



# NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## 2017 Census New Jersey Highlights *New Jersey farms and farmers*

**TRENTON, NJ** – Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the 2017 Census of Agriculture results sharing a wide-range of information about what agricultural products were raised in the United States in 2017, and where, how and by whom they were grown. The data, which are reported at the national, state and county level, will help farmers, ranchers, local officials, agribusiness and others make decisions for the future.

“The 2017 Census of Agriculture provides a wide range of demographic, economic, land, and crop and livestock production,” said Bruce Eklund, New Jersey State Statistician. “Many of these data about New Jersey and her counties are only collected and reported as part of the every-five-year census.”

The 2017 Census of Agriculture data show many key trends and facts for New Jersey including:

- Farms totaling 9,883 farms, up from the 2012 count of 9,071 farms.
- Land in farms of just over 734,000 acres, up from just over 715,000 acres in 2012.
- Many examples of the innovation and productivity of New Jersey agricultural producers such as ranking fifth nationally in value of nursery stock sales at over \$240 million.

“While American agriculture is the world’s most productive, New Jersey’s farmers are among the most productive among America’s farmers. They are the best of the best,” said Eklund.

Results are available in many online formats All 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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