

2022 Census of Agriculture Zip Code Tabulation Methodology

Geographic Method of Tabulation.

Data are provided by the mailed ZIP Code that was included in the address label of each Census report form. When the mailed ZIP Code and the reported agricultural production were in a different State, the data were tabulated as “other” ZIP Code within the State where the agricultural production was located. “Other” was denoted as 99999. See the Reported State vs. Mailed State for a detailed explanation.

ZIP Code Definition.

ZIP Codes primarily identify areas within the United States to simplify and speed the distribution of mail. Although data based on ZIP Codes may be used for geographic and demographic purposes, the data should be used with caution, since ZIP Code alignments do not necessarily conform to boundaries of cities, counties, States, or other jurisdictions.

During Census mail list development, the Census mail list records went through a series of computer operations that 1) checked the validity of the ZIP Code and post office name match, 2) inserted ZIP Codes or post office names into records missing one of these two items, and 3) standardized spelling of post office names. This activity occurred during late 2021 and 2022.

It is important to note that the data presented in this tabulation are based only on the ZIP Code boundaries in the Census year. ZIP Code directories are revised annually to reflect both the expansions and contractions within existing ZIP Codes.

ZIP Code Data Limitations.

Tabulated data are limited to farm and producer counts for selected items, because of the large number of ZIP Codes involved.

Farm location vs. mailed ZIP Code.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture employed the mail out/mail back method of enumeration. Additional data collection methods included Computer-Assisted Self Interview on the internet and personal enumeration. In most cases, the producer's mailing address and mailed ZIP Code (ZIP Code in the address label of the Census report) were the same as the location of the farm operated. Therefore, the vast majority of farms were tabulated in the ZIP Codes where they were located. However, in some instances, the producer's farm was located outside the mailed ZIP Code. Consequently, these farms were not counted in the ZIP Codes of their physical location. Likewise, a farm may have been located across multiple ZIP codes in which case the farm was accounted for in the mailed ZIP code.

Reported State vs. Mailed State.

The farm counts and producer counts were tabulated by mailed ZIP Code within reported State, i.e., the State in which the farm was physically located. In a case where the producer's mailing address was in a State different than the State in which the farm was located, the ZIP Code in the address would not belong to the set of ZIP Codes for the reported State. In this situation, farms that reported an out-of-state ZIP Code were tabulated and published as an additional, distinct ZIP Code, 99999, for the reported State.

Data Comparability.

The 2022 and 2017 Census of Agriculture Zip Code tabulations utilized the updated mailing address. These updates were made from information provided by the respondents. The 2007 Census of Agriculture Zip Code tabulation was based upon the original mailing address, updates were not captured for this product. This improved methodology is better reflective of the producer's location but may result in differences between the 2007 Zip Code tabulation and later Census Zip Code tabulations.

Geographic differences within State.

More commonly, the reported State and the mailed State were the same, but the ZIP Code where the farm was physically located may have been different than the mailed ZIP Code. Since the Census did not request that the producer report the ZIP Code in which the farm was located, these cases cannot be identified in the tables. The mailed ZIP Code is the best available approximation of the physical location for farms published at the ZIP Code level.

Reasons for farm location outside mailed ZIP Code.

Listed below are a few of the reasons mailed ZIP Codes may not correspond to the farm location.

- The farm producer(s) did not have a residence at the farm or considers their primary residence to be elsewhere and received their Census report at their nonfarm address.
- The producer picked up mail at a post office box number located in a post office which had a ZIP Code different than that of the farm.