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

[Athens, GA] The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) last week 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 decline in the total number of Georgia farms. However, the data also show a rise in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) producers in Georgia. 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 Georgia farms and ranches such as:

- There were 39,264 farms in Georgia (down 7.5% from 2017) with an average size of 253 acres (up 7.7%) on 9.9 million acres of farmland (down 0.1%).
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 83.6% of all Georgia farms and operated 63.6% of land in farms.
- Georgia farms produced \$13.2 billion in agricultural products, up from \$9.6 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$9.2 billion, Georgia farms had net cash income of \$4.5 billion. Average net farm income rose to \$115,624. A total of 37.1% of Georgia farms had positive net cash farm income in 2022.
- Georgia farms with internet access continued to rise from 76.0% in 2017 to 79.0% in 2022.
- A total of 1,146 Georgia farms used renewable energy producing systems compared to 946 farms in 2017, a 21.1% increase. The majority of Georgia farms (84.5%) with renewable energy systems reported using solar panels.
- In 2022, there were 2,186 Georgia farms that sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$46.4 million. Value of sales increased 27.1% from 2017.

- The 3,074 farms with sales of \$1 million or more represented 7.8% of Georgia farms and 30.0% of farmland; they sold 86.2% of all agricultural products in Georgia. The 31,061 Georgia farms with sales of less than \$50,000 or less accounted for 79.1% of farms, 43.0% of farmland, and 1.7% of sales in Georgia.
- The average age of all Georgia producers was 59.0, up 1.1 years from 2017.
- There were 23,085 Georgia farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, an increase in the number of beginning farmers from 2017 of 1.5%. Beginning farmers in Georgia are on average 10 years younger than all farmers, with an average age of 49.4.
- The number of Georgia producers under age 35 was 5,031, comprising 7.5% of all Georgia producers. The 3,937 Georgia farms with young producers tend to be smaller than average in acres, but higher in sales.
- The 23,760 female producers accounted for 35.4% of all Georgia producers. Over 54.5% of all Georgia 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. 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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