



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 decreased 4.7% while the number of farms dropped by 8.1%*

Jackson, MS – 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 decision making”, said Esmerelda Dickson, State Statistician of the NASS Mississippi Field Office. “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.

Ms. Dickson pointed out key highlights identified in the 2017 Census of Agriculture data for Mississippi.

- Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold – \$6,195,968,000
- Land in Farms (acres) – 10,415,316
- Number of Farms – 34,988
 - *While the total number of farms decreased, Mississippi saw an increase of 1.32% in farms with less than 9 acres as acres readjusted within farm size categories.*
- Average size of Farm (acres) – 298
- Average Age of producers – 58.9 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 Dickson. “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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