enumeration. In addition, an extensive telephone and correspondence followup was conducted by the Agriculture Division staff in both Washington, D.C. and Jeffersonville, Ind.

The proposed inquiries for Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Virgin Islands were reviewed by user groups and approved by officials of each area. Enumeration, receipt and control of completed assignments, office review for completeness and consistency, and followup operations in these areas were performed largely by personnel serving both the decennial and agriculture censuses; some additional personnel were hired especially for the agricultural operations where necessary. Data processing for these areas was done in Jeffersonville and Washington. Technical supervision of the complete census for each area was provided by persons from the Agriculture Division in Washington.

1969 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA-COLLECTION FORMS AND PROCEDURES

That portion of the agriculture census which was conducted on a mail-out/mail-back basis used mailing list assembly and collection techniques modeled after those used for the economic censuses since 1954. The mailing list of potential farm operators was assembled primarily from administrative records of other Government agencies and from lists of 1964 Census of Agriculture addresses. Administrative records were particularly significant in developing the mailing list, since most farm operators of economic consequence could be identified as taxpayers in the records of the IRS (Internal Revenue Service). Specifically, the IRS supplied lists of individuals who filed Form 1040 Schedule F (farm operators). The IRS also supplied lists of businesses showing, on Form 1040 Schedule C, Form 1065 (partnerships), and Form 1120S (small business corporations), that more than 50 percent of their income was from agriculture. A listing of employers of agricultural workers filing agriculture employment tax reports on SSA (Social Security Administration) Form 943 was also used. The Bureau supplemented these lists with the names of Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service participants in the South and selected States in the rest of the country.

The Bureau amended the basic roster by conducting a precavass early in 1969, covering about 100,000 of the largest, most complex farms. The precavass identified separate farms of multifarm operations, farms with significant acreages in more than one county, and "abnormal" farms such as those operated by institutions and Indian reservations.

The final mailing list for the census was constructed by merging the various source lists on the basis of Social Security or employer identification numbers and removing those duplicate names and addresses of respondents which were identified on the basis of these identification numbers. The final list contained the names and addresses of persons or organizations associated with agricultural operations, and some indication of the size or type of operation, so that the Bureau could determine which version of the report form to send.

Two basic versions of the report forms were developed for the 1969 Census of Agriculture for use in the continental United States. Detailed data about farms with an expected value of sales of \$2,500 or more were requested on the standard Form A1, which was mailed to all farm or ranch operators in this category. An abbreviated version, Form A2, was mailed to a 50-percent sample of the remaining operators, i.e., those with an expected value of sales or receipts of less than \$2,500. The short form included the main questions on the major crops, land use, livestock and poultry, equipment, expenditures, and sales, but omitted much of the detail requested in the A1 form.

Approximately 3.7 million report forms were mailed—2.9 million Form A1 and 800,000 Form A2. (A different version of Form A1 was sent to about 5,000 farm operators in Hawaii; the principal variation was in the questions on crops harvested.)

Cover letters, explaining the purpose of the census, accompanied all the report forms mailed. The letter sent to farm operators receiving the A1 form was on the front of a leaflet guide which explained how to answer the questions on the report form. The leaflet provided more detailed descriptions and definitions for the various items on the form, as well as instructions regarding what should be included or excluded in reporting for some of the more complex items. In addition, a reference booklet, more detailed than the leaflet sent to the respondents, was mailed to personnel in the U.S. Department of Agriculture local offices and to the vocational agriculture instructors in the local school systems, so that they would be able to provide assistance if inquiries were made about the census.

One exception was made to the mail-out/mail-back procedure. In Florida, a number of small citrus groves are operated by citrus caretakers for absentee owners (those who do not live on or near their groves). In order to obtain more complete coverage of citrus in Florida without duplicate reporting, the caretakers were contacted between July and October 1969 to obtain data for the crop year 1968-1969. If any of the owners received report forms during the regular mailout, they were to be asked by their caretakers to return the forms with a note explaining that the citrus operation had been covered in the caretaker's report. This special enumeration covered about 250,000 acres, involved approximately 100 caretakers, and was considered essential for coverage and measurement of citrus production in Florida.

During the first few months of 1970, after the initial mailout had taken place, the IRS compiled lists of persons or firms filing 1969 tax returns showing agricultural operations and sent them to the Bureau. The Bureau compared these lists with the census mailing list to find individuals and organizations that reported agricultural operations for 1969 to IRS but which had not reported any for 1968 or that, for some other reason, had not been included in the initial census mailing. Report forms were mailed to all such addresses in July 1970.

There were several mail followups after the initial mailout. The first followup, dated January 10, 1970, was a reminder card sent to all Form A1 recipients, requesting completion and return of the report form. The second followup was a letter dated February 25. Over a period of 3 months thereafter, three other mail followups were conducted to achieve a high mail response. Additional report forms were sent with the April and June followup letters in the event that the first forms sent had been misplaced or discarded. Starting in mid-May, farm operators of the larger agricultural operations who had not responded were contacted by telephone or visited by field staff to obtain the data.

It was intended that data normally would be obtained on the standard form for all farms with \$2,500 or more in actual sales of farm products. Where recipients of the short Form A2 reported sales above \$2,500, the additional detail needed for the standard Form A1 (for operations in the \$2,500+ category) was collected from them by followup if the reported sales were \$10,000 or more, otherwise it was allocated on the basis of responses on A1 report forms from the same type and class of farm. On the other hand, if the recipient of a standard A1 form reported less than \$2,500 in sales, data were tabulated only for those items contained in the short Form A2.

The agriculture census for Puerto Rico and the outlying areas was taken on a 100-percent basis. In Puerto Rico, two versions of the report form were used. If the enumerator determined that the unit was a farm by census definition, he requested information on value of sales. If sales were less than \$1,200, the enumerator completed the short version of the agriculture report forms, A2PR, in the field. For places having sales exceeding \$1,200, the enumerator left the standard Form A1PR for the farm operator to complete and mail to the census central field office in Puerto Rico. The enumerator also recorded the farm operator's name and address on a special listing, to provide the basis for followup by personal visit. Mail and field followups were made for nonresponse and incomplete returns.

Enumerators used only one report form in obtaining data for farms in the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Each of these four areas had its own form, differing slightly in content, but all considerably less detailed than the standard forms used in the United States and Puerto Rico. Enumerators completed the agriculture form in the field for each unit determined to be a farm by census definition.

1969 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE VARIATION STUDY

With the object of improving reporting in future censuses, the Bureau developed nine variations of the standard A1 form (AB, CD, EF, GH, JK, LM, NP, QR, and TW) to test different ways of asking for agricultural information. Variations in wording and format were made in sections 1, 3, 31, 33, 34, and 35 of the report form. More specifically, the variations from the standard A1 report form were as follows:

1. An alternative version of the acreage and tenure questions in section 1.
2. At the top of the column for acres in section 3, space for respondent to transcribe the number of acres in the place from section 1.
3. Addition of a column of "none" boxes in section 31.
4. In section 33, two answer columns, one for cost of chemicals only (insecticides, herbicides, and other chemicals), and the other for the cost of application.
5. In sections 34 and 35, two answer columns—one for the respondent's share of cost or value, and one for the landlord's and contractor's share.
6. To the maximum extent reasonable, deletion of the explanatory notes from sections 34 and 35.
7. Omission of overall shading.

The modified report forms were printed in green and red ink on white paper, with green shading, and were accompanied by a modified leaflet guide. The variations on each form are shown below.

Form	Variations in—
AB	Sections 1, 33, 34, and 35
CD	Section 1
EF	Sections 1, 3, 31, 34, and 35
GH	Sections 1, 3, 31, 33, 34, and 35
JK	Sections 33, 34, and 35
LM	(No variations—used as a control)
NP	Sections 3, 31, 34, and 35
QR	Sections 3, 31, 33, 34, and 35
TW	(Same as LM, but with overall shading omitted)

These variations, instead of the standard A1 form, were sent to a random sample of about 32,000 potential farm operators

throughout the Nation. Labeling, mailing, check-in, and followup of the Questionnaire Variation Study forms were part of the regular census operations and followed regular census procedures and time schedules.

1969 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

For the first time, the Census Bureau, in conjunction with the census of agriculture, conducted a survey of agricultural services covering Standard Industrial Classification major group 07.¹ Agricultural services provided to farms on a fee or contract basis include planting, spraying, and harvesting; sorting, grading, and packing; horticultural services; veterinary services; animal husbandry; and hunting, trapping, and game propagation. Only those establishments with 50 percent or more of their gross receipts represented by such agricultural services were included in the census.

The census of agricultural services was conducted at the same time as the 1969 Census of Agriculture, using a mail-out/mail-back procedure. The mailing list for this survey was compiled primarily from IRS and SSA administrative records and consisted of approximately 75,000 establishments. The report form, A40, contained only a few questions for each establishment, covering items such as employment, payroll, receipts, and kinds of agricultural services provided during 1969. Data for establishments providing agricultural services were supplemented by data for farm operators from the 1969 Census of Agriculture. Information from the regular agriculture census form covered income received by farm operators for agricultural services provided to others, and expenditures by farm operators for agricultural services provided by others.

1969 CENSUS OF IRRIGATION

Information relating to irrigation of farm and ranch lands in the United States has been included in each decennial census of agriculture since 1890, and in each quinquennial census of agriculture since 1935. A separate census of irrigation has been taken decennially since 1910. The 1969 Census of Irrigation was authorized by the Census Act (Title 13, United States Code), and was conducted concurrently with the 1969 Census of Agriculture.

The census of irrigation included approximately 10,000 irrigation organizations in the 50 States. An irrigation organization was defined as any irrigation facility providing irrigation water for two or more farms or ranches. The organization might be owned or operated by individuals, a partnership, a company, a cooperative, or a district. A report was completed for the following major types of irrigation facilities:

1. An individual farm operator who owned and operated an irrigation system which served one or more other farm operators.
2. A single business proprietor or company that serviced two or more farm operators or ranchers, even though irrigation service was a minor part of the business.
3. Two or more neighboring farm operators who used a common water supply system, whether they had any formal organization or not.
4. Formally organized cooperatives or mutuals which provided irrigation water either as a sideline or a major part of the operation.

¹See U.S. Bureau of the Budget, Standard Industrial Classification Manual, Washington, D.C., 1967, pp. 7-8.

5. Publicly organized irrigation districts.
6. Irrigation corporations.
7. A city or town which supplied irrigation water to 100 acres or more.

Forms A60 and A61 were used to collect data for the irrigation census. Form A60 was sent to organizations which operated in only one drainage basin, as defined by the Water Resources Council; Form A61 was developed for organizations which operated in more than one drainage basin, or in more than one State. The two forms were identical, except that on Form A61 the organizations were asked to report information by drainage basin.

The basic series of data collected in the census of irrigation included type of organization; purpose of operation; source and disposition of water; number and kinds of users; facilities such as wells, pumps, conveyance facilities, and storage reservoirs; capital investments; and sources of funds and irrigation revenue.

The general A1 census of agriculture report form included a section for the purpose of collecting information from farm operators on their irrigation practices. The data collected included: (1) total acres of farmland irrigated, (2) acres of harvested cropland irrigated, (3) acres of cropland pasture irrigated, (4) acres of other pastureland irrigated, (5) acres of other land irrigated, and (6) acres of each crop harvested from irrigated land. Data were also collected on methods of irrigation, sources, and amount of water delivered. For 1969, this information supplemented the data obtained from the irrigation organizations.

The basic source for the mailing list was the 1959 Census of Irrigation. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, and the federal and State water resources boards were contacted to update, verify, and add to the mailing list.

Cover letters, reference guides, and maps accompanied all the report forms. The reference guide provided more detailed information and instructions for completion of the forms, as well as special instructions for multi-basin organizations. Each respondent received a map of his area—either a part of or an entire State map, based on his address—to be marked and returned with the completed report form so that the Bureau could pinpoint each organization within one or more drainage basins.

The Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs projects required special attention. The agencies were sent packets of forms, guides, maps, etc., plus special instructions to be reviewed and studied. Shortly thereafter, representatives of each agency attended a workshop designed to familiarize them with the report forms and ensure their completion according to the Bureau's specifications.

A mail-out/mail-back enumeration procedure was used for both Forms A60 and A61, although followup methods differed slightly. For the A60 form several mail followups preceded field followup, while for the A61 form field assistance and followup were scheduled shortly after the initial mailout.