



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE  
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## **Pennsylvania has Highest Percentage of Young Producers in the Nation *Lancaster County, PA has most Young Producers in the Country***

**HARRISBURG, PA** --- In 2017, Pennsylvania had 12,598 producers who identified as a young producer (ages 35 or younger), accounting for 14% of the state's 90.5 thousand producers. This is the highest percentage of young producers as a share of total producers in the nation, according to King Whetstone, director of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Northeastern Regional Field Office.

The share of young producers is higher in the Northern states. Following Pennsylvania, states with the highest percentage of young producers as a share of total producers includes North Dakota, Indiana, Nebraska, South Dakota, New York, and Ohio (all 12%).

Counties with the highest proportion of young producer-operated farms were largely in the Great Lakes, Northern Great Plains, and Northeast regions; counties with the lowest proportion were in the Mississippi Delta and Southeast regions.

Two counties had more than 1,000 young producers; **Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (2,432 producers)** and LaGrange County, Indiana (1,117 producers).

The 2017 Census of Agriculture revised the demographic data collected to better capture the contributions of all persons involved in agricultural production. In response to detailed questions about farm decision making, more farms reported multiple individuals in farm operations.

*For the complete "2017 Census of Agriculture" go to:*  
<https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/index.php>

*The "Census" report and all other NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)*

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