



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA releases 2022 Census of Agriculture data down to the county level

LAS CRUCES, NM – February 13, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) today announced the results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, spanning more than 6 million data points about America’s farms and ranches and the people who operate them down to the county level. The information collected directly from producers shows a continued decrease in the total number of New Mexico farms. The data also show a decrease in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) as well as young (under the age of 35) producers in New Mexico. The full Census of Agriculture report as well as publication dates for additional ag census data products can be found at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. Ag census data can also be found in NASS’s searchable online database, Quick Stats.

“We are pleased to provide updated Census of Agriculture data to all those who serve U.S. agriculture, especially the producers who gave their time to complete the questionnaire. Census of Agriculture data tell a story. This comprehensive snapshot every five years helps data users to see trends and shifts in the industry over time and helps producers do business,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “Overall, though there are always changes across U.S. agriculture, the data remain largely consistent with the previous ag census. Data users will also notice some new data on the topics of hemp, precision agriculture, and internet access.”

Ag census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land use and activities on New Mexico farms and ranches such as:

- There were 20,976 farms and ranches in New Mexico down 16.2% from 2017 on 39.1 million acres a decrease of 3.8%.
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 95% of all New Mexico farms, nearly the same as the 95% from the 2017 Census of Agriculture.
- New Mexico farms and ranches produced \$2.95 billion in agricultural products, up from \$2.6 billion in 2017. The majority (70%) of the sales were from livestock sales. The Livestock/Poultry and their Products category led with 69.6% of all sales, followed by Milk (45.1%) and Cattle (23%). Average farm income rose to \$31,357. With farm production expenses of \$2.54 billion, New Mexico farms had net cash income of \$658 million.
- Nearly 2 out of 3 New Mexico farms had internet access in 2022, a slight decrease from 69.9% in 2017. However, 78.7% of farms and ranches across the United States had internet access.
- A total of 2,729 New Mexico farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 2,587 farms in 2017. The majority of New Mexico farms (93%) with renewable energy systems reported using solar panels.
- In 2022, 1,142 New Mexico farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$10.6 million. Value of sales decreased 14% from 2017.

- The 354 farms with sales of \$1 million or more were 1.69% of New Mexico farms and represented 80.8% of sales. The 18,446 New Mexico farms with sales of \$50,000 or less accounted for 87.9% of sales in New Mexico.
- The average age of all New Mexico producers was 60.6. The average age in 2017 was 59.8 years. This is a smaller increase than average age increases between prior censuses.
- There were 9,826 New Mexico farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, a decrease in the number of beginning farmers from 2017 of 8.1%. Beginning farmers in New Mexico are younger than all farmers, with an average age of 49.4.
- The number of New Mexico producers under age 35 was 2,666 comprising 7.2% of all New Mexico producers.
- In 2022, 15,014 female producers accounted for 41% of all New Mexico producers. Sixty-four percent of all New Mexico farms had at least one female decision maker.

The national response rate for the 2022 Census of Agriculture was 61%; more than 40% of responses were submitted online. New Mexico's response rate was 54.5%; more than 40.9% of responses were submitted online. To address questions about the 2022 Census of Agriculture data, NASS will host a live X Stat Chat ([@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass)) for the public on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. EST. Ag census data highlight publications are available at nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights.

First conducted in 1840 in conjunction with the decennial Census and conducted since 1997 by USDA NASS – the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture – the Census of Agriculture remains the most comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation.

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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.

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