

Census response tops 199

WASHINGTON (AP) - Twothirds of Americans returned their census forms this year, reversing a long slide in initial participation in the official national head count, the government reported Tuesday. The final 2000 census response

rate by mail or Internet was 67 percent, two percentage points higher than the mailback rate in 1990, Census Director Kenneth Prewitt said.

That result halts a ... slide and actually begins to reverse it," said Commerce Secretary Norman Y. Mineta.

The wider participation also saves money, Prewitt said, because every percentage point of mailed re-sponse represents 1.2 million households that do not have to be visited by Census workers.

Thanks to that improvement in response the \$6.5 billion effort "will be in the black," he said. "The American people stepped forward and sent in their forms and that made it less expensive." The Census had budgeted for a

61 percent response rate, following declines from 78 percent in 1970 to 75 percent in 1980 and 65 percent in 1990

Census field workers are now completing follow-up visits to homes that failed to answer their forms, said Prewitt.

The 1990 rate was topped despite controversy about questions on the long form which some people felt were intrusive. Prewitt said the return rate for the short form was about 11 percent better than for the long form, but the difference was made up during follow-up visits to people's homes.

Who	responded	to	Census	2000
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NATION Wednesday, September

The national response rate for Census 2000 was 67 percent, up from 65 percent for the 1990 census. Mid-West states had the highest response rates while the South was below the national rate. Here is breakdown:

71% and above	- Nat	ional average:	67%	
owa	76	Mo.	69	W.Va.
Minn.	75	Md.	69	Texas
Neb.	75	Mont.	68	N.C.
Wis.	75	N.J.	68	Fla.
S.D.	74	Utah.	68	Del.
Ohio Martine	72	Ore.	68	N.Y.
Va.	72	R.I.	67	Ariz.
N.D.	72	N.H.	67	Miss.
Mich.	71	Idaho Marina	67	N.M.
Kan.	71	Wash.	66	Ala.
69%-70%	1.	Ky.	66	Maine
Calif.	70	Wyo.	66	Vt.
Colo.	70	Nev.	66	50%-60
Conn.	70	61%-65%		D.C.*
Pa.	70	Ga.	65	La.
III. Internet internet	69	Tenn.	65	Hawaii
Mass.	69	Okla.	64	S.C.
Ind.	69	Ark.	64	Alaska

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

New labels to certify animal welfar

WASHINGTON (AP) - Starting Wednesday, the government will allow farmers to display a seal on meat and dairy products to attest that they treat their cattle and chickens humanely.

To qualify for the "Free Farmed" seal, farms would have to eliminate cages for laying hens and stop using forced molting, the withdrawal of food and water to increase egg production. Dairy cattle would have to have access to pastures.

"If you want to improve the lives of farm animals, look for this label."

> - Adele Douglas **Executive Director Farm Animal Services**

Standards designed to improve farm conditions for broiler chickens and beef cattle also are in the package. Rules for hog farms are being written.

The American Humane Association developed posed to forw standards and set up a new organization, Fam Anidistricts and 1 Services, to inspect farms that want to us the label Pwn how to b Agriculture Department is to monitor the inspectividual needs.

"If you want to improve the lives of farm eject, Gore pro look for this label," said Adele Douglas, exect amendment to rector of Farm Animal Services, on Tuesday. Act of 1996 t grocery store doesn't have it, ask the manager on the total co The more consumer demand there is, producer long-distance spond to that and the animals will be helped."

Products with the label initially will be availed every phone of marily in natural food stores and upscale superior to the poorest A handful of farms have been approved for ther. So far: an egg producer in Wisconsin a groun the "Universa so far: an egg producer in Wisconsin, a group@ farms in northern California, cattle producers that earmarked fo a Montana processor.

The new program comes after McDonald's Cal gan last month forcing suppliers to improve the strictions on i of animals in slaughterhouses and implement standards on egg farms. The seal will bear the "Free Farmed" and "American Humane Asso Monitored.

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