



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
NEW ENGLAND FIELD OFFICE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**2017 Census of Agriculture data now available**  
*Number of Female Producers up 8 percent in New England*  
*Organic Farms and Value of Sales up in New England*  
*Farms down 7 percent in New England*

**HARRISBURG, PA** --- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Northeastern Regional Field Office announced the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture with new information about 32,336 New England farms and ranches and those who operate them, including first-time data about on-farm decision making, down to the county level. The number of farms are down for New England by 7 percent from 2012 with most of the decrease being attributed to the farms of 10 to 179 acres being lost, according to King Whetstone, Northeastern Regional Field Office Director.

“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 New England highlights include:

- The number of female producers increased by 8 percent from 2012.
- The total value of production of all products is \$2.75 billion, a decrease of 3% from \$2.83 billion in 2012.
- Organic farm numbers increased by 2 percent from 2012.
- Value of sales is \$232 million for organic farming, up from \$144 million in 2012.

Other demographic highlights include:

- New and beginning producers with 10 years or less of farming comprised of 17,352 producers.
- Producers with military service was published for the first time with 5,558 producers represented.

Results are available in many online formats including [video presentations](#), [a new data query interface](#), maps, and traditional data tables.

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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