



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**DELTA REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE**  
10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, AR 72211  
[nassrfodlr@usda.gov](mailto:nassrfodlr@usda.gov)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Esmerelda Dickson  
(601) 359-1259

## USDA releases 2022 Census of Agriculture data down to the county level

**Jackson, MS – 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 fall in the total number of Mississippi farms. However, the data also show a rise in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) and a fall in young (under the age of 35) producers in Mississippi. 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](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus). Ag census data can also be found in NASS’s searchable online database, Quick Stats.

“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.”

Ag census data provide valuable insights into demographics, economics, land use and activities on Mississippi farms and ranches such as:

- There were 31 thousand farms and ranches in Mississippi (down 11% from 2017) with an average size of 328 acres (up 10%) on 10 million acres of farmland (down 2%). That is 1% of all U.S. land.
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 94% of all Mississippi farms and operated 83% of land in farms.
- Mississippi farms and ranches produced \$8.2 billion in agricultural products, up from \$6.2 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$5.9 billion, Mississippi farms had net cash income of \$2.7 billion. Average farm income rose to \$87,658. A total of 36% of Mississippi farms had positive net cash farm income in 2022.
- Mississippi farms with internet access continued to rise from 66% in 2017 to 73% in 2022.
- A total of 587 Mississippi farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 472 farms in 2017, a 24% increase. The majority of Mississippi farms (89%) with renewable energy systems reported using solar panels.
- In 2022, 1,004 Mississippi farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$4.7 million. Value of food sold directly to consumers decreased 32% from 2017.

- The 2,190 farms with sales of \$1 million or more were 7% of Mississippi farms and 35% of farmland; they sold more than \$7 billion of all agricultural products in Mississippi. The 25,767 Mississippi farms with sales of \$50,000 or less accounted for 82% of farms and 44% of farmland.
- Nearly 29% of farmland in Mississippi was used by farms specializing in two commodity categories: soybeans (23%) and corn (6%).
- The average age of all Mississippi producers was 59.6, up 0.7 years from 2017. This is a larger increase than average age increases between prior censuses.
- There were 16,686 Mississippi farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, a 9% increase from the number of beginning farmers in 2017. Beginning farmers in Mississippi are younger than all farmers, with an average age of 49.5.
- The number of Mississippi producers under age 35 was 3,625, comprising 7% of all Mississippi producers. The 2,822 Mississippi farms with young producers making decisions tend to be larger than average in both acres and sales.
- In 2022, 17,903 female producers accounted for 34% of all Mississippi producers. 30% of all Mississippi farms had at least one female decision maker.

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](https://nass.usda.gov/Publications/Highlights).

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.

###

*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.*