

# Female Producers

More than half of farms had at least one female producer



ACH22-12/June 2024

In 2022, the United States had 1.2 million female producers, accounting for 36% of the country's 3.4 million producers. Female producers were 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 (58%) had a female producer. Farms with one or more female producers accounted for 41% of U.S. agriculture sales and 46% of U.S. farmland.

**1.2 million**  
female producers



**407 million**  
acres



**\$222 billion**  
agriculture sales



## Number and Location

In 2022, the ag census counted 1.2 million female producers, a decrease of 0.2% from the last time the ag census was conducted in 2017. The number of farms with a female producer declined 3% from the previous census. Fifty-eight percent of all U.S. farms (1.1 million farms) had one or more female producers making decisions about the farm's operation, compared to 92% of farms with one or more male producers.

States in the Northeast, Southwest, and West had larger shares of female producers. While Texas had more female producers than any other state, Arizona and Alaska ranked first in the share they represented of the state's total producers (48%). Other top states included New Hampshire (45%) and Oregon (44%) as well as Maine, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Nevada (all 43%).

	With Female Producers	All U.S.
<b>Owned</b>		
Farms	1,063,612	1,793,029
Acres	251,679,953	534,211,829
<b>Rented</b>		
Farms	252,349	530,864
Acres	155,660,891	345,889,019
<b>Total acres</b>	<b>1,110,546</b>	<b>880,100,848</b>

**8** The percent of farms that were run entirely by women.

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

	2017	2022	% change
<b>Producers</b>			
Female	1,227,461	1,224,726	-0.2
All U.S.	3,399,834	3,374,044	-0.8
<b>Farms</b>			
With female producers	1,139,675	1,110,546	-2.6
All U.S.	2,042,220	1,900,487	-6.9

## Top States

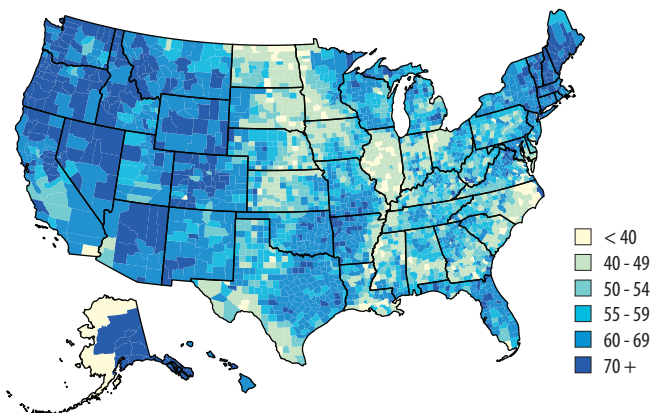
### Female Producers, 2022

(as percent of total state producers)

Arizona	48
Alaska	48
New Hampshire	45
Oregon	44
Maine	43
Hawaii	43
Rhode Island	43
Massachusetts	43
Nevada	43
Washington	42

**39** The percent of female producers in Texas, which had 157,291 female producers, more than any other state.

## Farms with Female Producers as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2022



Counties with the highest proportion of farms with one or more female producers 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, 2022

Number = 1,224,726\*

	Female (percent)	Male
<b>Age</b>		
<35	9	9
35 - 64	55	52
65+	37	39
<b>Years farming</b>		
10 or less	33	28
11 or more	67	72
<b>Lived on their farm</b>	75	68
<b>Worked off farm</b>		
No days	40	38
1 to 199 days	22	22
200+ days	38	41
<b>Primary occupation</b>		
Farming	34	46
Other	66	54
<b>Race</b>		
American Ind/Alaska Native	2.0	1.5
Asian	0.9	0.6
Black/African American	1.0	1.4
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Isl	0.1	0.1
White	95.0	95.7
More than one race	1.0	0.9
<b>Hispanic</b>	3	3
<b>With military service</b>	2	13
<b>Average age (years)</b>	57.8	58.3

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

## Producer Characteristics

Female producers were slightly younger on average than male producers (57.8 years versus 58.3 in 2022) and more likely to be a beginning farmer (33% of female producers had farmed 10 or fewer years compared to 28% of male producers). They were more likely to live on the farm they operated and less likely to report farming as their primary occupation.

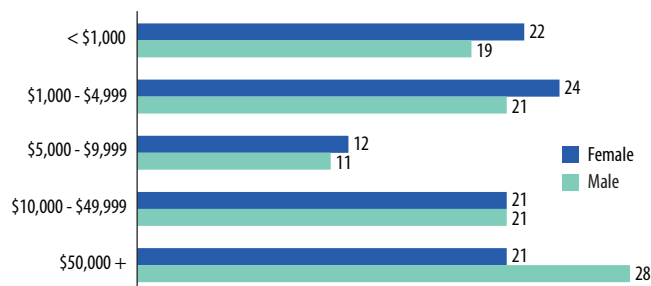
# 36

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

## Farm Characteristics

Farms with one or more female producers sold \$222 billion in agricultural products in 2022, with 50% (\$111 billion) in crop sales and 50% (\$111 billion) in sales of livestock and livestock products. These farms accounted for 41% of total U.S. agriculture sales. They received \$5 billion in government payments in 2022.

**Farms with Female Producers and Farms with Male Producers, by Economic Class, 2022** (percent)  
(sales and government payments combined)



Twenty-one percent of farms with one or more female producers had sales and government payments of more than \$50,000, compared with 28% of farms with one or more male producers.

Fifty-eight percent of farms with one or more female producers had sales and payments of less than \$10,000.

	No. of Producers on Farm	Female	Male
		(1.2 mil)	(2.1 mil)
(percent)			
<i>Most female producers operated farms that had more than one producer. Of the 1.2 million female producers, 11% operated farms on which they were the only producer. Male producers were much more likely to operate farms alone with 37% of male-operated farms having a single producer.</i>			
One		11	37
Two		71	50
Three		9	7
Four		6	4
Five+		2	2

## About the Census

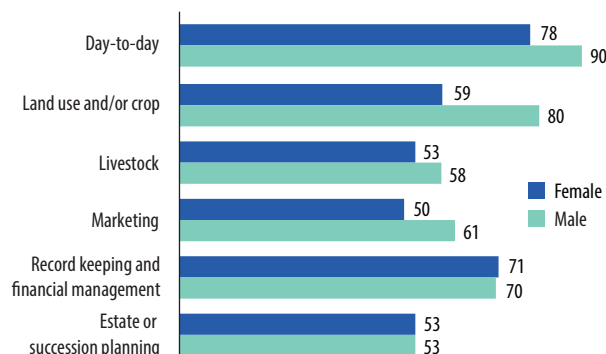
The Census of Agriculture, conducted once every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Results from the 2022 ag census as well as previous censuses are available online at national, state, and county levels.

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

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

## Farm Decision Making

**Female and Male Producers' Involvement In Decision Making, 2022** (percent)



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

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