



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## USDA releases 2022 Census of Agriculture data down to the county level

**PHOENIX, AZ – February 13, 2024** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) today announced the results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, spanning more than 6 million data points about America’s farms and ranches and the people who operate them down to the county level. The information collected directly from producers shows a decrease in the total number of Arizona farms. The data also show a fall in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) as well as young (under the age of 35) producers in Arizona. The full Census of Agriculture report as well as publication dates for additional ag census data products can be found at [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus). Ag census data can also be found in NASS’s searchable online database, Quick Stats.

“We are pleased to provide updated Census of Agriculture data to all those who serve U.S. agriculture, especially the producers who gave their time to complete the questionnaire. Census of Agriculture data tell a story. This comprehensive snapshot every five years helps data users to see trends and shifts in the industry over time and helps producers do business,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “Overall, though there are always changes across U.S. agriculture, the data remain largely consistent with the previous ag census. Data users will also notice some new data on the topics of hemp, precision agriculture, and internet access.”

Ag census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land use and activities on Arizona farms and ranches such as:

- There were 16,710 farms and ranches in Arizona and 29,100 producers, down 12% and 11%, respectively, from the previous Census of Agriculture from 2017.
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 94% of all Arizona farms, nearly the same as the 95% from the 2017 Census of Agriculture.
- Arizona farms and ranches produced \$5.20 billion in agricultural products, up from \$3.85 billion in 2017. The majority (58%) of the sales were from crop sales. The Vegetable/Melon/Potatoes category led with 27.5% of all sales, followed by Milk (22.4%) and Cattle (14.0%). With farm production expenses of \$4.14 billion, Arizona farms had net cash income of \$1.21 billion. Average farm income rose to \$72,599 per farm.
- Nearly 2 out of 3 Arizona farms had internet access in 2022, an increase from 57.4% in 2017. However, 78.7% of farms and ranches across the United States had internet access.
- A total of 1,445 Arizona farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 1,444 farms in 2017. Nearly all the Arizona farms (98%) with renewable energy systems reported using solar panels.
- In 2022, 751 Arizona farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$20.2 million. Value of sales decreased 24% from 2017.

- The 433 farms with sales of \$1 million or more were 2.59% of Arizona farms but represented 93.6% of sales. The 15,139 Arizona farms (90.6% of Arizona farms) with sales of \$50,000 or less accounted for just under 1% of sales in Arizona.
- The average age of all Arizona producers was 60.1. The average age in 2017 was 59.4 years. This is a smaller increase than average age increases between prior censuses.
- There were 6,885 Arizona farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, a decrease in the number of beginning farmers from 2017 of 5.8%. Beginning farmers in Arizona are younger than all Arizona farmers, with an average age of 48.1 years.
- The number of Arizona producers under age 35 was 2,102, comprising 7.2% of all Arizona producers.
- In 2022, 13,936 female producers accounted for 48% of all Arizona producers, compared to 36% of all U.S. producers. Sixty-one percent of all Arizona farms had at least one female decision maker.

The national response rate and Arizona's response rate for the 2022 Census of Agriculture was 61%; more than 40% of responses were submitted online. To address questions about the 2022 Census of Agriculture data, NASS will host a live X Stat Chat ([@usda\\_nass](#)) for the public on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. EST. Ag census data highlight publications are available at [nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights).

First conducted in 1840 in conjunction with the decennial Census and conducted since 1997 by USDA NASS – the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture – the Census of Agriculture remains the most comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation.

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*NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.*

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