



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
**West Virginia Field Office**  
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**2017 Census of Agriculture data now available**  
***Data show \$754 million in total value of agricultural production in West Virginia.***

**Charleston, WV** – April 11, 2019 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) West Virginia Field Office today announced the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture with new information about West Virginia farms and ranches and those who operate them, including first-time data about on-farm decision making, down to the county level.

“This newly released data for West Virginia will be the benchmark of assisting lawmakers, government officials along with our agriculture community leaders make informative decisions on new and upcoming agriculture policy, agriculture programs, loans, and all other related issues concerning West Virginia agriculture” said Charmaine Wilson, West Virginia State Statistician.

“The Census shows new data that can be compared to previous censuses for insights into agricultural trends and changes down to the county level,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “We are pleased to share first-time data on topics such as military status and on-farm decision making. To make it easier to delve into the data, we are pleased to make the results available in many online formats including a new data query interface, as well as traditional data tables.”

Census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land and activities on U.S. farms and ranches. Some key West Virginia highlights include:

- Number of Farms
- Veterans
- Agri-Tourism

For the 2017 Census of Agriculture, NASS changed the demographic questions to better represent the roles of all persons involved in on-farm decision making. As a result, in 2017 the number of producers was 38,123 up 20% from 2012.

Other demographic highlights include:

- Average Age of Producers
- Female Producers
- Young Producers
- New and Beginning Producers

Results are available in many online formats including [video presentations](#), a [new data query interface](#), maps, and traditional data tables. To address questions about the 2017 Census of Agriculture data, @USDA\_NASS will host a live Twitter “Ask the Census Experts” #StatChat on Friday, April 12 at 1 p.m. ET. All Census of Agriculture information is available at [www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://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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