



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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2017 CENSUS DATA CAPTURES CHANGES ACROSS THE STATE *Land in farms up 0.6% while the number of farms dropped by 5.4%*

Little Rock, AR – Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the final 2017 Census of Agriculture results sharing a wide-range of information about agriculture across the United States in 2017. The full report includes millions of data points, including number of farms, land in farms, total value of production, demographics, and more at the national, state, and county levels.

“For the first time, the Census report will also include information on military service, food marketing practices and on-farm decisions making”, said Eugene Young, Delta Regional Office Director. “Being able to capture the roles and changing makeup of the farming community will help guide decisions about ag education, farm programs, rural development and much more over the next several years.” Much of the data about the state and counties are only collected and reported as part of the every-five-year census.

Mr. Young pointed out a few key highlights identified in the 2017 Census of Agriculture data for Arkansas.

- Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold – \$9,651,160,000
- Land in Farms (acres) – 13,888,929
- Number of Farms – 42,625
 - *While the total number of acres increased slightly from 2012, Arkansas saw a decrease in the number of farms of 5.43% or 2,446 less farms than in 2012.*
- Average size of Farm (acres) – 326
- Average Age of primary producers – 58.8 years

These data and much more can be found the Census report. The report, along with a number of related publications, video presentations, and searchable data query interfaces, are available on the NASS website at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/>.

“We thank each and every producer who took the time to respond to the Census,” said Young. “The Census of Agriculture is an important part of U.S. history that remains as relevant today as it was in 1840 when it was first conducted. The Census gives voice and opportunity to all farmers and ranchers in America to tell the changing story of agriculture over the years and identify emerging trends and needs.”

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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.