



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HAWAII FIELD OFFICE

300 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 7-118, Honolulu, HI 96850



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shawn Clark
(808) 522-8080

Family-owned farms account for 93% of Hawaii farms, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture Typology Report

Small family farms make up 91% of all Hawaii farms

HONOLULU, HI, Feb. 8, 2021 – Family farms comprise 93% of all Hawaii farms, account for 55% of land in farms, and 52% of the value of all agricultural products sold and government payments. This compares to 96% of all U.S. family farms, account for 87% of land in farms, and 82% of the value of all agricultural products sold, according to the [2017 Census of Agriculture Farm Typology report](#) released on January 22, 2021 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The farm typology report primarily focuses on the “family farm,” defined as any farm where the majority of the business is owned by the producer and individuals related to the producer. The report classifies all farms into unique categories based on two criteria: who owns the operation and gross cash farm income (GCFI). GCFI includes the producer's sales of crops and livestock, fees for delivering commodities under production contracts, government payments, and farm-related income.

“Classifying Hawaii's 7,300 farms to better reflect their diversity is critical to evaluating and reporting on state's agriculture,” said NASS Hawaii State Statistician Shawn Clark. “Typology allows us to more meaningfully explore the demographics of who is farming and ranching today as well as their impact on the economy and communities around the country.”

The data show that small family farms, those farms with a GCFI of less than \$350,000 per year, account for 91% of all Hawaii farms and 34% of total land in farms. Large-scale family farms (GCFI of \$1 million or more) make up less than 1% of all Hawaii farms. Mid-size farms (GCFI between \$350,000 and \$999,999) account for 1.5% of Hawaii farms and 10% of the value of all agricultural products and government payments.

The data also show that the number of family farms increased by 3% (187 farms) since 2012. The number of large-scale family farms increased by 31% while mid-size family farms decreased by 2%. Small family farms experienced an increase of 3%.

Other key findings from the 2017 Census of Agriculture Farm Typology report include:

- Fruit and tree nut farms are comprised mostly (94%) of small family farms. Small family operations also account for 83% of vegetable, melon, potato, and sweet potato farms.
- Beef, sheep, and goat farms tend to be small family farms.
- Family farms account for 72% of all direct sales to consumers. Small family farms contributed 48% of all direct sales to consumers.

- Compared to producers on mid-size and large-scale family farms, small family farm producers are more likely to be women and producers age 65 or older. They are also more likely to be new and beginning farmers (farmed 10 years or less) and to report having military service.

Access the full farm typology report and additional information such as maps and data *Highlights* on the [NASS website](#). Typology data are also available in the NASS [Quick Stats database](#).

###

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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).