

American Indian/Alaska Native Producers

Nearly three-fourths of farms specialized in livestock production



ACH22-8/June 2024

In 2022, the United States had 78,316 producers who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native, either alone or in combination with another race. They accounted for 2% of the country's 3.4 million producers, with the majority in the Western and Plains states. American Indian/Alaska Native producers were younger and more likely to be female than U.S. producers overall.

78,316
producers



63 million
acres



\$6.5 billion
agriculture sales



Number and Location

In 2022, the ag census counted 78,316 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) producers involved in decision making for 58,336 U.S. farms and ranches. Overall, the number of AI/AN producers decreased 1%, and the number of farms they operated decreased 3% between 2017 and 2022. American Indian/Alaska Native producers operated 63 million acres of land, an increase of 8% from the previous census.

While Oklahoma was the state with the largest number of AI/AN producers, Arizona ranked first in the share they represented of the state's total producers (59%). In New Mexico, the share was 23%, and Oklahoma 15%. These three states accounted for more than half (56%) of U.S. farms with AI/AN producers.

Number of Producers and Farms, AI/AN and All U.S.

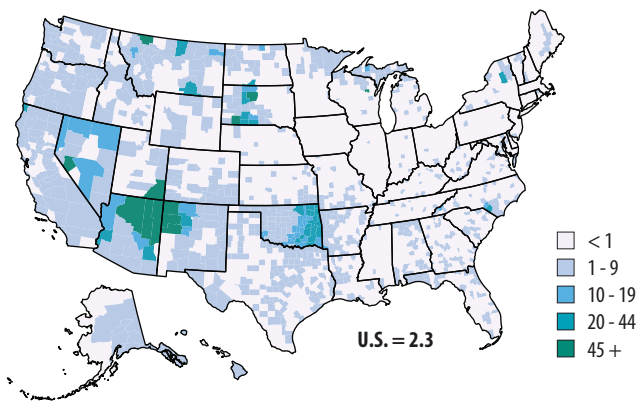
	2017	2022	% change
Producers			
AI/AN	79,198	78,316	-1.1
All U.S.	3,399,834	3,374,044	-0.8
Farms			
AI/AN-operated	60,083	58,336	-2.9
All U.S.	2,042,220	1,900,487	-6.9

Top States AI/AN Producers, 2022

Oklahoma	18,211
Arizona	17,087
New Mexico	8,479
Texas	5,640
California	2,397
Montana	1,796
Missouri	1,689
Arkansas	1,363
Oregon	1,318
South Dakota	1,265
Alabama	1,253
North Carolina	1,219
Kansas	1,195
Utah	1,177
Washington	1,130

66 The percent of American Indian/Alaska Native producers who lived in the top five states.

AI/AN-Operated Farms as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2022



Five counties had more than 1,000 farms operated by AI/AN producers. Three in Arizona: Apache (5,065 farms), Navajo (2,937 farms), and Coconino (1,869 farms). Two were in New Mexico: San Juan (2,074 farms) and McKinley (1,571 farms).

	2017	2022	% change
Owned			
Farms	57,548	55,884	-2.9
Acres	50,723,444	52,632,522	3.8
Rented			
Farms	12,381	13,408	8.3
Acres	8,026,099	10,680,248	33.1
Total Acres	58,749,543	63,312,770	7.8

Note: Based on 40,621 farms with producers who identified themselves as American Indian/Alaska Native alone.

SNAPSHOT

American Indian/Alaska Native Producers, 2022

Number = 78,316*

	AI/AN (percent)	All U.S.
Sex		
Male	58	64
Female	42	36
Age		
<35	11	9
35 - 64	55	53
65+	34	38
Years farming		
10 or less	29	30
11 or more	71	70
Lived on their farm	78	70
Worked off farm		
No days	38	38
1 to 199 days	24	22
200+ days	38	40
Primary occupation		
Farming	49	42
Other	51	58
Hispanic	6	3
With military service	10	9
Average age (years)	56.6	58.1

*Of the total 56,203 identified themselves as American Indian/Alaska Native alone, and 22,113 as that race in combination with another race. Data collected for up to four producers per farm.

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 2022 ag census as well as previous censuses are available online at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products.

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

Producer Characteristics

American Indian/Alaska Native producers were more likely to be female than producers overall (42% compared to 36% of all U.S. producers). They were also slightly younger on average (56.6 years versus 58.1 years in 2022). They were more likely to have farmed 10 or fewer years, live on their farm or ranch, and report farming/ranching as their primary occupation.

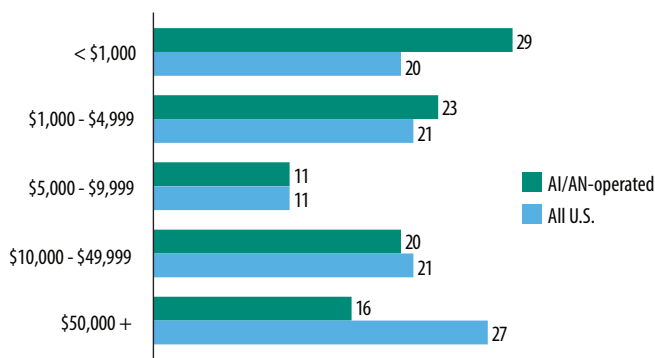
78

The percent of American Indian/Alaska Native producers who lived on their farm or ranch.

Farm Characteristics

American Indian/Alaska Native-operated farms sold \$6.2 billion in agricultural products in 2022, with 45% (\$2.8 billion) in crop sales and 55% (\$3.4 billion) in sales of livestock and livestock products. These farms accounted for 1% of total U.S. agriculture sales. They received \$268 million in government payments in 2022.

AI/AN-Operated and U.S. Farms by Economic Class, 2022 (percent)
(sales and government payments combined)



A little over half (52%) of AI/AN-operated farms had sales and government payments of less than \$5,000 per year, compared to 41% for all farms.

Farms and Land

American Indian/Alaska Native-operated farms accounted for 63 million acres of land, 7.2% of the U.S. total. The majority (73%) of these farms were less than 180 acres in size, like U.S. farms overall. The average size of AI/AN-operated farms was 1,085 acres in 2022.

Farm Size in Acres	AI/AN-operated (percent of total)	All U.S.
1 to 9	25	12
10 to 49	26	30
50 to 179	22	28
180 to 499	13	15
500 +	14	15

Fifty-five percent of AI/AN-operated farms were operated by farmers who own all the land they operate, 20% by farmers who were part owners (own some land and rent some land), and 25% by farmers who rent all land operated.

75 The percent of American Indian/Alaska Native-operated farms with internet access.

Farm Specialization^a

Nearly three-fourths (70%) of AI/AN-operated farms specialized in livestock production, compared with less than half (49%) of U.S. farms overall.

	% of farms
Oilseeds and grains	5
Specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, nursery)	9
Other crops	16
Cattle and dairy	40
Hogs and pigs	1
Poultry and eggs	4
Sheep and goats	14
Other animals	11

23,159

The number of American Indian/Alaska Native-operated farms that specialized in beef cattle.

^aRefers to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). More than half of a farm's sales come from the commodity.