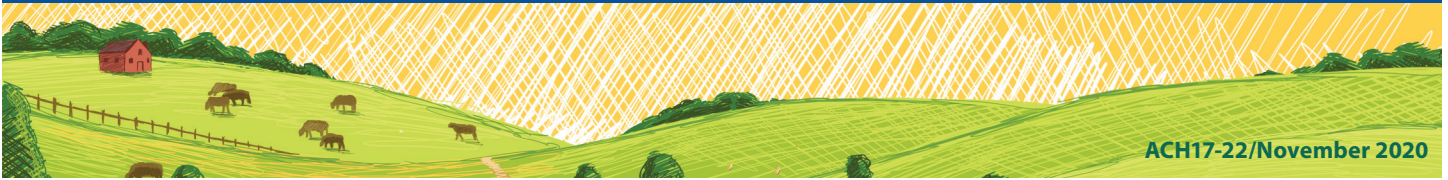


Producers with Military Service

More than 1 in 10 producers has served or is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces



ACH17-22/November 2020

In 2017, the United States had 370,619 producers who have served or are serving in the military, accounting for 11% of the country's 3.4 million producers. By comparison, individuals with military service make up 6.9% of the overall U.S. population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey. Seventeen percent of all farms have a producer who has served or is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. On average, farmers with military service are older than U.S. farmers. Farms with a producer with military service are smaller than average, in terms of both acres and sales.

370,619
producers



129,144,965
acres



\$41 billion
agriculture sales



Number and Location

The 2017 Census of Agriculture collected demographic data differently from previous censuses 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. For the first time, the 2017 Census of Agriculture also collected data on producers who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

As a result of the new approach to counting producers, the total number of U.S. producers increased 7% between 2012 and 2017.

No. of Producers on Farm	With Military Service	All U.S.
	(% of farms)	
One	38	46
Two	50	46
Three or Four	10	7
Five +	2	1

Most producers with military service operate farms that have more than one producer.

Producers with Military Service Compared with All Producers

	With Military Service	All U.S.
Producers		
Number	370,619	3,339,834
Farms		
Number	355,393	2,042,220
Average farm size (acres)	363	441
Average total value of agricultural production	\$114,876	\$190,245

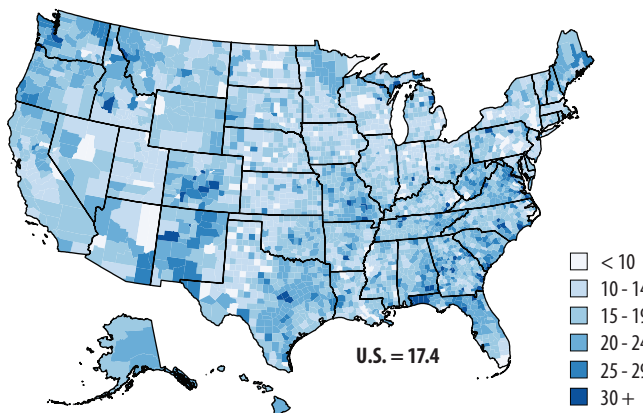
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The percent of U.S. producers with military service. Seventeen percent of all farms have a producer who has served or is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Top States: Producers with Military Service, 2017 (as percent of total state producers)

South Carolina	14
Alaska	14
West Virginia	14
Florida	14
New Mexico	13
Virginia	13
Georgia	13
Hawaii	13
Washington	13
Texas	13
Alabama	13
Tennessee	13

Farms Operated by Producers with Military Service as Percent of All Farms, by County, 2017



< 10
 10 - 14
 15 - 19
 20 - 24
 25 - 29
 30 +

The share of farms with producers who have served or are serving in the military is highest in the Southeast.

SNAPSHOT

Producers with Military Service, 2017

Number = 370,619*

	Military (percent)	All U.S.
Sex		
Male	95	64
Female	5	36
Age		
<35	2	8
35 - 64	28	58
65+	70	34
Years farming		
10 or less	19	27
11 or more	81	73
Primary occupation		
Farming	52	42
Other	48	58
Hispanic	3.2	3.3
Race		
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.6	1.7
Asian	0.3	0.6
Black/African American	2.4	1.3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Isl	0.1	0.1
White	94.7	95.5
More than one race	0.9	0.8
Average age (years)	67.9	57.5

*Data collected for up to four producers per farm.

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The percent of farms operated by producers with military service with internet access.

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, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products, including profiles by race, ethnicity, and sex.

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

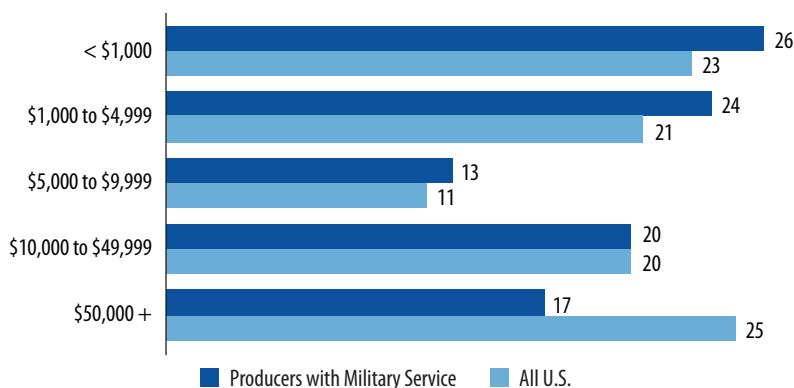
Producer Characteristics

In 2017, 70% of producers with military service were 65 years of age or older. The average age of a producer with military service is 67.9, versus 57.5 for U.S. producers overall. In terms of ethnicity and race, producers with military service are very similar to all U.S. producers, with a few exceptions. For example, while 11% of all U.S. producers have served or are serving in the military, that share is higher among Black producers (20%), producers reporting more than one race (14%), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders (13%).

Farm Characteristics

Farms operated by producers with military service sold \$41 billion in agricultural products in 2017, with 53% (\$22 billion) in crop sales and 47% (\$19 billion) in sales of livestock and livestock products. These farms accounted for 11% of total U.S. agriculture sales. They received \$1.1 billion in government payments in 2017.

Farms Operated by Producers with Military Service and U.S. by Economic Class, 2017 (percent) (sales and government payments combined)



Farms and Land

Farms operated by producers with military service accounted for more than 129 million acres of farmland. The majority of these farms (74%) were less than 180 acres in size.

Farm Size in Acres	Producers with Military Service (percent of total)	All U.S.
1 to 9	13	13
10 to 49	31	29
50 to 179	30	28
180 to 499	15	15
500 +	11	15

Seventy-eight percent of farms operated by a producer with military service were operated by farmers who own all the land they farm, while 4% were operated by farmers who rent all the land. The other 18% of farms owned some of the land they operate, and rent additional land.

Farm Specialization^a

One-third (34%) of farms operated by producers with military service specialized in production of cattle and dairy, followed by farms specializing in other crops (26%).

	% of Farms
Oilseeds and grains	12
Specialty crops	9
Vegetables and melons	2
Fruit and tree nuts	5
Greenhouse, nursery, floriculture	2
Other crops	26
Cattle and dairy	34
Hogs and pigs	1
Poultry and eggs	2
Sheep and goats	4
Other animals	12

^a Refers to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). More than half of a farm's sales come from the commodity.