



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 13, 2024

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## 2022 Census of Agriculture data now available

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** --- The results of the 2022 Census of Agriculture were released today by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Maryland office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The data includes information about the 12,550 farms in Maryland and their operators, including information about decisions made on the farm at the county level. In Maryland, there are more farms now than there were in 2017, with acceptable variations in all farm sizes.

“We are pleased to provide updated Census of Agriculture data to all those who serve U.S. agriculture, especially the producers who gave their time to complete the questionnaire. Census of Agriculture data tell a story. This comprehensive snapshot every five years helps data users to see trends and shifts in the industry over time and helps producers do business,” said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. “Overall, though there are always changes across U.S. agriculture, the data remain largely consistent with the previous ag census. Data users will also notice some new data on the topics of hemp, precision agriculture, and internet access.”

Census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land and activities on U.S. farms and ranches. Some key Maryland highlights include:

- Renewable energy usage on farms increased by 17% from 2017, producers preferring the use of solar panels.
- The per farm average net income increased from \$52,997 in 2017 to \$74,507 in 2022.
- Honeybees are of particular interest, with 25% more farms reporting bee inventory and a 33% increase in honey sales.

In the Census of Agriculture, particular focus is brought to producer demographics since 2017, including the roles of all persons involved in on-farm decision making. As a result, in a picture of Maryland agriculture can be seen in this data.

Maryland demographic highlights include:

- New and beginning producers with 10 years or less of farming accounted for 7,319 producers, up 27% from 2017.
- Producers with military service was comprised of 2,106 producers, which is 9% of all reported producers.
- The average age of all producers was 57.8 years of age.
- The number of female producers account for 38% of all producers in Maryland.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus), where you can access new and historic data in a variety of formats, including the Quick Stats database. To learn about other NASS reports and activities, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For additional information, contact NASS Customer Service through email ([nass@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov)) or phone (800-727-9540).

The Census tells the story of American agriculture and is an important part of our history. First conducted in 1840 in conjunction with the decennial Census, the Census of Agriculture accounts for all U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. After 1920, the Census happened every four to five years. By 1982, it was regularly conducted once every five years. Today, NASS sends questionnaires to nearly 3 million potential U.S. farms and ranches. The response rate for the 2022 Census of Agriculture was 61%; more than 40% of responses were submitted online. Conducted since 1997 by USDA NASS – the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture – it remains the only source of comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation and is invaluable for planning the future.

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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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.