



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
DELAWARE FIELD OFFICE
2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, DE 19901



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 11, 2019

Contact: Dale Hawks
(302) 698-4537

2017 Census of Agriculture data now available

DOVER, DE --- April 11, 2019 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Delaware office today announced the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture with new information about 2,302 Delaware farms and ranches and those who operate them, including first-time data about on-farm decision making, down to the county level according to Dale P. Hawks, Maryland/Delaware State Statistician.

“The Census shows new data that can be compared to previous censuses for insights into agricultural trends and changes down to the county level,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “We are pleased to share first-time data on topics such as military status and on-farm decision making. To make it easier to delve into the data, we are pleased to make the results available in many online formats including a [new data query interface](#), as well as traditional data tables.”

Census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land and activities on U.S. farms and ranches. Some key state highlights include:

- The average age of all producers was 57.4 years of age.
- The number of female producers increased by nearly 12 percent from 2012.
- The per farm average net income increased from \$130,842 in 2012 to \$277,316 in 2017.

For the 2017 Census of Agriculture, NASS changed the demographic questions to better represent the roles of all persons involved in on-farm decision making. As a result, in 2017 the number of all producers in Delaware was 3,907 up from 3,789 number of all producers in 2012.

Other demographic highlights include:

- New and beginning producers with 10 years or less of farming comprised of 851 producers.
- Producers with military service was published for the first time with 390 producers represented.

Results are available in many online formats including [video presentations](#), [a new data query interface](#), maps, and traditional data tables. To address questions about the 2017 Census of Agriculture data, @USDA_NASS will host a live Twitter “Ask the Census Experts” #StatChat on Friday, April 12 at 1 p.m. ET. All Census of Agriculture information is available at www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus.

The Census tells the story of American agriculture and is an important part of our history. First conducted in 1840 in conjunction with the decennial Census, the Census of Agriculture accounts for all U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. After 1920, the Census happened every four to five years. By 1982, it was regularly conducted once every five years. Today, NASS sends questionnaires to nearly 3 million potential U.S. farms and ranches. Nearly 25 percent of those who responded did so online. Conducted since 1997 by USDA NASS – the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture – it remains the only source of comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation and is invaluable for planning the future.

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