



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA Releases 2022 Census of Agriculture Data Down to the County Level

**Olympia, Washington – 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 decline in the total number of Washington farms. 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](https://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 Washington farms and ranches such as:

- There were 32,076 farms and ranches in Washington (down 10% from 2017) with an average size of 432 acres (up 5%) on 13.9 million acres of farmland (down 6%). That is 33% of all land in Washington.
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 94% of all Washington farms and operated 76% of land in farms.
- Washington farms and ranches produced \$12.8 billion in agricultural products, up from \$9.63 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$11.1 billion, Washington farms had net cash income of \$2.41 billion. Average farm income rose to \$75,079. A total of 34% of Washington farms had positive net cash farm income in 2022.
- Washington farms with internet access continued to rise from 84% in 2017 to 86% in 2022.
- A total of 2,645 Washington farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 2,215 farms in 2017, a 19% increase. Of the Washington farms with renewable energy systems, 88% reported using solar panels.
- In 2022, 3,564 Washington farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$98.7 million. Value of sales increased 44% from 2017.
- The 1,954 farms with sales of \$1 million or more were 6% of Washington farms. They sold 86% of all agricultural products in Washington.
- The average age of all Washington producers was 59.3, up 1.2 years from 2017.

- There were 17,355 Washington farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, an increase in the number of beginning farmers from 2017 of 1%. Beginning farmers in Washington are younger than all farmers, with an average age of 48.1.
- The number of Washington producers under age 35 was 3,930, comprising 7% of all Washington producers. The 2,998 Washington farms with young producers making decisions tend to be larger than average in both acres and sales.
- In 2022, 25,477 female producers accounted for 42% of all Washington producers. Seventy-one percent of all Washington 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. 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](https://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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