2012 Census of Agriculture
Preliminary Data Release

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum
February 20, 2014
The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840 in 26 states and the District of Columbia.
170 YEARS LATER

- NASS has conducted the Census of Agriculture since 1997 with the transfer of authority from the Census Bureau.
- Census of Agriculture encompasses 50 states and Puerto Rico (and Outlying Areas)
- Data are available for:
  - National, State and County levels
  - Congressional Districts
  - Watersheds
  - Organic, Irrigation, Horticulture, Specialty Crops and Aquaculture
FARM DEFINITION

- Any place from which $1,000 of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally, would have been sold, during the Census year.

- This definition is unchanged since 1974.
OUTREACH EFFORTS

• NASS worked with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to assist in building the list of farm operations.

• NASS partnered with CBOs to provide hands-on assistance and support to producers in filling out census forms.

• NASS targeted media advertisements to improve census response rates.
2012 DATA COLLECTION

- NASS mailed 3.0 million questionnaires for the 2012 Census of Agriculture to potential farm and ranch operators in late December 2012.

- All paper forms were mailed from and returned by mail to the Census Bureau’s National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, IN.

- Data collection was conducted through:
  - Online responses
  - Mail questionnaires
  - Telephone Interviews
  - Face-to-face Interviews
Distribution of Responses by Mode, 2012

Forms by Mode of Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>2012 Census</th>
<th>2007 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent of forms received
PRELIMINARY REPORT

• Census preliminary data provide a first look at national and state estimates. An earlier release was planned but the government shutdown and sequestration delayed progress during a critical time of data review.

• These preliminary estimates are subject to minor change when the final comprehensive census results are released.
NUMBER OF FARMS

• 2,109,363 farms and ranches
• 4.3 percent fewer than 2007
Number of Farms, 1982 to 2012

- 1982: 2,484,452
- 1987: 2,337,393
- 1992: 2,180,655
- 1997: 2,215,876
- 2002: 2,128,982
- 2007: 2,204,792
- 2012: 2,109,363

Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

• In the slides that follow, you will see an asterisk (*) next to every item that is a statistically significant change from the 2007 Census to the 2012 Census.

• For this report, the measure of statistical significance is the difference between the two censuses was two or more standard errors.
# Number of Farms and Land in Farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farms*</td>
<td>2,204,792</td>
<td>2,109,363</td>
<td>-4.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in farms</td>
<td>922,095,840</td>
<td>914,603,026</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size of farms*</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates significant change
# Top 10 States Number of Farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>247,437</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>248,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>107,825</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>99,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>92,856</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>88,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>86,565</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>80,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>85,260</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>77,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>81,033</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>77,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>80,992</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>75,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>79,280</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>75,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>78,463</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>74,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>76,860</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>69,756</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Land in Farms, 1982 to 2012

- 1982: 986,796,579
- 1987: 964,470,625
- 1992: 945,531,506
- 1997: 954,752,502
- 2002: 938,279,056
- 2007: 922,095,840
- 2012: 914,603,026
Farms by Size, 2007 and 2012

- 1,000 acres or more
- 500 to 999 acres*
- 180 to 499 acres*
- 50 to 179 acres*
- 10 to 49 acres*
- 1 to 9 acres

* Indicates significant change

Number of farms

- 2012 Census
- 2007 Census
Market value of agricultural products sold represents the gross market value before taxes and production expenses of all agricultural products sold or removed from the place in 2012 regardless of who received the payment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Agricultural Products Sold * (billions $)</td>
<td>$297.2</td>
<td>$394.6</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Crops sold* (billions $)</td>
<td>$143.6</td>
<td>$212.4</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Livestock sold* (billions $)</td>
<td>$153.6</td>
<td>$182.2</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Sales per Farm* (dollars)</td>
<td>$134,807</td>
<td>$187,093</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates significant change
Average Sales per Farm, 1982 to 2012

Dollars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sales (Dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>58,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>65,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>84,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>90,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>94,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>134,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>187,093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Top 10 States by Value of Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007 Rank</th>
<th>2007 Value of Production (billions $)</th>
<th>2012 Rank</th>
<th>2012 Value of Production (billions $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## TOP 10 STATES VALUE OF CROPS SOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007 Rank</th>
<th>2007 Value of Production (billions $)</th>
<th>2012 Rank</th>
<th>2012 Value of Production (billions $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>17.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TOP 10 STATES
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK SOLD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2007 Rank</th>
<th>2007 Value of Production (billions $)</th>
<th>2012 Rank</th>
<th>2012 Value of Production (billions $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Farms by Economic Class, 2007 and 2012

- **Less than $50,000**:
  - 2012 Census: 1,000,000
  - 2007 Census: 1,500,000

- **$50,000 to $249,999**:
  - 2012 Census: 300,000
  - 2007 Census: 400,000

- **$250,000 to $999,999**:
  - 2012 Census: 50,000
  - 2007 Census: 70,000

- **$1,000,000 or more**:
  - 2012 Census: 10,000
  - 2007 Census: 20,000

*Indicates significant change

**2012 Census of Agriculture**

**Your Voice. Your Future. Your Responsibility.**
DEMOGRAPHICS

- Age
- Primary occupation
- Years on present farm
- Sex
- Ethnicity
- Race
DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE PRINCIPAL FARM OPERATOR

- The principal operator is the person primarily responsible for the on-site, day-to-day operation of the farm or ranch business. This person may be a hired manager or business manager.

- Preliminary report contains statistics for only the principal operator - one principal operator per farm.
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES FOR THE PRINCIPAL OPERATOR SINCE 2007

- Fewer female operators
- More minority operators
- Average age of farm operators continues to increase
- Fewer beginning operators
- Fewer small farms
- More reported farming as their primary occupation
## BEGINNING FARMERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All beginning farmers</strong> <em>(less than 10 years on present operation)</em></td>
<td>583,286</td>
<td>469,138</td>
<td>-19.6</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On the present operation less than 5 years</strong> *</td>
<td>223,741</td>
<td>171,567</td>
<td>-23.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates significant change
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>993,881</td>
<td>1,007,950</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>1,210,911</td>
<td>1,101,413</td>
<td>-9.0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates significant change
Average Age of Principal Operator, 1982 to 2012

Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>50.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>52.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>54.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>55.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>58.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Principal Operators by Age Group, 2007 and 2012

Age

- 75 years and over*
- 65 to 74 years*
- 55 to 64 years
- 45 to 54 years*
- 35 to 44 years*
- 25 to 34 years
- Under 25 years

* Indicates significant change
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2012 Coefficient of Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Principal Operators*</td>
<td>1,898,583</td>
<td>1,821,094</td>
<td>-4.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Principal Operators</td>
<td>306,209</td>
<td>288,269</td>
<td>-5.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates significant change
Female Principal Operators: 2012 Census of Agriculture
Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture

Legend
- Decrease
- Increase
* Indicates significant change

US: 288,269
Female Principal Operators, Farms by Size, 2007 and 2012

- 500 acres or more
- 180 to 499 acres*
- 50 to 179 acres*
- 10 to 49 acres
- 1 to 9 acres

2012 Census
2007 Census

* Indicates significant change

Number of farms

- 0
- 20,000
- 40,000
- 60,000
- 80,000
- 100,000
- 120,000

Farms by Size:
- 1 to 9 acres
- 10 to 49 acres
- 50 to 179 acres*
- 180 to 499 acres*
- 500 acres or more
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, Female Principal Operators, 2007 and 2012

Market value of livestock

Market value of crops*

Market value of agricultural products sold*

$1,000s

2012 Census

2007 Census

* Indicates significant change
Female Principal Operators by Age, 2007 and 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2012 Census</th>
<th>2007 Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75 years and over*</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years*</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64 years</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54 years*</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44 years*</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34 years</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 25 years</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average age: 60.1

* Indicates significant change
Farms by Race and Ethnic Origin of Principal Operator, 2007 and 2012

- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin*

2012 Census

* Indicates significant change
American Indian Principal Operators, Selected Characteristics, 2007 and 2012

Years on Present Farm

- 10 years or more*
- Less than 10 years

Occupation

- Other
- Farming

Number of farms:

- 75 years and over
- 65 to 74 years
- 55 to 64 years
- 45 to 54 years
- 35 to 44 years
- 25 to 34 years
- Under 25 years

Average age: 58.1

* Indicates significant change
American Indian Principal Operators: 2012 Census of Agriculture
Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture

Legend
- Decrease
- Increase

* Indicates significant change

US: 37,857

States with significant change:
- 28
- 1192
- 1,190
- 11,190
- 1,318
- 1,192
- 458
- 403
- 548
- 344
- 162
- 270
- 395
- 442
- 2,694
- 5,202
- 7,489
- 507
- 133
- 488
- 204
- 127
- 386
- 32

Alaska: 21

Map showing the change in American Indian principal operators across the United States.
Asian Principal Operators, Selected Characteristics, 2007 and 2012

- **Years on Present Farm**
  - 10 years or more
  - Less than 10 years

- **Occupation**
  - Other
  - Farming

- **Age**
  - Under 25 years
  - 25 to 34 years
  - 35 to 44 years
  - 45 to 54 years
  - 55 to 64 years
  - 65 to 74 years*
  - 75 years and over

* Indicates significant change

Average age: 56.8
## FARMS BY ECONOMIC CLASS FOR SELECTED GROUPS, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than $50,000</th>
<th>$50,000 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All farms</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRELIMINARY CENSUS DATA

• Census data are available:
  • Online at www.agcensus.usda.gov
  • Through your local NASS field office
  • Preliminary data released at the USDA Ag Outlook Forum in Arlington, Va. on February 20, 2014.
    • http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/
    • Call 800.727.9540
The final census results released in May 2014 will include U.S., state and county data on:

- Livestock Inventory
- Crop Acreage and Production
- Energy
- Land Use Practices
- Production Expenses
FULL CENSUS REPORT

Other census products will include summaries by:

• Watersheds
• Congressional Districts
• Specialty Crops
• Farm Typology
Thank to the producers who responded to our request for data, making a quality Census Of Agriculture possible.