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In Cooperation with:

Kentucky Department of Agriculture
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Released: December 10, 2020

2019 Kentucky Census of Horticulture Results

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties report, the only source of detailed production and sales data for floriculture, nursery, and specialty crops for the entire United States. The data show that horticulture operations in Kentucky sold a total of \$48.1 million in floriculture, nursery and specialty crops in 2019, down 42% from the sales in 2014. The number of horticulture operations in Kentucky decreased 29% during this time to 337.

"First conducted in 1889, the horticulture census provides data on sectors for which there are no other comprehensive data sources," said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. "It is a valuable tool to highlight the contribution horticulture growers bring to our local, state, and national economies as well as changes in the industry over the past five years."

Highlights from the report include:

- Nursery stock: \$12.5 million, down 26%
- Annual bedding/garden plants: \$7.98 million, down 79%
- Sod, sprigs and plugs: \$15.2 million, up 169%
- Potted flowering plants: \$2.71 million, down 22%
- Potted herbaceous perennials: \$2.16 million, down 72%
- Food crops under protection: \$2.58 million, up 101%

Other key findings from the 2019 Census of Horticultural Specialties report include:

- Family- or individually-owned operations made up the largest number of operations, accounting for 60%, but corporately-owned operations accounted for 52% of total sales (\$24.9 million).
- Total industry expenses were down 18% since 2014, with labor being the largest cost, accounting for 37% of total expenses in 2019.

The Census of Horticultural Specialties is part of the larger Census of Agriculture program. It provides information on the number and types of establishments engaged in horticultural production, value of sales, varieties of products, production expenses and more. All operations that reported producing and selling \$10,000 or more of horticultural crops on the 2017 Census of Agriculture were included in this special study.