



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA releases 2022 Census of Agriculture data down to the county level

Little Rock, AR – 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 fall in the total number of Arkansas farms. However, the data also show a rise in the number of new and beginning farmers (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) as well as young (under the age of 35) producers in Arkansas. 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 Arkansas farms and ranches such as:

- There were 38 thousand farms and ranches in Arkansas (down 11% from 2017) with an average size of 363 acres (up 11%) on 13.7 million acres of farmland (down 1%). That is 1.6% of all U.S. land.
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 86% of all Arkansas farms and operated 58% of land in farms.
- Arkansas farms and ranches produced \$13.9 billion in agricultural products, up from the \$9.7 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$9.4 billion, Arkansas farms had net cash income of \$4.9 billion. Average farm income rose to \$129,966. A total of 42% of Arkansas farms had positive net cash farm income in 2022.
- Arkansas farms with internet access rose from 74% in 2017 to 82% in 2022.
- A total of 1,438 Arkansas farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 840 farms in 2017, a 71% increase. The majority of Arkansas farms (83%) with renewable energy systems reported using solar panels.
- In 2022, 1,436 Arkansas farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$8.5 million. Value of food sold directly to consumers decreased 7% from 2017.

- The 3,799 farms with sales of \$1 million or more were 10% of Arkansas farms and 45% of farmland; they sold more than \$12 billion of all agricultural products in Arkansas. The 29,226 Arkansas farms with sales of \$50,000 or less accounted for 77% of farms and 30% of farmland.
- Nearly 32% of farmland in Arkansas was used by farms specializing in two commodity categories: rice (8%) and soybeans (24%).
- The average age of all Arkansas producers was 57.6, up 0.6 years from 2017. This is a smaller increase than the age increase between prior censuses.
- There were 21,825 Arkansas farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, a 5% increase from the number of beginning farmers in 2017. Beginning farmers in Arkansas are younger than all farmers, with an average age of 47.0.
- The number of Arkansas producers under age 35 was 6,180, comprising 9% of all Arkansas producers. The 4,483 Arkansas farms with young producers making decisions tend to be larger than average in both acres and sales.
- In 2022, 26,280 female producers accounted for 39% of all Arkansas producers. 36% of all Arkansas farms had at least one female decision maker.

To address questions about the 2022 Census of Agriculture data, NASS will host a live X Stat Chat ([@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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