



Hispanic Farmers

ACH12-11/September 2014

Up 21 percent since 2007; were 3 percent of U.S. farmers in 2012.

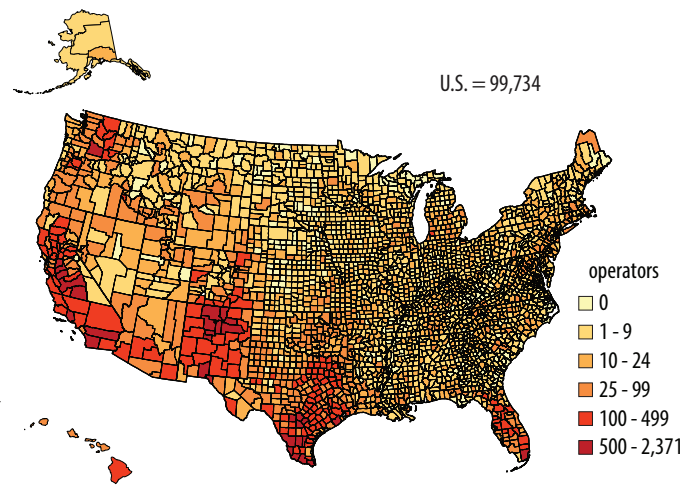
67,000 farms ...

... sold \$8.6 billion in agricultural products and operated 21 million acres of farmland.

In 2012, the number of Hispanic farmers in the United States was 99,734. This was a 21 percent increase since 2007, when the last agriculture census was conducted. Hispanic farmers are primarily in southern and western states.

Seventy-six percent lived in six states in 2012: Texas, California, New Mexico, Florida, Colorado, and Washington. Miami-Dade County, Florida, had more Hispanic farmers than any other county.

Hispanic Farm Operators, by County, 2012



Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

About the Numbers

This *Highlights* document includes data for operators reporting their ethnicity as "Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin." Hispanic-origin operators can be of any race, but 94 percent reported their race as white. For more information on Hispanic farmers, see <http://bit.ly/REGprofiles>.

*Statistically significant change. See <http://bit.ly/AgCensusFAQs>.

Principal Operators

Of total Hispanic farmers, 67,000 were principal operators, that is, the person in charge of the farm's day-to-day operations. Farms with Hispanic principal operators increased 21 percent between 2007 and 2012. In contrast, principal operators of all farms declined 4 percent. (Table 1)

Table 1
Hispanic Farm Operators, 2007 and 2012

	2007	2012	% change
Hispanic farm operators	82,462	99,734	+21%*
Total farm operators	3.3 million	3.2 million	-3%
Hispanics as % of total	2.5%	3.1%	
Hispanic principal operators	55,570	67,000	+21%*
Total principal operators	2.2 million	2.1 million	-4%*
Hispanics as % of total	2.5%	3.2%	

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

The share of farmers of Hispanic origin is higher than the U.S. average of 3 percent in nine states: New Mexico (36%), California (12%), Texas (9%), Florida (9%), Colorado (6%), Hawaii (5%), Washington (5%), Nevada (4%), and Arizona (4%).

With an average age of 57.1 years in 2012, Hispanic operators were slightly younger than operators overall. They had less Internet access than farmers overall, and were more likely to work some days in off-farm employment. A larger share of Hispanic than total principal operators were on their current farm less than ten years. (Table 2)

Table 2
Hispanic Principal Operators, 2007 and 2012

	Hispanic Principal Operators		All Principal Operators, 2012
	2007	2012	
	(percent)		
Age			
< 35 years	5	5	6
35 to 64 years	68	65	61
65 years+	27	30	33
Gender			
Male / Female	88 / 12	88 / 12	86 / 14
Primary occupation			
Farming / Other	45 / 55	47 / 53	48 / 52
Worked off farm			
Yes/No	73 / 27	68 / 32	61 / 39
Years on present farm			
0 - 4	12	16	8
5 - 9	20	22	14
10 +	68	62	78
Internet access			
Yes / No	44 / 56	61 / 39	70 / 30
Average age (years)	56.0	57.1	58.3

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Farm Size and Sales

Hispanic principal operators sold \$8.6 billion in agricultural products in 2012, including \$5.4 billion in crop sales and \$3.2 billion in livestock sales. They operated 21.0 million acres of farmland. Hispanic sales represented 2.2 percent of total U.S. agriculture sales, and Hispanic-operated farmland accounted for 2.3 percent of U.S. farmland.

Farms with Hispanic operators tend to be slightly smaller than farms overall, with fewer acres and lower sales. Eighty

percent of farms with a Hispanic principal operators had fewer than 180 acres, and 68 percent had sales of less than \$10,000 in 2012. (Table 3)

Table 3
Farms with Hispanic Principal Operator, by Farm Size and Sales, 2012 (percent)

	Hispanic-operated Farm	All Farms
Farm Size		
< 50 acres	58	39
50 to 179 acres	22	30
180 to 999 acres	15	23
1,000 acres or more	5	8
Total	100	100
Farm Sales		
< \$10,000	68	56
\$10,000 to \$49,999	17	19
\$50,000 to \$249,999	9	13
\$250,000 to \$999,999	4	8
\$1,000,000 or more	2	4
Total	100	100

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Top Commodities

More than one third (36 percent) of farms with a Hispanic principal operator specialized in beef cattle in 2012. The second largest category was primarily farms with no single majority crop, followed by fruits and tree nuts. (Table 4)

Table 4
Top Farms by Commodity Specialization^a, 2012 (Hispanic principal operator)

	No. of Farms	% of Farms
Beef cattle	24,213	36
Combination crops ^b	11,680	17
Fruits and tree nuts	9,477	14
Combination animals ^b	7,904	12
Sheep and goats	3,907	6

^aMore than half of a farm's sales come from that commodity.

^bFarms with no single majority commodity and farms specializing in miscellaneous commodities.

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

To learn more about Hispanic farms and farmers, the 2012 Census of Agriculture, and how to access national, state, and county data, go to:

www.agcensus.usda.gov