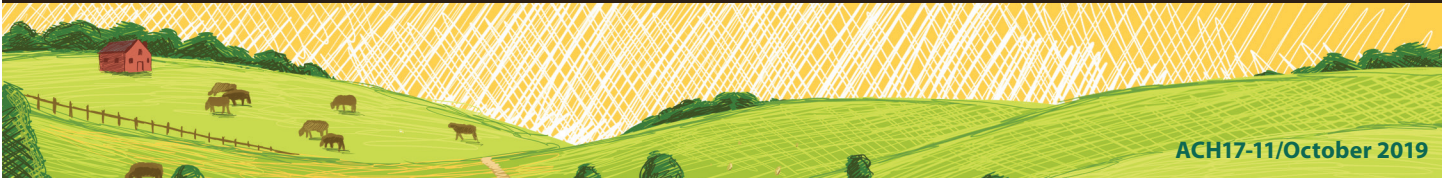


# Female Producers

More than half of farms have at least one female producer



ACH17-11/October 2019

In 2017, the United States had 1.2 million female producers, accounting for 36 percent of the country's 3.4 million producers. Female producers are slightly younger, more likely to be a beginning farmer, and more likely to live on the farm they operate than male producers. More than half of all farms (56 percent) had a female producer. These female-operated farms accounted for 38 percent of U.S. agriculture sales and 43 percent of U.S. farmland.

1.2 million female producers



388 million acres



\$148 billion agriculture sales



## Number and Location

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 involved in farm operations.

As a result of the new approach to counting producers, the total number of U.S. producers increased 7 percent between 2012 and 2017. The number of female producers increased 27 percent. The number of farms with female producers increased 23 percent.

In 2017, female-operated farms – the 1.1 million farms with one or more female producers responsible for making decisions about the farm's operation – were 56 percent of total farms. In comparison, 91 percent of farms had one or more male producers.

**9** The percent of farms run entirely by women.

### Number of Producers and Farms, Female and All U.S.

	2012	2017	% change
<b>Producers</b>			
Female	969,672	1,227,461	+27
All U.S.	3,180,074	3,399,834	+7
<b>Farms</b>			
Female-operated	923,945	1,139,675	+23
All U.S.	2,109,303	2,042,220	-3

### Top States

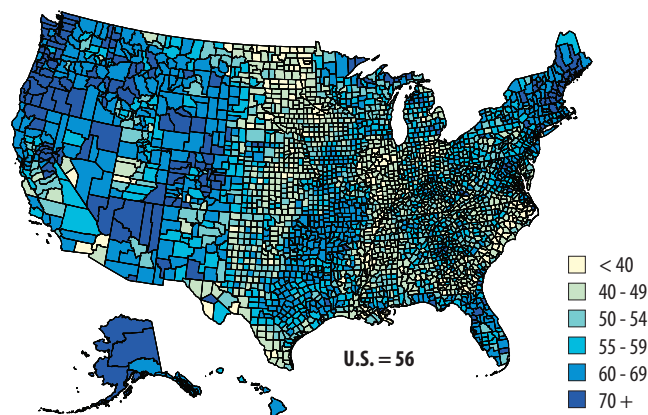
#### Female Producers, 2017

(as percent of total state producers)

Arizona	49
Alaska	47
New Hampshire	46
Oregon	44
Maine	44
Massachusetts	44
Washington	42
Nevada	42
Colorado	42
Vermont	42

**38** The percent of female producers in Texas, which has 156,233 female producers, more than any other state.

### Female-operated Farms as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2017



Counties with the highest proportion of female-operated farms were largely in the West and Northeast.

Counties with the lowest proportion were in the Midwest, the northern Plains, and the Mississippi Delta.

## SNAPSHOT Female Producers, 2017

Number = 1,227,461\*

	Female (percent)	Male
<b>Age</b>		
<35	8	8
35 - 64	60	57
65+	32	35
<b>Years farming</b>		
10 or less	30	25
11 or more	70	75
<b>Lived on their farm</b>	79	72
<b>Worked off farm</b>		
No days	39	38
1 to 199 days	22	21
200+ days	39	41
<b>Primary occupation</b>		
Farming	33	46
Other	67	54
<b>Race</b>		
American Ind/Alaska Native	2.2	1.5
Asian	0.8	0.6
Black/African American	1.1	1.5
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Isl	0.1	0.1
White	95.0	95.6
More than one race	0.8	0.7
<b>Hispanic</b>	3	3
<b>With military service</b>	2	16
<b>Average age (years)</b>	57.1	57.7

\*Data collected for up to four producers per farm.

## Producer Characteristics

Female producers are slightly younger on average than male producers (57.1 years versus 57.7 in 2017) and more likely to be a beginning farmer (30 percent of female and 25 percent of male producers had farmed 10 years or fewer). They were more likely to live on the farm they operated and less likely to report farming as their primary occupation.

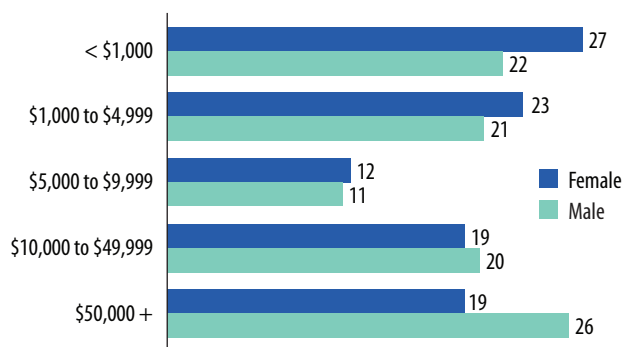
# 36

The percent of all U.S. producers who are female.

## Farm Characteristics

Female-operated farms sold \$148 billion in agricultural products in 2017, with 49 percent (\$73 billion) in crop sales and 51 percent (\$75 billion) in sales of livestock and livestock products. These farms accounted for 38 percent of total U.S. agriculture sales. They received \$4 billion in government payments.

**Female-operated and Male-operated Farms by Economic Class, 2017** (percent)  
(sales and government payments combined)



Nineteen percent of female-operated farms had sales and government payments of more than \$50,000, compared with 26 percent of male-operated farms. Sixty-two percent of female-operated farms had sales and payments of less than \$10,000.

No. of Producers on Farm	Female (1.2 mil)	Male (2.2 mil)
	(percent)	
One	13	36
Two	69	47
Three or four	16	15
Five +	2	2

Most female producers operate farms that have more than one producer. Of 1.2 million female producers, 13 percent operated farms in 2017 on which they were the only producer.

## About the Census

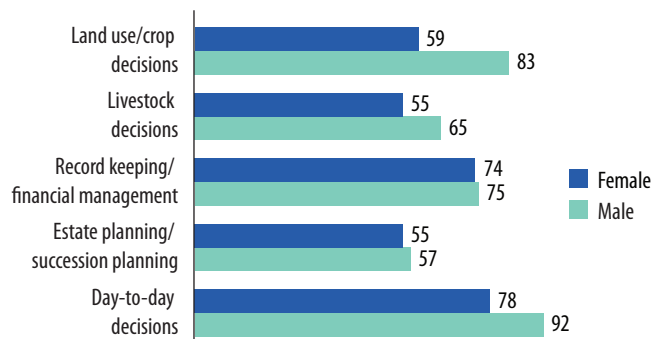
The Census of Agriculture, conducted once every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Results from the 2017 and earlier censuses are available at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, the new Census Data Query Tool, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products including profiles by race, ethnicity, and sex.

[www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus)

## Farm Decision Making

The 2017 Census collected first-ever data on the decisions producers make. The graph shows for each type of decision, the percent of female producers and percent of male producers who make those decisions.



Female producers were most involved in day-to-day decisions and record keeping/financial management.

Male producers had higher rates of involvement than female producers in land use/crop decisions and in livestock decisions.