



Puerto Rico Agriculture

ACH12-28/September 2015

Results from the 2012 Census of Agriculture

13,159 farms...

... sold \$547.6 million in agricultural products in 2012.

Top Commodities (\$ millions)

Milk and other dairy	189.4
Plantains	80.5
Vegetables and melons	47.1
Poultry and eggs	40.4
Nursery and greenhouse	37.5

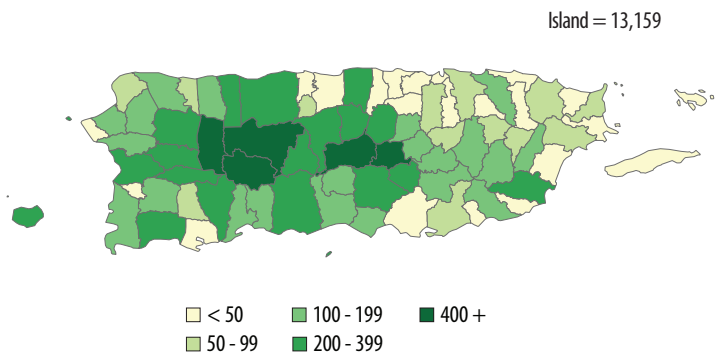
Top Municipios (\$ millions)

Arecibo	44.8
Hatillo	42.3
Santa Isabel	36.2
Camuy	29.1
Yabucoa	26.6

Puerto Rico had 13,159 farms in 2012, occupying a total of 584,988 cuerdas. This was a 16 percent decrease in the number of farms, and a 5 percent increase in farmland, since 2007. During the same time, sales of agricultural products increased 6 percent. The concentration of farms was higher on the western side of the island than the eastern, and five municipios had 400 or more farms in 2012 (Fig.1).

These are among the many findings in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years and scheduled again for 2017, the census collects data on the number of farms, commodities produced, level of sales, production practices, producer demographics, and much more.

Fig. 1
Number of Farms, by Municipio, 2012



Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture: Puerto Rico, Island and Municipio Data.

Farmland

Eighty-three percent of farms in Puerto Rico had fewer than 50 cuerdas in land in 2012, including 39 percent that had fewer than 10 cuerdas. Seventeen percent of farms had 50 or more cuerdas. (Table 1) Cropland accounted for 74 percent of farmland, of which more than half was used for pasture or grazing. The remaining 26 percent of farmland was used for pasture and rangeland, woodland, house lots, buildings, ponds, roads, and wasteland.

Table 1
Farms by Size, 2012

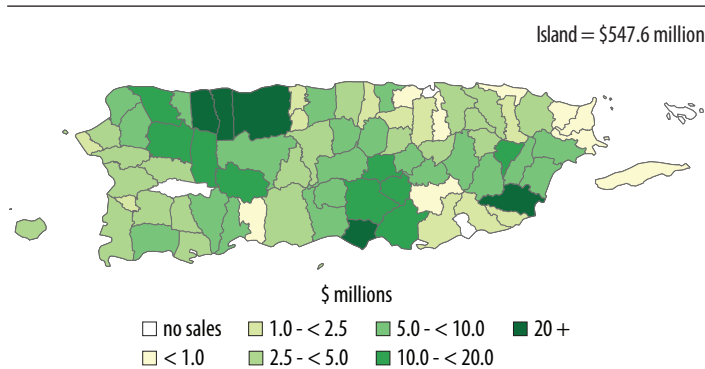
Farm Size (cuerdas)	Share of Farms	
	number	percent
< 10	5,129	39
10 – 19	2,859	22
20 – 49	2,872	22
50 – 99	940	7
100 – 174	563	4
175 – 259	401	3
260 +	395	3
Total	13,159	100

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture: Puerto Rico, Island and Municipio Data.

Farm Sales

Puerto Rico's total agricultural sales in 2012 amounted to \$547.6 million, up from \$515.7 million in 2007 but lower than the value of sales in 2002 (\$581.5 million). The municipio of Arecibo had the highest level of agricultural sales, valued at \$44.8 million. Five municipios had agricultural sales of more than \$20 million in 2012. (Fig. 2)

Fig. 2
Agriculture Sales, by Municipio, 2012



Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture: Puerto Rico, Island and Municipio Data.

Per farm average sales in 2012 were \$41,616 (compared with \$32,752 in 2007). But only 13 percent of farms had agricultural product sales of \$40,000 or more. More than half of farms (53 percent) had sales of less than \$5,000, including 23 percent of farms that sold less than \$1,000 in agricultural products for the year. (Table 2)

Table 2
Farms by Sales, 2012

Farm Sales	Share of Farms	
	number	percent
< \$1,000	2,973	23
\$1,000 - \$2,499	2,015	15
\$2,500 - \$4,999	1,986	15
\$5,000 - \$9,999	1,980	15
\$10,000 - \$39,999	2,489	19
\$40,000 +	1,716	13
Total	13,159	100

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture: Puerto Rico, Island and Municipio Data.

Producer Characteristics

The census collected demographic information on each farm's principal operator, defined as the person responsible for the day-to-day operation of the farm.

Of the 13,159 principal operators, 92 percent were male, 58 percent considered something other than farming to be their primary occupation, and more than half (57 percent) had received a high school diploma, GED certificate, or higher. Principal operators' average age was 59 years, and for 58 percent of farmers, farming contributed less than 25 percent of their total income. (Table 3)

Table 3
Puerto Rican Farmers: Key Characteristics, 2012
(principal operators)

	number	percent
Gender		
Male	12,066	92
Female	1,093	8
Age		
Under 35 years	507	4
35 to 64 years	7,917	60
65 years or older	4,735	36
Primary Occupation		
Agriculture	5,463	42
Other than agriculture	7,696	58
Percent of Income from Farming		
< 25%	7,591	58
25% to 49%	1,984	15
50% to 74%	1,379	10
> 75%	2,205	17
Highest School Year Completed		
None	272	2
Elementary school	2,537	19
Secondary school	2,923	22
High school diploma or GED	2,643	20
Some college	1,959	15
Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D.	2,825	22
Average Age (59 years)		

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture: Puerto Rico, Island and Municipio Data.

To learn more about farms and farmers in Puerto Rico, the 2012 Puerto Rico Census of Agriculture, and how to access island and municipio data, go to:

www.agcensus.usda.gov