

# Young Producers

Nearly 1 in 10 U.S. producers are ages 34 or younger



ACH22-5/April 2024

In 2022, the United States had 296,480 young producers (those under the age of 35), accounting for 9% of the country's 3.37 million producers. Eighty-one percent of young producers started farming in the last 10 years, and 64% reported having a primary occupation other than farming. Young producer-operated farms accounted for 15% of U.S. agriculture sales and 12% of U.S. farmland.

296,480  
producers



105 million  
acres



\$80 billion  
agriculture sales



## Number and Location

In 2022, the ag census counted 3.4 million producers involved in decision making on the 1.9 million farms and ranches across the United States. Overall, the number of producers decreased 0.8% from the previous census. The number of producers under the age of 35 increased 3.9% from the previous census, compared to a 12% increase in producers 65 years of age or older, and a 9% decrease in producers 35-64 years of age.

The share of young producers was higher in the Northern states. States with the highest percentage of young producers as a share of total producers included Pennsylvania, Indiana, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, New York, and South Dakota.

Counties with the highest proportion of young producer-operated farms were largely in the Great Lakes, Northern Great Plains, and Northeast regions; counties with the lowest proportion were in the Mississippi Delta and Southeast regions.

### Number of Producers, By Age and All U.S.

	2017	2022	% change
<35	285,439	296,480	+3.9
35-64	1,960,353	1,783,571	-9
65+	1,154,042	1,293,993	+12.1
All U.S.	3,399,834	3,374,044	-0.8

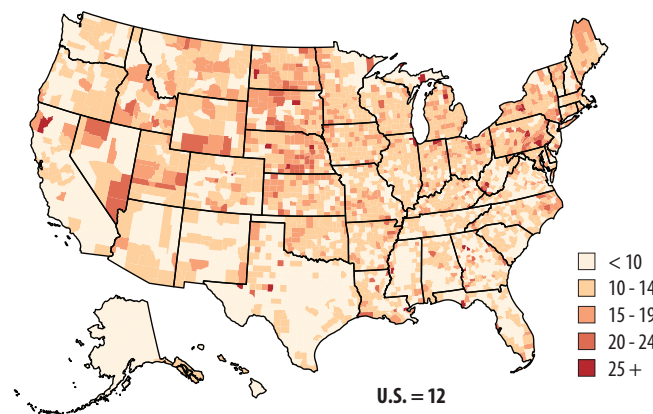
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The percent of Texas producers under the age of 35, representing 24,900 producers – the highest number of young producers in any state.

### Top States, Young Producers, 2022 (as % of total state producers)

Pennsylvania	12.7
Indiana	11.7
North Dakota	11.3
Nebraska	11.2
Ohio	11.1
New York	11.0
South Dakota	10.5
Michigan	10.4
Iowa	10.3
Connecticut	10.2

### Young Producer-Operated Farms as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2022



Two counties had more than 1,000 young producers: Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, (2,057 producers) and LaGrange County, Indiana (1,294 producers).

## SNAPSHOT Young Producers, 2022

Number = 296,480

	Young (percent)	All U.S.
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	64	64
Female	36	36
<b>Years farming</b>		
10 or less	81	30
11 or more	19	70
<b>Lived on their farm</b>	64	70
<b>Worked off farm</b>		
No days	21	38
1 to 199 days	28	22
200+ days	52	40
<b>Primary occupation</b>		
Farming	36	42
Other	64	58
<b>Race</b>		
American Ind/Alaska Native	1.9	1.7
Asian	0.7	0.7
Black/African American	0.9	1.2
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Isl	0.1	0.1
White	94.9	95.4
More than one race	1.5	0.9
<b>Hispanic</b>	4.0	3.3
<b>With military service</b>	2	9
<b>Average age (years)</b>	28.6	58.1

## 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 2022 ag Census, as well as previous censuses, are available online at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products.

[www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus)

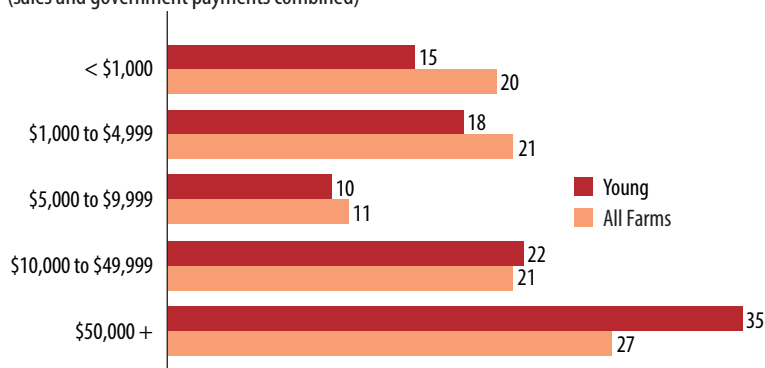
## Producer Characteristics

Young producers were much more likely to be a beginning farmer (81% of young producers had farmed 10 years or fewer, compared with 30% of all producers). Young producers were also more likely to work off the farm. Half of young farmers reported working off the farm 200 days or more per year and were less likely to report farming as their primary occupation (36% compared to 42% of all U.S. producers). In terms of gender, ethnicity, and race, young farmer demographics were similar to those of all U.S. producers.

## Farm Characteristics

Young producer-operated farms sold \$80 billion in agricultural products in 2022, with 49% (\$39 billion) in crop sales and 51% (\$41 billion) in the sales of livestock, poultry, and livestock and poultry products. These farms accounted for 15% of total U.S. agriculture sales. They received \$1.3 billion in government payments in 2022.

**Young Producer-Operated and U.S. Farms by Economic Class, 2022** (percent)  
(sales and government payments combined)



Thirty-five percent of young producer-operated farms had sales and government payments of more than \$50,000 per year compared to 27% of all U.S. farms. Forty-three percent of young producer-operated farms had sales and government payments of less than \$10,000 in 2022 compared to 52% of all farms.

No. of Producers on Farm	Young Producer-Operated Farms	All U.S.
	(percent of total)	
One	17	40
Two	41	47
Three	22	7
Four	13	4
Five +	6	2

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The percent of young producer-operated farms that had only one producer on the farm, versus 40% of all U.S. farms.

## Farm Decision Making

The 2022 Census of Agriculture collected data on producer decision making. Young producers were most involved in day-to-day decisions and land use/crop decisions. Young producers were also more likely to make decisions regarding livestock and marketing compared to all U.S. producers.

**Types of Decisions Made, Young and All U.S.** (percent)

