



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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## Most of the U.S. Rented Farmland is Owned by Non-Farmers

**(Washington, D.C., March 12, 2026)** – Over 2.0 million landowners rented out 348 million acres of farmland, according to the results of the 2024 Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land (TOTAL) survey results released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Of these acres, 79% are owned by non-farming landlords.

Non-operating landlords include entities who rent out agricultural land under a variety of ownership arrangements (privately owned, trust, family entity, non-family entity, or other). Of the land rented out by non-operating landlords, over 251 million acres were rented out by private landowners, trusts, or family entities.

According to the survey results, rented farmland acres, combined with buildings on this land, are valued at more than \$1.6 trillion. In 2024, landlords combined received \$34.1 billion in rental income while incurring \$12.0 billion in total operating expenses.

“About 5% of the nearly 900 million U.S. farmland acres, or about 43 million acres, is slated for ownership transfer in the next five years, not including farmland that is in or is expected to be put into wills or trusts,” said Joseph L. Parsons, NASS Administrator.

Only 23 million acres of land are expected to be sold to a non-relative, while 20 million acres are expected to be sold to a relative or given as a gift. This means that only a small percentage of farmland will be available for purchase.

TOTAL also provides a glimpse into demographic information for 1.8 million non-farming entities, also known as principal landlords. According to the findings, the average age of these landlords is 69.2 years old. This age exceeds that of the average farmer, who is 58.1 years old, according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture. Only 12% of all principal landlords were under 55 years old. Nearly 52% of all the principal landlords have never farmed.

“As the only source of detailed information on agricultural land ownership characteristics and economic data, TOTAL provides important statistics to government, academia, the farming industry, and others regarding agricultural land ownership for planning, policymaking, research, and market analysis,” said Parsons.

To access the complete 2024 TOTAL results, in addition to key data highlights, methodology, and Frequently Asked Questions, visit [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide\\_to\\_NASS\\_Surveys/TOTAL](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/TOTAL) or the Quick Stats database at <http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>.

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NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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