



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Releases 2022 Census of Agriculture Data Down to the County Level

Palmer, Alaska – February 13, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) today announced the results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, spanning more than 6 million data points about America’s farms and ranches and the people who operate them down to the county level. The information collected directly from producers shows a continued rise in the total number of Alaska farms. The full Census of Agriculture report as well as publication dates for additional ag census data products can be found at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. Ag census data can also be found in NASS’s searchable online database, Quick Stats.

“We are pleased to provide updated Census of Agriculture data to all those who serve U.S. agriculture, especially the producers who gave their time to complete the questionnaire. Census of Agriculture data tell a story. This comprehensive snapshot every five years helps data users to see trends and shifts in the industry over time and helps producers do business,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “Overall, though there are always changes across U.S. agriculture, the data remain largely consistent with the previous ag census. Data users will also notice some new data on the topics of hemp, precision agriculture, and internet access.”

Ag census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land use and activities on Alaska farms and ranches such as:

- There were 1,173 farms and ranches in Alaska (up 18% from 2017) with an average size of 742 acres (down 14%) on 869,852 acres of farmland (up 2%). That is less than one percent of all land in Alaska.
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 93% of all Alaska farms and operated 70% of land in farms.
- Alaska farms and ranches produced \$90.9 million in agricultural products, up from \$70.5 million in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$84.7 million, Alaska farms had net cash income of \$12.5 million. Average farm income fell to \$10,681. A total of 38% of Alaska farms had positive net cash farm income in 2022.
- Alaska farms with internet access continued to rise from 88% in 2017 to 89% in 2022.
- A total of 201 Alaska farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 169 farms in 2017, a 19% increase. Of the Alaska farms with renewable energy systems, 92% reported using solar panels.
- In 2022, 220 Alaska farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$3.32 million. Value of sales decreased 25% from 2017.
- The 17 farms with sales of \$1 million or more were 1% of Alaska farms. They sold 53% of all agricultural products in Alaska.
- The average age of all Alaska producers was 56.7, up 1.5 years from 2017.

- There were 791 Alaska farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, a slight increase in the number of beginning farmers from 2017. Beginning farmers in Alaska are younger than all farmers, with an average age of 48.5.
- The number of Alaska producers under age 35 was 140, comprising 7% of all Alaska producers. The 100 Alaska farms with young producers making decisions tend to be smaller than average in acres and larger than average in sales.
- In 2022, 974 female producers accounted for 48% of all Alaska producers. Seventy-four percent of all Alaska farms had at least one female decision maker.

The national response rate for the 2022 Census of Agriculture was 61%; more than 40% of responses were submitted online. To address questions about the 2022 Census of Agriculture data, NASS will host a live X Stat Chat ([@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass)) for the public on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. EST. Ag census data highlight publications are available at nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights.

First conducted in 1840 in conjunction with the decennial Census and conducted since 1997 by USDA NASS – the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture – the Census of Agriculture remains the most comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation.

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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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