



PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Posted online April 11, 2019

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2017 CENSUS PROFILES NORTHWEST FARMERS AND AGRICULTURE

[Olympia, WA], April 11, 2019 – 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 what agricultural products were raised in the Northwest and the United States in 2017, and where, how and by whom they were grown. The data, which is reported at the national, state and county level, will help farmers, ranchers, local officials, agribusinesses 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 information as well as first-time or expanded data,” said Christopher Mertz, Northwest Regional Director. “Many of these data about Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska counties are only collected and reported as part of the every-five-year Census. Many people and organizations are looking forward to utilizing the information. We also wish to thank the producers that provided us with information, without their cooperation this wouldn’t be possible.”

Topics are as varied as:

- Marketing and distribution methods, value added products, organic production, and direct sales to consumers;
- Biomass and renewable energy production, conservation and other on-farm practices, and agroforestry;
- Internet access, value of production, income and expenses, years farming, and farm ownership
- New and beginning farmers, young farmers, and producer involvement in decision making

Results are available in many online formats including [video presentations](#), a [new data query interface](#), [maps](#), and [traditional data tables](#). All Census of Agriculture information is available at 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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