



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA releases 2022 Census of Agriculture data down to the county level

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – February 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 fall in the total number of Utah farms. However, the data also show an increase in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) as well as a slight decrease in young (under the age of 35) producers in Utah. 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.

“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 Utah farms and ranches such as:

- There were 17,386 farms and ranches in Utah (down 9% from 2017) with an average size of 604 acres (up 3%) on 10.49 million acres of farmland (down 3%).
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 86% of all Utah farms.
- Utah farms and ranches produced \$2.34 billion in agricultural products, up from \$1.84 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$1.96 billion, Utah farms had net cash income of \$380 million.
- Utah farms with internet access continued to rise from 77.7% in 2017 to 81.6% in 2022.
- In 2022, 1,133 Utah farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$15.3 million. Value of sales decreased 14.8% from 2017.
- Nearly 848,568 acres of harvested cropland in Utah were used by farms specializing in two commodity categories: hay (86.4%) and wheat (13.6%).
- The average age of all Utah producers was 56.6, up 0.3 years from 2017. This is a smaller increase than average age increased between prior censuses.
- There were just over 10,991 Utah farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, an increase in the number of beginning farmers from 2017 of 19.5%.

- The number of Utah producers under age 35 was 3,029, comprising 17% of all producers. The 2,208 Utah farms with young producers making decisions tend to be smaller than average in both acres and sales.
- In 2022, 12,964 female producers accounted for 37% of all Utah producers.

The Utah response rate for the 2022 Census of Agriculture was 62.1%; more than 40% of responses were submitted online. To address questions about the 2022 Census of Agriculture data, NASS will host a live X Stat Chat ([@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/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 district will be available in the coming months.

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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