

# Agriculture Census Questionnaires Are On The Way; Due Back Feb. 4

For many people, counting sheep is a sure-fire way of getting to sleep.

However, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, sheep - as well as cattle, horses, ostriches and acres of cotton, rice, grapes and citrus - are just some of the many items the agency will count for a complete look of Texas for the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

We can be proud Texas has one of the most diverse agricultural industries in the world, and

the Census of Agriculture is an excellent opportunity for us to showcase the incredible array of commodities coming from our fields, pastures, orchards, vineyards and rangelands.

That's why it's important for everyone who receives a Census questionnaire to complete it and mail it in by the Feb. 4, 2008, deadline.

Taking time to complete the questionnaire not only gives you the opportunity to provide a com-

plete picture of Texas agriculture, but also to help shape the way agricultural policies can meet your changing needs.

The Census is your voice in Texas, and you need to be heard.

Federal lawmakers use Census data when developing agricultural and rural programs, and community planners rely on the information to determine local programs and services.

Private companies also use Census data to decide where to locate operations.

The Texas Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the Census in the Lone Star State every five years. Questionnaires will be mailed the last week in December and should be returned

in the envelope provided.

You also will be able to complete the questionnaire online through a secure Web site.

U.S. law requires a response from all producers who receive a Census questionnaire, even if you did not operate a farm or ranch in 2007.

This same law also guarantees strict confidentiality of your information, which is not shared with any other state or federal agency.

For more information on the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the Texas Field Office at (800) 626-3142, or go to [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

Be sure to make your information count.



## Tasty Christmas Cheese Ball Recipe

'Tis the season for entertaining. That means that you'll have to dust off your recipe collection and come up with some easy treats to have on hand when company drops by.

A repertoire of appetizers will serve you nicely this time of year because many holiday visits entail popping over for a short while and moving on to shopping or someone else's house. Therefore, larger meals can be reserved for the holiday itself.

One of the easier snacks to have available are a cheese and cracker spread. It's tasty and simple to prepare, especially if you purchase pre-sliced cheese from the store.

But if you're looking to dress up this snack, you can create a cheese ball to serve alongside crackers, pita chips or toasted slices of French bread.

### Tasty Cheese Ball Serves 24

- 3 tablespoon finely chopped pecans
- 1 package (8 ounces) Neufchatel cream cheese (at room temperature)

- 3 green onions (finely chopped with tops, 1/3 cup)
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon hot red pepper sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese (4 ounces)
- 1/4 cup minced parsley
- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F and spread out the pecans in a small pan. Bake, tossing once, for 8 minutes or until toasted.
- 2. In a small bowl, place the cream cheese, onions, mustard, red pepper sauce, and garlic. With an electric mixer at moderate speed, beat for 3 minutes or until well blended. Stir in the cheddar cheese.
- 3. Wrap the mixture in plastic wrap, shape into a 4-inch ball, and chill for 15 minutes.
- 4. On wax paper, toss the toasted pecans with the parsley. Unwrap the cheese ball and carefully roll it in the parsley mixture, coating it completely.
- 5. Rewrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate until time to serve.
- 6. Place the ball on a serving platter.

## Local Realtor Earns Award

A Texas REALTOR® was recently awarded the graduate REALTOR® Institute (GRI) designation.

The Houston Association of Realtors member who completed the curriculum required to achieve the highly acclaimed designation is Eve Lucas of Eagle Lake. She is an Agent/REALTOR® with Residential, Realtors Inc. and Commercial Realtors in Houston. She joins other top producers in the real estate industry who hold the designation across the nation.

The Graduate REALTOR® Institute is a national continuing education program offered by the Texas Association of REALTORS® (TAR). Graduates have completed three 30-hour courses of instruction in specialized subjects, such as legal issues, finance, marketing, real estate investments, professional standards and technology tools. Less than 10 percent of TAR's 90,000 members have earned their GRI designation.

The GRI designation that Eve Lucas was awarded is a mark of excellence that signifies the graduate is a cut above other real estate practitioners. It represents the knowledge and professionalism needed to perform successfully in today's complex real estate field.

The term REALTOR® is a registered and protected trademark. A REALTOR® is a member of the National Association of



REALTORS®, his or her state association of REALTORS® and a local board or association of REALTORS®. By joining the REALTOR® organization, a real estate professional pledges to adhere to a strict code of ethics and high standards of professionalism, integrity and competence. Although anyone can take the GRI courses, only REALTORS® who complete all three GRI courses can use the GRI designation.

The Texas Association of REALTORS®, headquartered in Austin, is the largest professional membership association in Texas with more than 90,000 members statewide. The association is dedicated to increasing professionalism in the real estate industry and is affiliated with the 1.3 million member National Association of REALTORS®.

### ASPIRIN - A POTENT DRUG

One important drug that is often left off the medical history form at the dental office is aspirin. When we are asked about taking any medications, most of us instantly think about prescription medications, and less likely to think about the bottle of aspirin we picked up at the supermarket.

Aspirin is a potent drug that is used for a wide variety of conditions. One important side effect of aspirin is that it can increase bleeding. This is of critical importance to your dentist when providing certain types of treatment.

The dental procedures expected to cause bleeding include dental extractions, deep cleanings under the gum line, gum surgery, and biopsies. The decision to alter your aspirin intake should be made with the consultation of your family doctor (or specialist) and your dentist. You should always include any over-the-counter drugs on your dentist's medical history form, especially aspirin and aspirin containing compounds.

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## New Arrivals

### Johanna Grace Lowther

Robert and Ann Lowther of Columbus are pleased to announce the birth of their fourth child, a daughter, born November 27 at 3:08 p.m. at Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake.

Johanna Grace weighed eight pounds, five ounces and measured 20-1/2 inches.

She was welcomed home by siblings, Samantha Ann, seven; Allie Nicole, four; and Keaton Jennings, two.

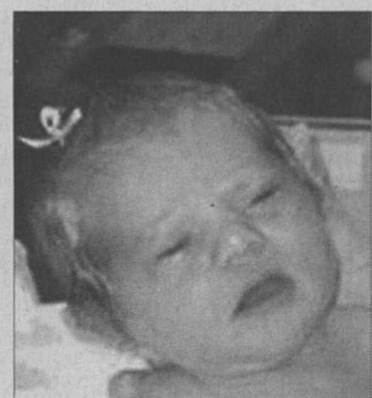
Maternal grandparents are Melvin "Butch" and Sue Meyer of Columbus.

Paternal grandparents are Bob and Ann Lowther of Sandyville, WV.

Great-grandparent is Billy Jean Hudson of Rock Island.

late Alice Marie Emerson of Fulshear and Tommie Lee Emerson of East Bernard.

Great grandparents are the late Lizzie Powell of Eagle Lake and Annie Rodgers of Fulshear.



### Aaliyah Marie Emerson

Casey Tillman and Wilson Emerson of Fulshear, are pleased to announce the birth of their child, a daughter, born on November 24 at 4:35 a.m. at the Rice Medical Center in Eagle Lake.

Aaliyah Marie weighed six pounds, nine ounces.

She is welcomed by her brothers, Rodney Eaton, Jr., eight; Malik Eaton, seven; and Omarian Eaton, two.

Maternal grandparents are Beverly Denley of Houston and Willie Stovall of Eagle Lake.

Paternal grandparents are the

### Camille Elizabeth Powers

Timothy and Elizabeth Powers of Hewitt are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, Camille Elizabeth.

Camille was born on November 25, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. She weighed 6 lbs. 11 ozs. and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Welcoming Camille are big brother Harris Clark, age 4, and big sister Caroline Hope, age 2.

Maternal grandparents are Haywood and Anne Harris of Palestine and paternal grandparents are Clark and Vicki Powers of Eagle Lake.

5:35 p.m. Thursday



### Lighting up the holidays.

As you begin using decorative lighting in and around your home this holiday season, AEP Texas reminds you to keep safety in mind. Check light strings for frayed cords, and use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Remember not to overload circuits, and remind children not to touch lights or outlets. And on behalf of all of us here at AEP Texas, please enjoy a safe, bright holiday season with your family and friends. **AEP Texas is there, always working for you.**



A unit of American Electric Power

For more information about electrical safety, visit [AEPTexas.com](http://AEPTexas.com)

We will be open before and after the parade on Sat. Dec. 8th

Flower arrangements • Tervis Tumblers • Tyler Candles  
Willow Tree Angels • Stocking Stuffers  
Jewelry • Crosses

Come register for our centerpiece drawing

Gift Certificates

**Creative Expressions**

119 E. Main, Eagle Lake, Texas • 234-3917  
Hours Mon. - Fri.: 9 am - 5:30 pm  
Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.