NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2022 CENSUS PROFILES CALIFORNIA FARMERS AND AGRICULTURE
9 California Counties Make Top 10 List for Ag Sales in the U.S.

SACRAMENTO, CA – February 13, 2024 – *The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) today announced the results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture, spanning more than 6 million data points about America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them down to the county level. The information collected directly from producers shows a continued decline in the total number of California farms. However, the data also show an increase in the value of agriculture sales in California. The full Census of Agriculture report as well as publication dates for additional ag census data products can be found at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. Ag census data can also be found in NASS's searchable online database, Quick Stats.*

"The 2022 Census of Agriculture provides a wide range of demographic, economic, land, and crop and livestock production information as well as first-time or expanded data such as hemp, precision agriculture, and internet access." said Gary R. Keough, Director, USDA NASS Pacific Region. "Many of these data about California and our counties are only collected and reported as part of the every-five-year census."

The 2022 Census of Agriculture data show the following key trends for California.

- The number of farms decreased to 63,134, down 10 percent from 2017 with an average size of 383 acres (up 10%) on 24.2 million acres of farmland (down 1%).
- The market value of agricultural products sold totaled $59.0 billion, up $13.8 billion from 2017.
- Total farm production expenses totaled $49.3 billion, up $11.5 billion from 2017.
- At 16,699 farms, California is the top state using renewable energy producing systems in agriculture. Solar is the most common renewable energy producing system on farms and ranches in The Golden State.
- The average age of the California farmer is 59.9, up from 59.2 in 2017.
- Fresno County ranked #1 in the U.S., agricultural sales in Fresno County were greater than those in 23 states.
- After Fresno County, the top 10 California counties are:

2. Tulare County	5. Merced County	8. Stanislaus County
3. Monterey County	6. Imperial County	9. Santa Barbara County
4. Kern County	7. San Joaquin County	10. Kings County

The national response rate for the 2022 Census of Agriculture was 61%; more than 40% of responses were submitted online. California' response rate was 56%. To address questions about the 2022 Census of Agriculture data, NASS will host a live X Stat Chat (@usda_nass) for the public on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 1 p.m. EST. Ag census data highlight publications are available at nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights. Additional products, including state and county profiles and congressional districts will be released throughout 2024.

First conducted in 1840 in conjunction with the decennial Census and conducted since 1997 by USDA NASS – the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture – the Census of Agriculture remains the most comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation.

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NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.

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