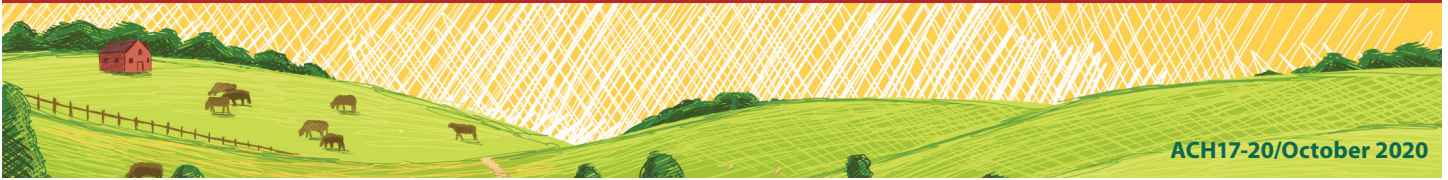


Young Producers

Nearly 1 in 10 U.S. producers are ages 35 or younger, up 11% since 2012



ACH17-20/October 2020

In 2017, the United States had 321,261 producers who identified as a young producer (ages 35 or younger), accounting for 9% of the country's 3.4 million producers. Eighty percent of young producers have started farming in the last 10 years, and 65% report having a primary occupation other than farming. Young producer-operated farms accounted for 17% of U.S. agriculture sales and 13% of U.S. farmland.

321,261
producers



115 million
acres



\$66 billion
agriculture sales



Number and Location

The 2017 Census of Agriculture revised the demographic data collected to better capture the contributions of all persons involved in agricultural production. In response to detailed questions about farm decision making, more farms reported multiple individuals involved in farm operations.

As a result of the new approach to counting producers, the total number of U.S. producers increased 7% between 2012 and 2017. There was an 11% increase in young producers, compared to a 26% increase in producers 65 years of age and older, and a 2% decrease in producers 35-64 years of age.

The share of young producers is higher in the Northern states. States with the highest percentage of young producers as a share of total producers include Pennsylvania (14%), and North Dakota, Indiana, Nebraska, South Dakota, New York, and Ohio (all 12%).

Counties with the highest proportion of young producer-operated farms were largely in the Great Lakes, Northern Great Plains, and Northeast regions; counties with the lowest proportion were in the Mississippi Delta and Southeast regions.

Number of Producers, By Age and All U.S.

	2012	2017	% change
<35	257,454	285,439	+11
35-64	2,006,846	1,960,353	-2
65+	915,774	1,154,042	+26
All U.S.	3,180,074	3,399,834	+7

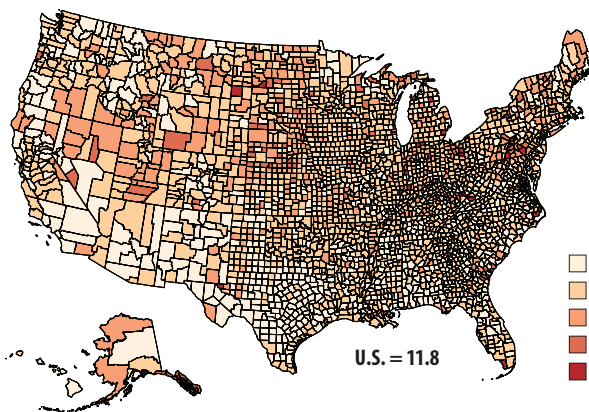
7

The percent of young producers in Texas, representing 21,817 young producers, which is the highest number of young producers in any state.

Top States, Young Producers, 2017 (as % of total state producers)

Pennsylvania	14
North Dakota	12
Indiana	12
Nebraska	12
South Dakota	12
New York	12
Ohio	12
Vermont	11
Kentucky	11
Connecticut	11
Maryland	11
Alaska	11
Maine	11

Young Producer-Operated Farms as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2017



Two counties had more than 1,000 young producers: Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, (2,432 producers) and LaGrange County, Indiana (1,117 producers).

< 10
 10 - 14
 15 - 19
 20 - 24
 25 +

U.S. = 11.8

SNAPSHOT Young Producers, 2017

Number = 321,261*

	Young (percent)	All U.S.
Sex		
Male	64	64
Female	36	36
Years farming		
10 or less	80	27
11 or more	20	73
Lived on their farm	67	74
Worked off farm		
No days	21	39
1 to 199 days	27	21
200+ days	52	40
Primary occupation		
Farming	35	42
Other	65	58
Race		
American Ind/Alaska Native	1.9	1.7
Asian	0.6	0.6
Black/African American	0.7	1.3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Isl	0.1	0.1
White	95.6	95.5
More than one race	1.1	0.8
Hispanic	4	3
With military service	2	11
Average age (years)	29.4	57.5

*Data collected for up to four producers per farm.

About the Census

The Census of Agriculture, conducted once every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Results from the 2017 and earlier censuses are available at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, the new Census Data Query Tool, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products, including profiles by race, ethnicity, and sex.

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

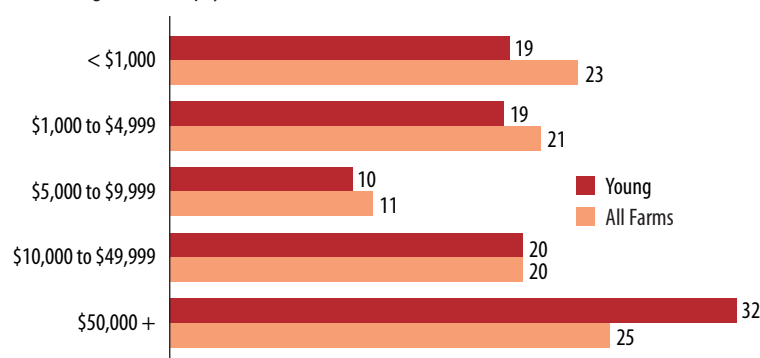
Producer Characteristics

Young producers are much more likely to be a beginning farmer (80% of young producers had farmed 10 years or fewer, compared with 27% of all producers). Young producers are more likely to work off the farm – more than half report working off the farm 200 days per year or more, and are less likely to report farming is their primary occupation (35% compared to 42% of all U.S. producers). In terms of gender, ethnicity, and race, young farmer demographics are very similar to those of all U.S. producers.

Farm Characteristics

Young producer-operated farms sold \$66 billion in agricultural production in 2017, with 46% (\$30 billion) in crop sales and 54% (\$36 billion) in the sales of livestock, poultry, and livestock and poultry products. These farms accounted for 17% of total U.S. agriculture sales. They received \$1 billion in government payments.

Young Producer-Operated and U.S. Farms by Economic Class, 2017 (percent)
(sales and government payments combined)



Thirty-two percent of young producer-operated farms had sales and government payments of more than \$50,000 per year compared to 25% of farms overall. Just under half (48%) of young producer-operated farms had sales and government payments of less than \$10,000 in 2017 compared to 55% of all farms.

No. of Producers on Farm	Young Producer-Operated Farms (percent of total)	All U.S.
One	23	46
Two	45	46
Three	19	5
Four	9	2
Five +	4	1

23

The percent of young producer-operated farms that have only one producer on the farm, versus 46% of all U.S. farms.

Farm Decision Making

The 2017 Census of Agriculture collected data for the first time on producer decisions. Young producers were most involved in day-to-day decisions and land use/crop decisions.

Types of Decisions Made, Young and All U.S. (percent)

