
General Terms

Acres harvested. Crops were reported in whole acres, except for the following crops that were reported in tenths of acres: potatoes, tobacco, land in orchards, and vegetables. Totals for crops reported in tenths of acres were rounded to whole acres at the aggregate level during the tabulation process.

If a crop was planted but not harvested, the acres were not reported as harvested. This does not include fruit and nut orchards and vineyards that were not harvested. All land in orchards was reported as cropland harvested.

Crop year or season covered. Acres harvested are for the calendar year 2002 except for citrus crops and sugarcane for sugar in Florida and Texas; avocados in Florida and California; olives in California; and pineapples in Hawaii. The harvest season for these crops included part of the 2001 calendar year or extended slightly beyond the 2002 calendar year.

Cropland, harvested. See Harvested cropland.

Forage - land used for all hay and all haylage, grass silage, and greenchop. Data shown represent the area harvested with each acre counted only once if both dry hay and haylage, grass silage, or greenchop were cut from the same acreage or if there were multiple cuttings of dry hay or haylage, grass silage, or greenchop.

Government payments received. This category consists of direct cash payments received by the farm operators in 2002. It includes disaster payments, loan deficiency payments from prior participation, payments

from Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP), the Wetlands Reserve Programs (WRP), other conservation programs, and all other federal farm programs under which payments were made directly to farm operators. Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) proceeds and federal crop insurance payments were not tabulated in this category.

Harvested cropland. This category includes land from which crops were harvested or hay was cut, or land used to grow short-rotation woody crops, land in orchards, citrus groves, Christmas trees, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Land from which two or more crops were harvested was counted only once. Land in tapped maple trees is included in woodland not pastured.

Land in farms. The acreage designated as “land in farms” consists primarily of agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing. It also includes woodland and wasteland not actually under cultivation or used for pasture or grazing, provided it was part of the farm operator’s total operation. Large acreages of woodland or wasteland held for nonagricultural purposes were deleted from individual reports during the edit process. Land in farms includes acres in the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve Programs.

Land in farms is an operating unit concept and includes land owned and operated as well as land rented from others. Land used rent free was reported as land rented from others. All grazing land, except land used under government permits on a per-head basis, was included as “land in farms” provided it was part of a farm or ranch. Land under the

exclusive use of a grazing association was reported by the grazing association and included as land in farms. All land in American Indian reservations used for growing crops or grazing livestock was included as land in farms. Land in reservations not reported by individual American Indians or non-Native Americans was reported in the name of the cooperative group that used the land. In many instances, an entire American Indian reservation was reported as one farm.

Land in orchards. This category includes land in bearing and nonbearing fruit trees, citrus or other groves, vineyards, and nut trees of all ages, including land on which all fruit crops failed. Respondents were instructed not to report abandoned plantings and plantings of fewer than 20 total fruit, citrus, or nut trees or grapevines.

Market value of agricultural products sold.

This category represents the gross market value before taxes and production expenses of all agricultural products sold or removed from the place in 2002 regardless of who received the payment. It is equivalent to total sales. It includes sales by the operators as well as the value of any shares received by partners, landlords, contractors, or others associated with the operation. The value of commodities placed in Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans is included in this figure. The market value of agricultural products sold does not include payments received for participation in other federal farm programs. Also, it does not include income from farm-related sources such as customwork and other agricultural services, or income from non-farm sources.

The value of crops sold in 2002 does not necessarily represent the sales from crops harvested in 2002. Data may include sales from crops produced in earlier years and may exclude some crops produced in 2002 but held in storage and not sold. For commodities such as sugarbeets and wool sold through a co-op that made payments in several installments,

respondents were requested to report the total value received in 2002.

The value of agricultural products sold was requested of all operators. If the operator(s) failed to report this information, estimates were made based on the amount of crops harvested, livestock or poultry inventory, or number sold. Sales figures are expressed in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation or deflation.

Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod.

These data include bedding plants, bulbs, cut flowers, flower seeds, foliage plants, mushrooms, nursery potted plants, shrubbery, sod, etc. grown for sale. They do not include nursery stock, live Christmas trees, tobacco transplants and cut Christmas trees for 2002. Cut Christmas trees were reported under woodland crops in the 2002 census.

Operator. The term operator designates a person who operates a farm, either doing the work or making day-to-day decisions about such things as planting, harvesting, feeding, and marketing. The operator may be the owner, a member of the owner's household, a hired manager, a tenant, a renter, or a sharecropper. If a person rents land to others or has land worked on shares by others, he/she is considered the operator only of the land which is retained for his/her own operation. For the first time, the census collected information on the total number of operators, the total number of women operators, demographic information for up to three operators per farm. Unlike previous censuses, the number of operators does not equal the number of farms. See Operators, all; and Operators, total.

Operator characteristics. Data were collected for up to three operators per farm on age, race, sex, number of days worked of farm, place of residence, primary occupation, year in which his/her operation of the farm began, residence on an American Indian reservation, number of persons living in the operators

households, and Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin. The principal operator was asked to report the percent of total household income that came from the farm operation. In addition, data for the total number of operators and the total number of women operators were collected.

Unlike the 1997 census, all operator characteristics in the 2002 census were subject to imputation based on information reported by farms with similar acreage, tenure, value of sales, and location. Operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin were tabulated by reported race. In 1997, no imputation was made for nonresponse to place of residence; Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin; off farm work; or year began operation.

Operators, all. The 2002 census was the first to collect data for more than one operator per farm. Demographic and other information were collected for up to three operators per farm: the principal operator plus one or two additional operators. This may be fewer than the total number of operators on some farms. All operators refers to these multiple operators. Demographic data for up to the 3 operators reported are presented separately for women, by race categories, and for Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin.

Operators, total. Data represent the total reported number of operators on farms and ranches. The 2002 census was the first to ask for the total number of operators associated with an operation. It was also the first time the total number of women operators was determined.

Primary occupation of operator. Data on primary occupation were obtained from up to three operators per farm in the 2002 census. The primary occupation classifications used were:

- *Farming.* The operator spent 50-percent or more of his/her worktime during 2002 at farming or ranching.

- *Other.* The operator spent more than 50-percent of his/her worktime during 2002 at occupations other than farming or ranching. Also, operators who spent the majority of their worktime working for ANOTHER agricultural operation for wages were included in this classification.

The proportion of principal operators claiming “Farming or ranching” as their primary occupation in 2002 increased significantly since 1997. While there are demographic changes that support this increase, there is a concern that a 2002 report form design change may have also contributed to it. To reduce wording, no definition of “primary occupation” was printed on the 2002 report form. It was presumed to be self-explanatory. Some respondents may have checked the “yes” box by Farm or ranch operator, without understanding that it meant they were reporting their primary occupation.

Changes in the average age of the farm operator tend to support the increase in the farming occupation proportion. When compared with 1997 results, the average age of farmers increased significantly in 2002. Older operators may be “retired” (with little if any sales) and still report farming as their primary occupation since they often have limited opportunity for off-farm jobs.

Principal operator. The person primarily responsible for on-site, day-to-day operation of the farm or ranch business. This person may be a hired manager or business manager. See All operators for further explanation.

Race of operator. With the exception of Hawaii, operator race data were collected for six categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Asian, and those operators reporting more than one race. Respondents were asked to mark one or more of the race categories. Operators who marked more than one race category were

tabulated as More than one race in the publications.

In Hawaii operator race data were collected for 11 categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Other Asian, and those operators reporting more than one race. Operators who marked more than one race category were tabulated as more than one race in the publications. The combination of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories is equivalent to the Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander category on the other forms. The combination of the Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, and Other Asian categories is equivalent to the Asian category. The Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, U. S. Summary publication only displays counts for the categories Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and Asian. Data for the 11 Hawaiian race categories are published in the Hawaii publication of the volume 1 series.

Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin. Operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin are found in all of the racial groups listed in the census and were tabulated according to the race reported, as well as on tables pertaining only to this group.

Sugarcane for sugar. Acres harvested are for the calendar year 2002 except in Florida and Texas. The data for Florida relate to the cuttings from November 2001 through April 2002; and for Texas the cuttings from October 2001 through April 2002.

Tenure of principal operator. All farms were classified by tenure of principal operator. The classifications used were:

- Full owners operated only land they owned.
- Part owners operated land they owned and also land they rented from others.
- Tenants operated only land they rented from others or worked on shares for others.

Type of organization. All farms were classified by type of organization. The classifications used were:

- Individual or family (sole proprietorship), excluding partnership and corporation.
- Partnership, including family partnership – further subclassified into the following two categories:
 1. Registered under state law.
 2. Not registered under state law.
- Corporation, including family corporation – further subclassified into the following two categories:
 1. Family held or other than family held.
 2. More than 10 stockholders.
- Other, cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.

Vegetables harvested for sale. The acres of vegetables harvested is the summation of the acres of individual vegetables harvested. When more than one vegetable crop was harvested from the same acreage, acres were counted for each crop.