



UTAH  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

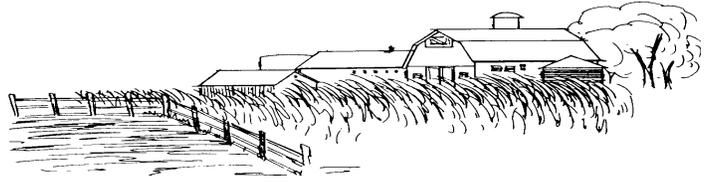
# News Release

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## 2002 CENSUS PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced preliminary results from the 2002 Census of Agriculture. This first release of information includes demographic information such as number of farms, sex and race of operator, age of operator, days worked off the farm, and for the first time information about multiple operators of farming operations. The full Census report will be released June 3, 2004 and will include state and county information on land use, crops, livestock, expenses and value of production.

In Utah, State Statistician Rick Kestle said that the number of farms and ranches in the state, at 15,295, was down 3 percent from the 1997 Census. The number of farms with a value of sales less than \$2,500 was 7,414 in 2002 compared to 5,390 in 1997, an increase of 38 percent. Meanwhile, the number of farms with a value of sales over \$10,000 fell from 6,332 in 1997 to 5,019 in 2002, a decline of 21 percent. Operations were counted as farms if they had annual sales or production of agricultural products worth \$1,000 or more.

Other information from the 2002 Census revealed that the average age of operator in Utah was 55.4 years, slightly higher than the 1997 average of 55.1 years. This continues the trend of a rising average age of operators that has been seen in recent censuses.

For the first time this census counted multiple operators for each operation, and the total of all operators was 23,707. Of these 5,931 or 25 percent were women. There were a total of 60,204 people living in the operators' households.

For the 15,295 principal operators, 49 percent listed farming as their primary occupation. Also, 61 percent had a job off the farm, compared with 63 percent in 1997.

Slightly more than 1 percent of all farm and ranch operators in Utah characterized themselves as American Indian, African American, Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Asian or of more than one race. About 2 percent of all operators reported they were of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin.

*All reports for the 2002 Census of Agriculture will be available through the NASS web site at [www.usda.gov/nass](http://www.usda.gov/nass).*