



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE - HAWAII**

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## **Hawaii's Number of Farms and Land in Farms Increased 2017 Census of Agriculture data now available**

SACRAMENTO – April 11, 2019 – Hawaii's number of farms increased to 7,328 in 2017, up 5 percent from 2012 according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Pacific Region Office. NASS announced the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture with new information about U.S. farms and ranches and those who operate them, including first-time data about on-farm decision making, down to the county level.

"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 Pacific Region Director Gary R. Keough. "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 made the results available in many online formats including a new data query interface, as well as traditional data tables."

The 2017 Census of Agriculture data show the following key trends for Hawaii:

- Total land in farms increased for the state of Hawaii from 1.129 million acres to 1.135 million acres.
- Market value of agricultural products totaled \$563.8 million, down 15 percent primarily due to reduced crop sales.
- Average sales per farm increased in Hawaii and Honolulu counties, but decreased in Kauai and Maui. Honolulu County leads with an averages sales total of \$163 thousand per farm, followed by Kauai County, then Hawaii and Maui.
- The Aloha State leads the U.S. in Macadamia Nut, Papaya, Passion Fruit and Taro, Bananas, Coffee, Pineapple and Ginger Root acreage.
- The average age of the Hawaii farmer is 60.1, up from 58.7 in 2012.
- Military veterans account for 13 percent of Hawaii farmers.

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 7 a.m. HST/1 p.m. ET. All Census of Agriculture information is available at [www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://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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