



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

DES MOINES, IOWA – 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 that the total number of Iowa farms are up slightly from 2017 but have remained relatively stable over the past three censuses. The data also show a rise in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) as well as young (under the age of 35) producers in Iowa. The full Census of Agriculture report 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. The aggregate information from individual farmer responses provides a powerful tool to help show the importance of agriculture in Iowa, promote the industry, and track trends. This comprehensive snapshot every five years helps data users see trends and shifts in the industry over time and helps producers do business,” said NASS Upper Midwest Regional Director, Greg Thessen.

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

- There were 86,911 farms and ranches in Iowa (up 1% from 2017) with an average size of 345 acres (down 3%) on 30.0 million acres of farmland (down 2%). That is 3% of all U.S. land.
- Iowa farms included 25.9 million acres of cropland in 2022 with no-till and reduced (conservation) tillage practices used on 78% of those acres.
- Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 93% of all Iowa farms and operated 90% of land in farms.
- Iowa farms and ranches produced \$43.9 billion in agricultural products, up from \$29.0 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$31.5 billion, Iowa farms had net cash income of \$14.7 billion. Average farm income rose to \$169,251 from \$86,878 in 2017. A total of 71% of Iowa farms had positive net cash farm income in 2022.
- Iowa ranked 2nd nationally for total value of agricultural products sold as well as total value of crop sales and total value of livestock sales in 2022.
- Farmers in Sioux, Lyon, Plymouth, Washington, and Kossuth counties had the largest value of sales in Iowa for 2022.
- Iowa farms with internet access continued to rise from 80% in 2017 to 82% in 2022.
- A total of 8,471 Iowa farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 7,057 farms in 2017, a 20% increase. The majority of Iowa farms (45%) with renewable energy systems reported using geothermal/geoexchange systems.

- In 2022, the 2,427 Iowa farms that sold agricultural products directly to consumers had sales of \$30.1 million, up 51% from 2017.
- The 9,906 farms with sales of \$1 million or more accounted for 11% of Iowa farms and 46% of farmland; they sold just over 73% of all agricultural products in Iowa. The 41,716 Iowa farms with sales of less than \$50,000 accounted for 48% of farms, 11% of farmland, and 0.8% of sales in Iowa.
- The average age of all Iowa producers was 57.6, up 0.2 years from 2017. This is a smaller increase than average age increases between prior censuses.
- There were just over 41,264 Iowa farmers with 10 or fewer years of experience, an increase in the number of beginning farmers from 2017 of 32%.
- The number of Iowa producers under age 35 was 15,835, comprising 10% of all Iowa producers. The 11,648 Iowa farms with young producers making decisions tend to be smaller in acreage on average than all farms but have a larger total value of agricultural products sold per farm.
- In 2022, there were 50,263 female producers accounting for 33% of all Iowa producers. Fifty-three percent of all Iowa 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](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 and publication dates for additional ag census data products, including state, county, and congressional district profiles are available at nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/.

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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