The Faces of U.S. Agriculture

The 2012 Census of Agriculture lets us know who is involved in U.S. agriculture— from family farmers to hired labor, and from new, beginning farmers to next-generation farmers. Census data help inform smart policymaking to benefit farmers and ranchers, their communities, businesses and industries.

Average Age of Principal Farm Operators, 2012

Average Age:
- Under 55
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65-69
- 70 and over

58 YEARS
The average age of a principal farm operator. The average age is generally highest in the south, and lowest in the upper plains.

969,672
The number of all female farm operators in 2012. That’s 30% of all farm operators in the United States.

Top 5 States by Total Number of Hispanic Farm Operators, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>34,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>15,123</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>13,195</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>6,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>3,255</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.2 MILLION
The number of all farm operators in the U.S. in 2012.

That’s more farmers than the entire population of Iowa.

Down 3% from 2007.

22 PERCENT
The percent of all farmers in the U.S. who were beginning farmers in 2012.

That means 1 out of every 5 farmers operated a farm for less than 10 years.

87 PERCENT
The percent of farms that are operated by families or individuals in the U.S.

Of the total number of operators, 2.4 million live on their farms.

2.7 MILLION
The number of hired farm workers in 2012.

Up 4% from 2007.*

Hired farm workers account for less than 1% of all U.S. wage and salary workers but are vital to agriculture production.

257,454
The number of Millennial Generation farmers age 34 or younger in the U.S. in 2012.

That’s more than 4 times the enrollment of Texas A&M University.


www.agcensus.usda.gov
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture, May 2014