On-Farm Renewable Energy

The 2012 Census of Agriculture lets us know where and what types of renewable energy systems farmers are using. Census data help inform environmentally-conscious policy decisions and promote energy efficiency nationwide.

Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture, May 2014

www.agcensus.usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

The total number of U.S. farms with renewable energy producing systems in 2012. Up 144% from 2007.

8 OUT OF 10
The number of principal farm operators producing on-farm renewable energy in 2012 who are a part of the baby boomer generation.

57,299
The total number of U.S. farms with renewable energy producing systems in 2012. Up 144% from 2007.

82 PERCENT
The percent of farms producing on-farm renewable energy in 2012 that are family or individual farms.

10,181
The number of farmers and ranchers who leased wind rights on the land they owned to others for energy production in 2012.

66 PERCENT
The percent of operators using a renewable energy producing system on their farm in 2012 who are full owners of their land.

85 PERCENT
The percent of farms producing on-farm renewable energy in 2012 that are small farms.


- HAWAI'I: 18%
- ALASKA: 9%
- VERMONT: 9%
- CALIFORNIA: 8%
- WYOMING: 8%

Top 5 Types of On-Farm Renewable Energy Producing Systems by Number of Farms, 2012

- SOLAR PANEL: 36,331
- GEOEXCHANGE: 9,403
- WIND: 9,054
- BIODIESEL: 4,099
- ETHANOL: 2,364

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