



# THE AG CENSUS COUNTS



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## 2022 Census of Agriculture Data Release

February 23, 2024

[nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus)

# Agenda

---

- Census Data Collection
- Farms and Ranches
- Economics
- Demographics
- Future Census Products

# History of the Census of Agriculture

- The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840 in 26 states and the District of Columbia.
- 180 years later:
  - The 2022 Census of Agriculture is the 30<sup>th</sup> in the series, and the 6<sup>th</sup> conducted by NASS.
  - In 1997, the Census of Agriculture was transferred from the Census Bureau to NASS.
  - The Census of Agriculture encompasses 50 states, Puerto Rico, and outlying areas (Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands).
- Data are available for:
  - National, state, and county levels
  - Congressional districts, watersheds, and zip codes

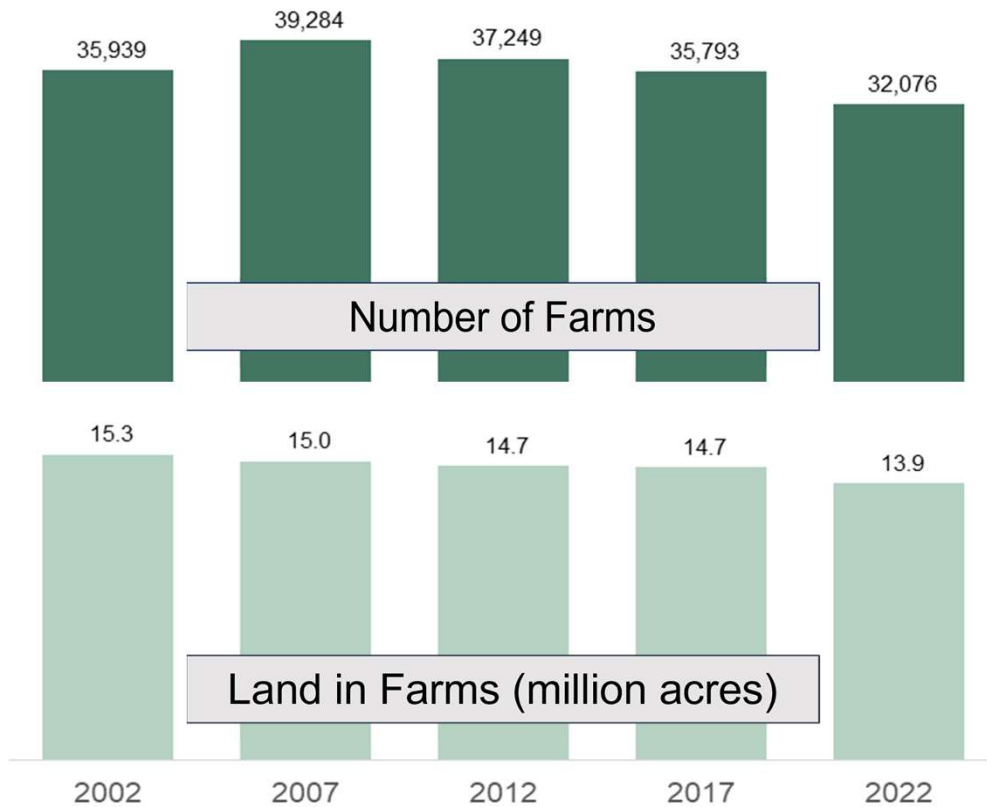
# Farms and Land in Farms

---

Since 1974, the Census of Agriculture has defined a farm as

*“any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.”*

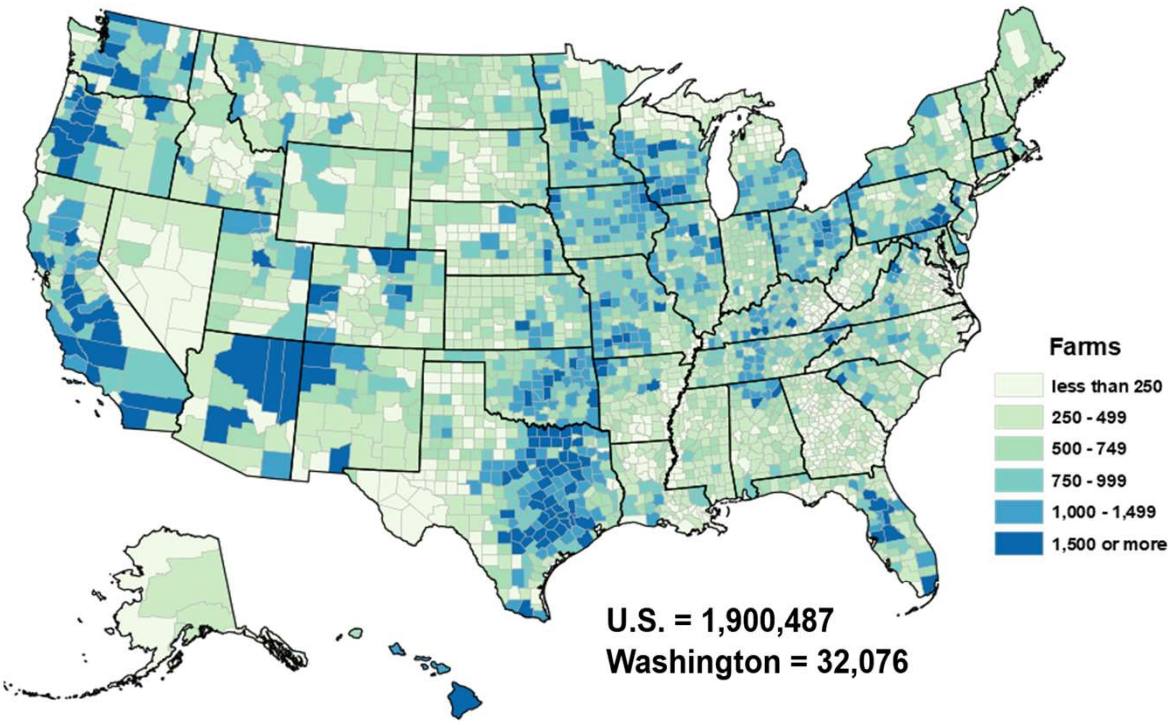
# Number of Farms and Land in Farms, 2002 - 2022



Number of Farms		
2017	2022	% Change
35,793	32,076	-10.4
Land in farms		
2017	2022	% Change
14.7	13.9	-5.6
Average Farm Size (Acres)		
2017	2022	% Change
410	432	+5.4

# Number of Farms, 2022

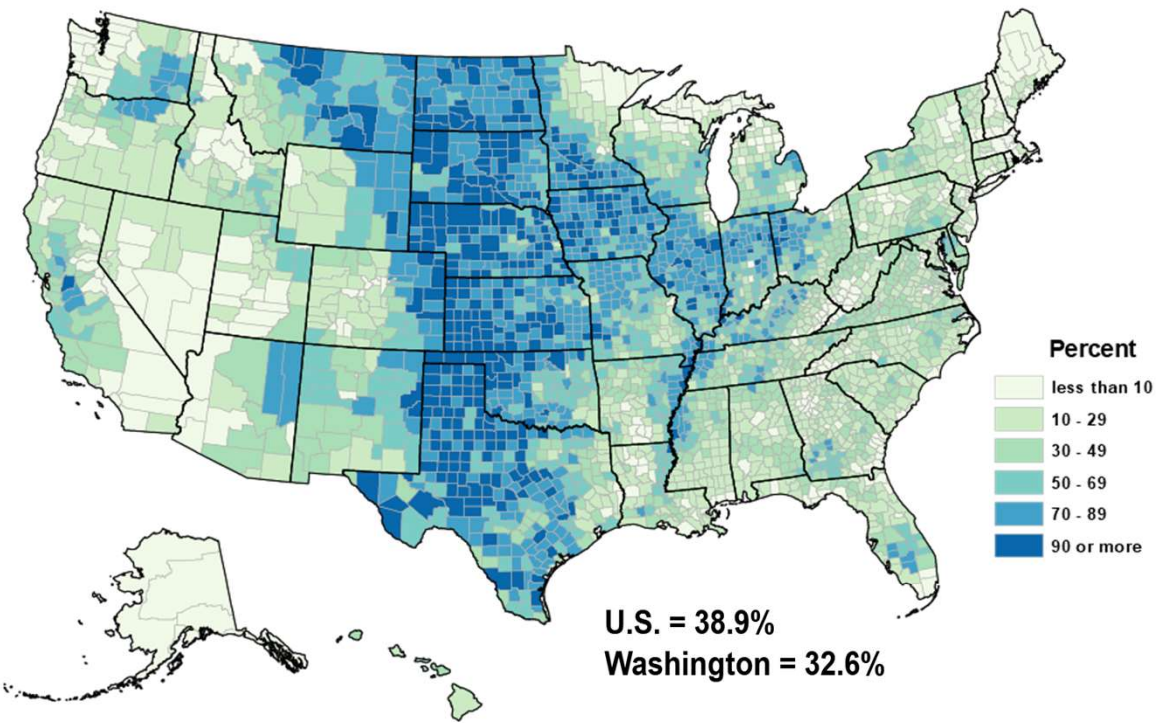
## By County



Top Counties or Equivalents	2022
Yakima	2,523
Spokane	2,386
Clark	1,927
King	1,604
Whatcom	1,582
Lewis	1,565
Snohomish	1,418
Pierce	1,347
Benton	1,338
Grant	1,238

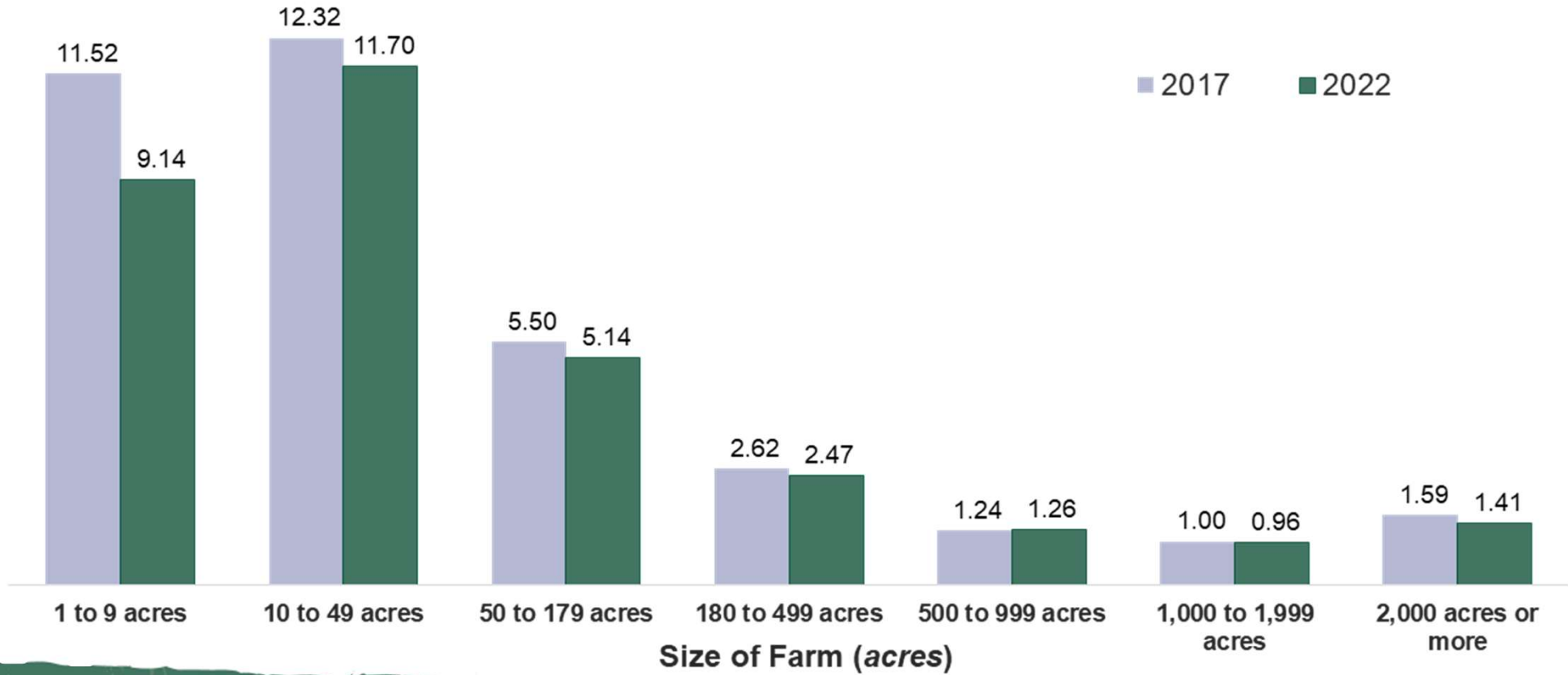
# Land in Farms, 2022

## As a Percent of Total, by County



Type of Use	Acres (Millions)
Total	13.9
Permanent Pasture	4.3
Cropland	7.4
<i>Harvested Cropland</i>	4.6
Woodland	1.7
Other	0.5

# Number of Farms, by Size Class, 2017 and 2022 (thousands)

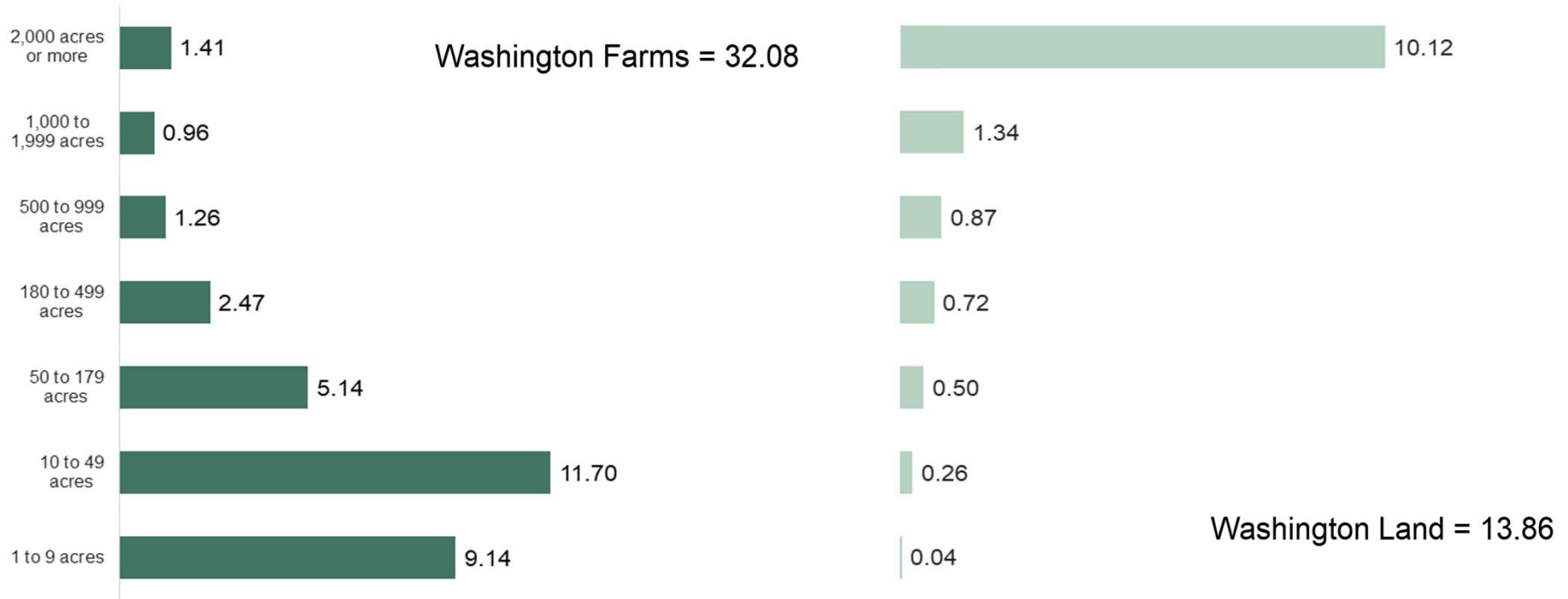




# Farms and Land in Farms, by Size Class, 2022

Number of Farms (thousands)

Land in Farms (million acres)



# Economics

---

- Total Value of Agricultural Production
- Crop and Livestock Sales
- Farm Income

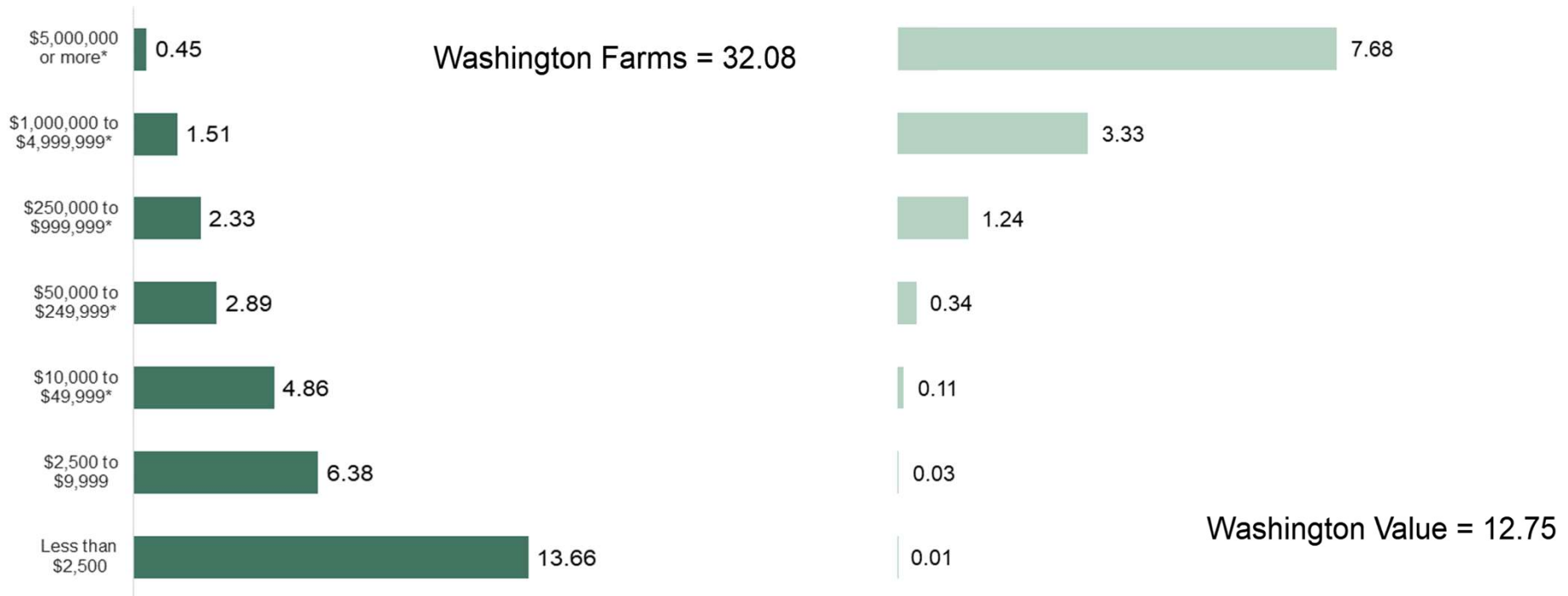
# Number of Farms, by Sales Class, 2017 and 2022 *(thousands)*



# Farms and Value of Production, by Sales Class, 2022

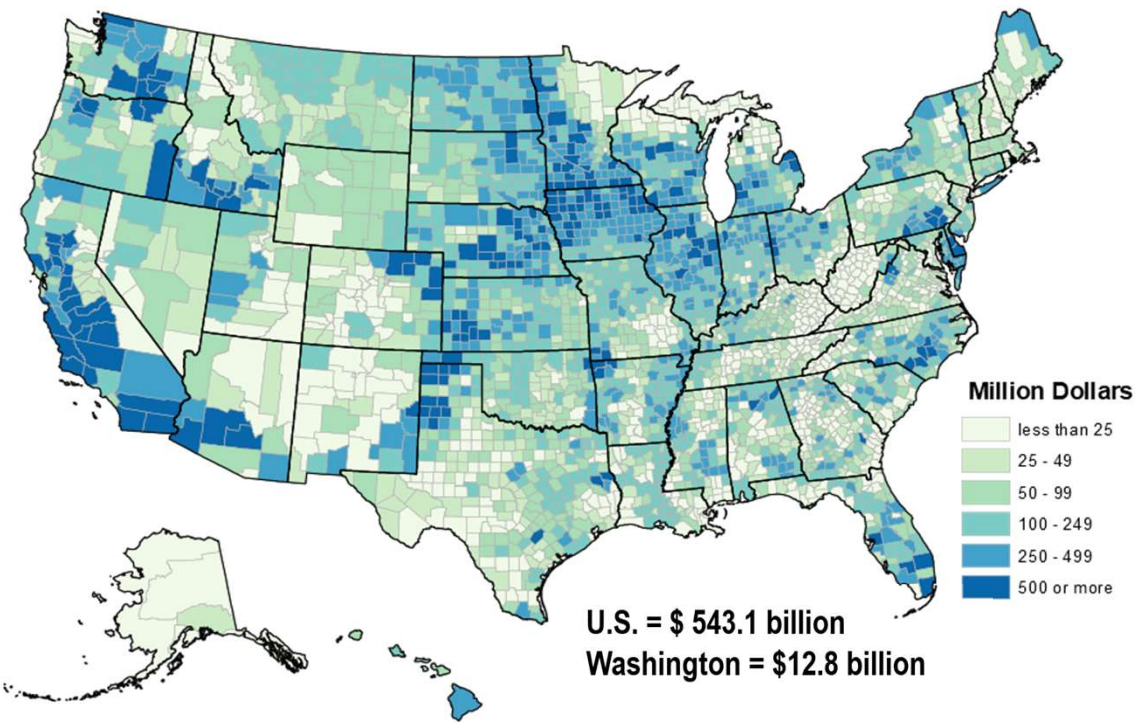
Number of Farms (thousands)

Value of Production (\$ billions)



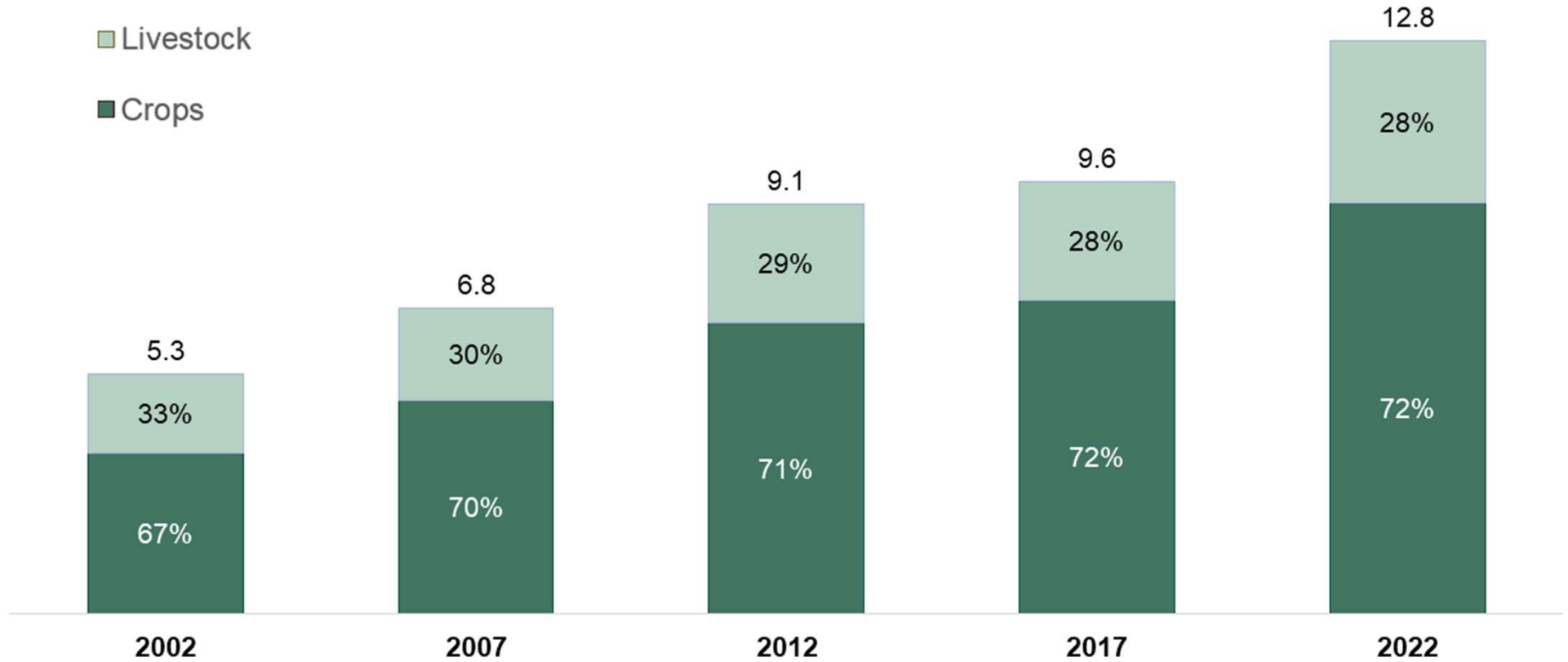
# Total Value of Agricultural Production, 2022

## By County



Top Counties or Equivalents	TVP (\$ millions)
Grant	2,605
Yakima	2,266
Benton	1,214
Franklin	1,006
Walla Walla	779
Adams	562
Whatcom	510
Whitman	465
Skagit	367
Okanogan	364

# Value of Production, Crops and Livestock, 2002 - 2022 (\$ billions)



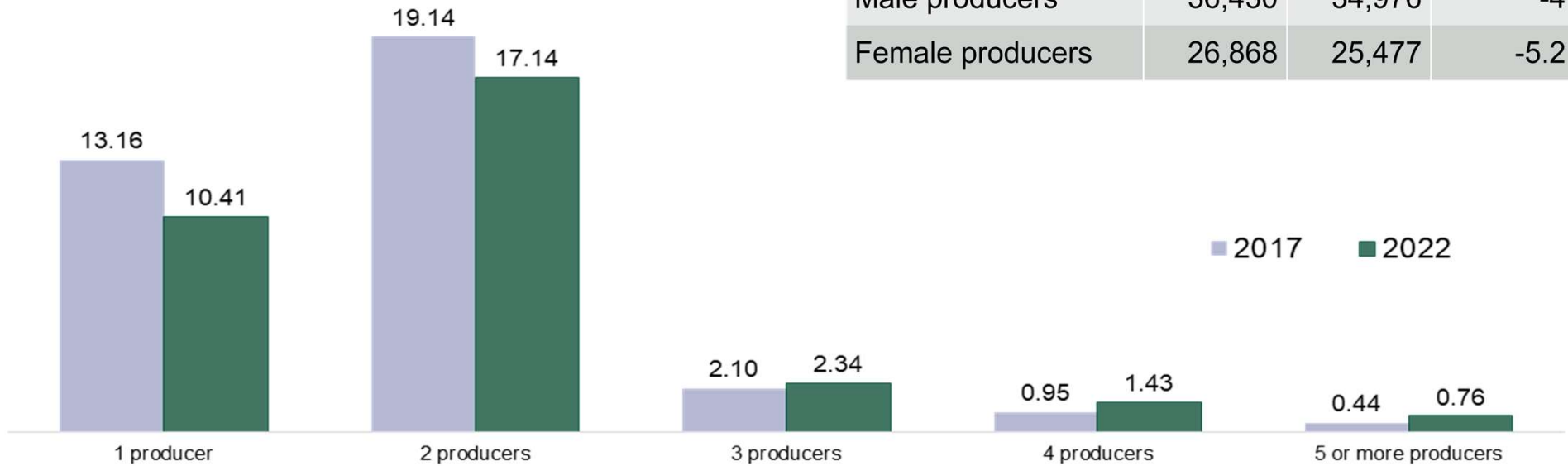
# Demographics of Farm Producers

---

- Average Age of Producers
- Young Producers
- New and Beginning Producers
- Farm and Producer Characteristics by Sex/Race/Ethnicity
- Producers with Military Service

# Farm Structure, 2017 and 2022

Farms by Number of Producers (*thousands*)



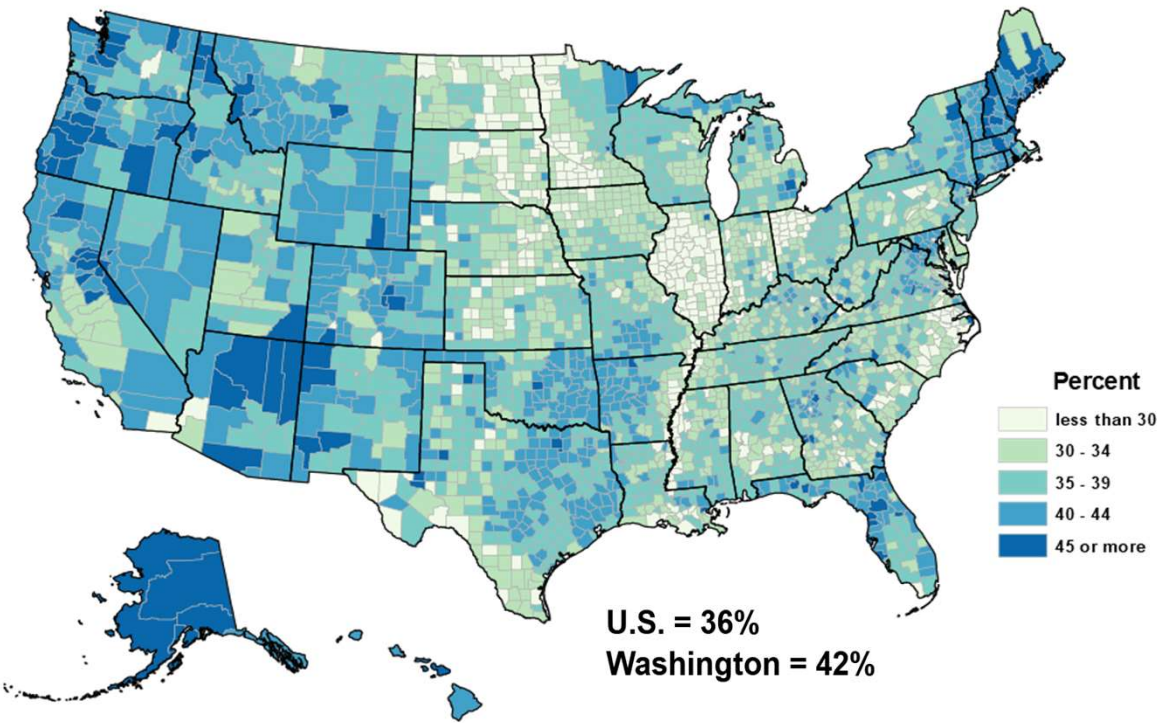
Producers by Sex

	2017	2022	% change
All producers	63,298	60,453	-4.5
Male producers	36,430	34,976	-4
Female producers	26,868	25,477	-5.2



# Producers by Sex, 2022

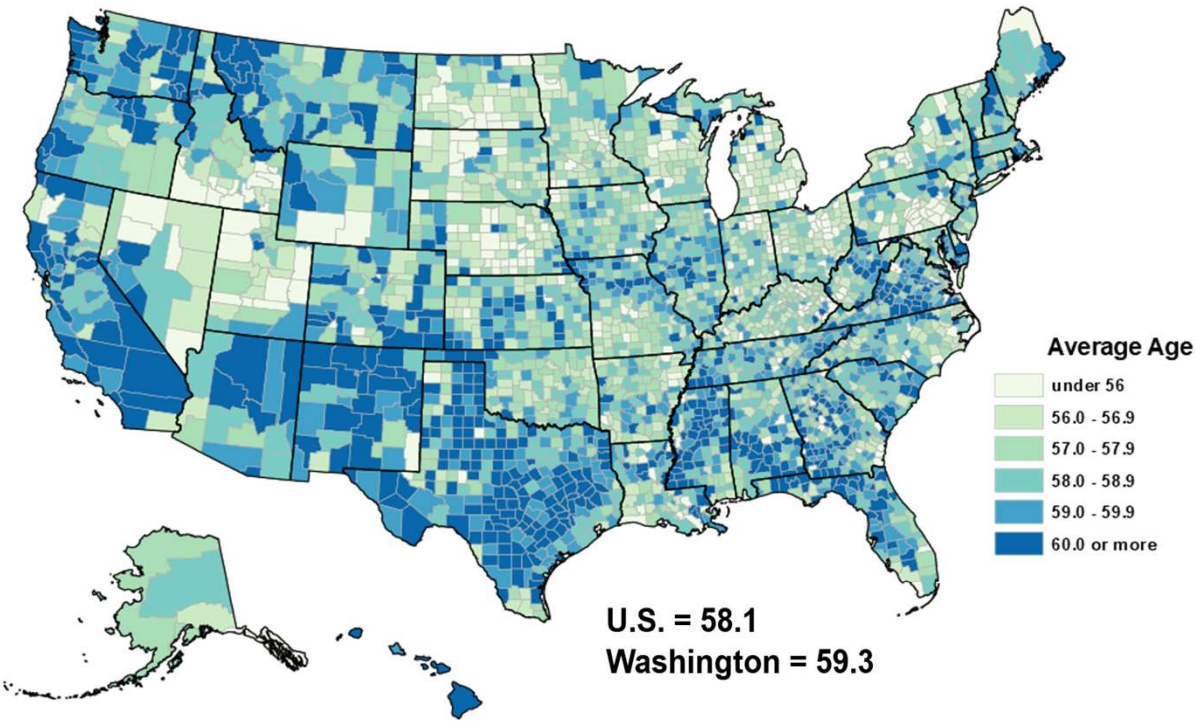
## Female Producers by Percent of All Producers, by County



Producers		
	Female	Male
Number	25,477	34,976
Average Age	58.6	59.7
Farms		
Number	22,747	28,474
Average Farm Size (Acres)	300	466
Average Total Value of Production	\$207,947	\$438,006

# Average Age of Producers

By County, 2022

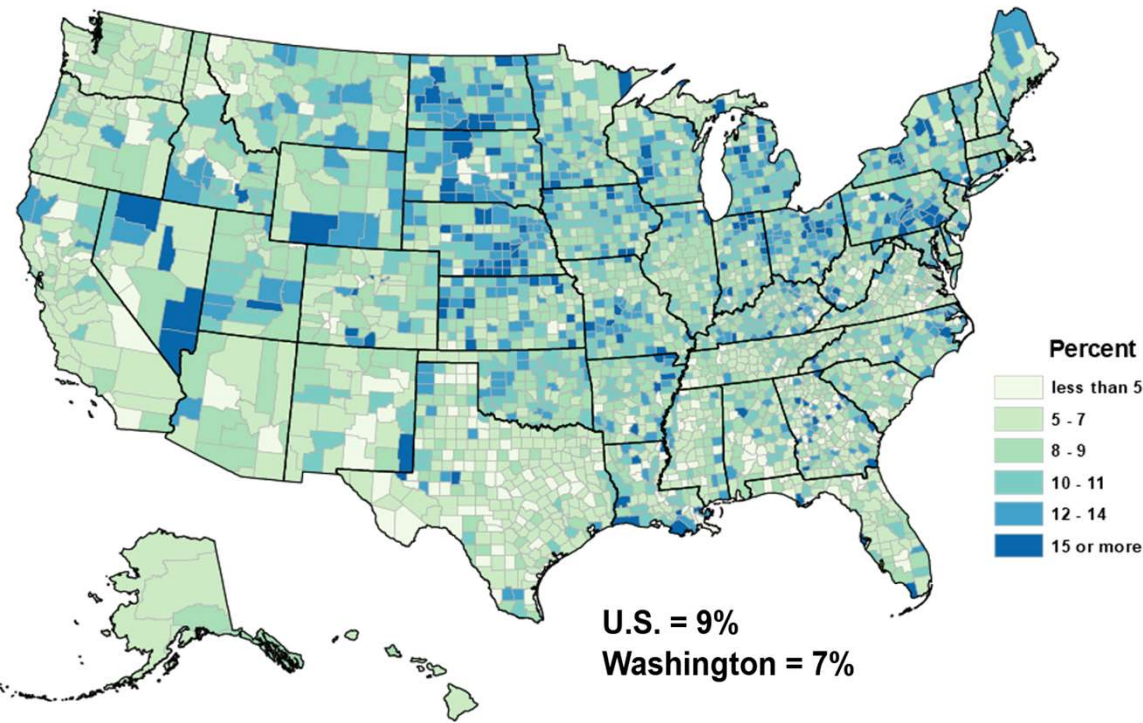


## All Producers, 2012 - 2022

2012	56.8
2017	58.1
2022	59.3

# Young Producers (Under 35 years), 2022

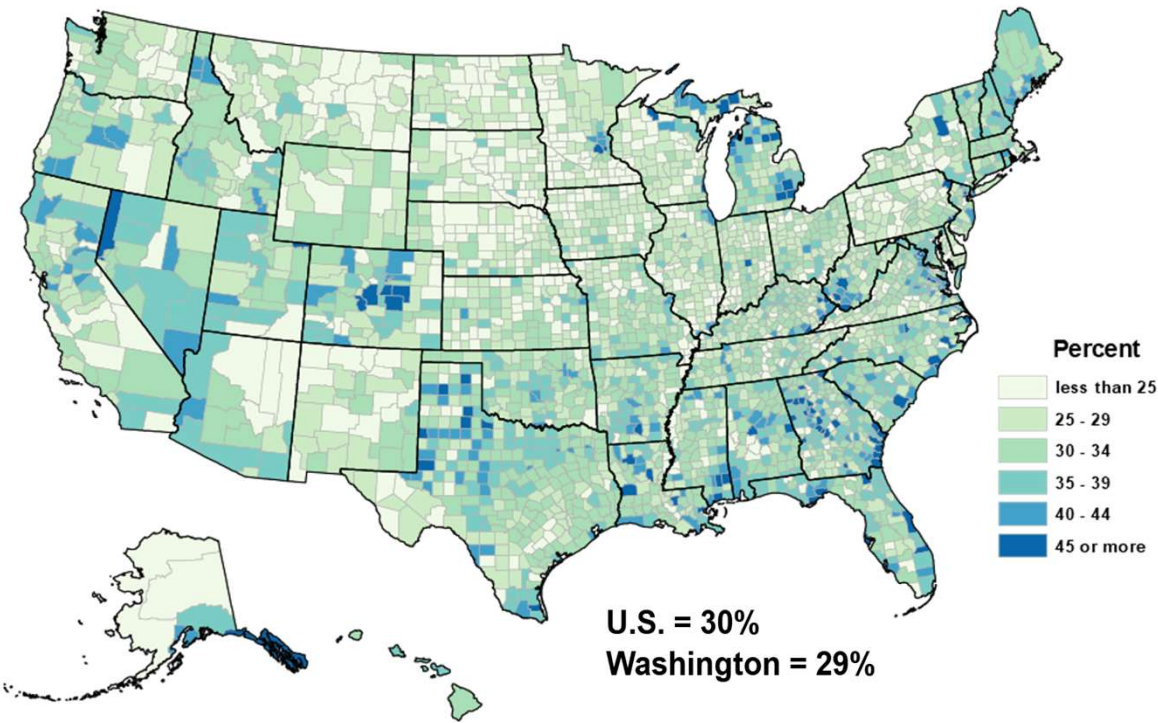
As a Percent of All Producers, by County



Producers		
	Young	All
Number	3,930	60,453
Average Age	28.6	59.3
Farms		
Number	2,998	32,076
Average Farm Size (Acres)	596	432
Average Total Value of Production	\$405,037	\$397,542

# New and Beginning Producers (10 years or less on any farm), 2022

## As a Percent of All Producers, by County



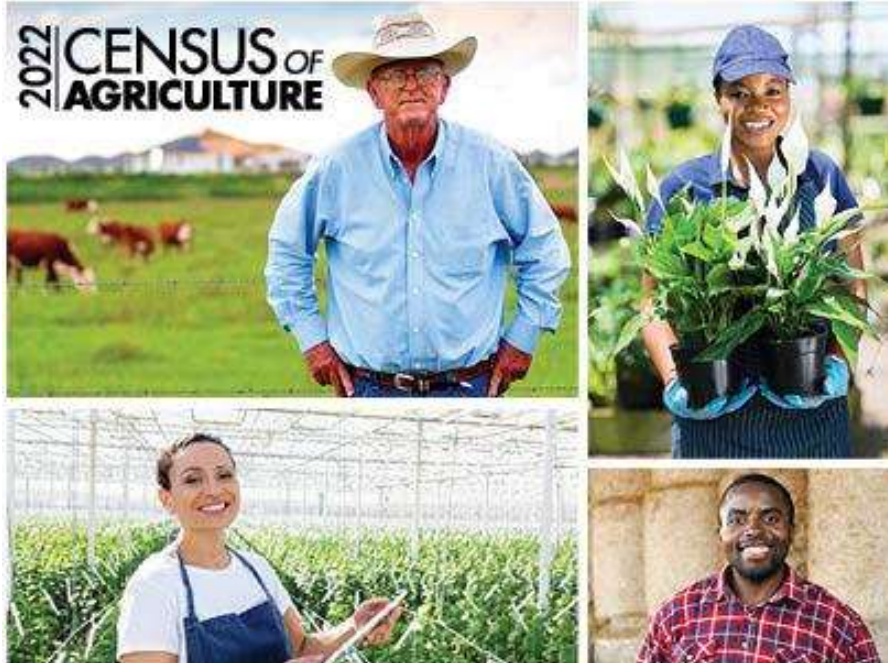
Producers		
	New and Beginning	All
Number	17,355	60,453
Average Age	48.1	59.3
Farms		
Number	10,242	32,076
Average Farm Size (Acres)	286	432
Average Total Value of Production	\$235,447	\$397,542

## Direct to Consumer Value of Sales, 2017 and 2022 (\$1,000)

	2017	2022	%Change
WASHINGTON	68,574	98,737	+44
Walla Walla	5,278	14,513	+175
Grant	3,630	7,622	+110
Skagit	7,038	6,361	-10
Thurston	3,743	5,860	+57
Snohomish	4,890	5,480	+12

## Direct to Consumer Number of Farms, 2017 and 2022

	2017	2022	%Change
WASHINGTON	4,503	3,564	-21
Walla Walla	90	71	-21
Grant	74	50	-32
Skagit	191	141	-26
Thurston	197	168	-15
Snohomish	53	48	-9

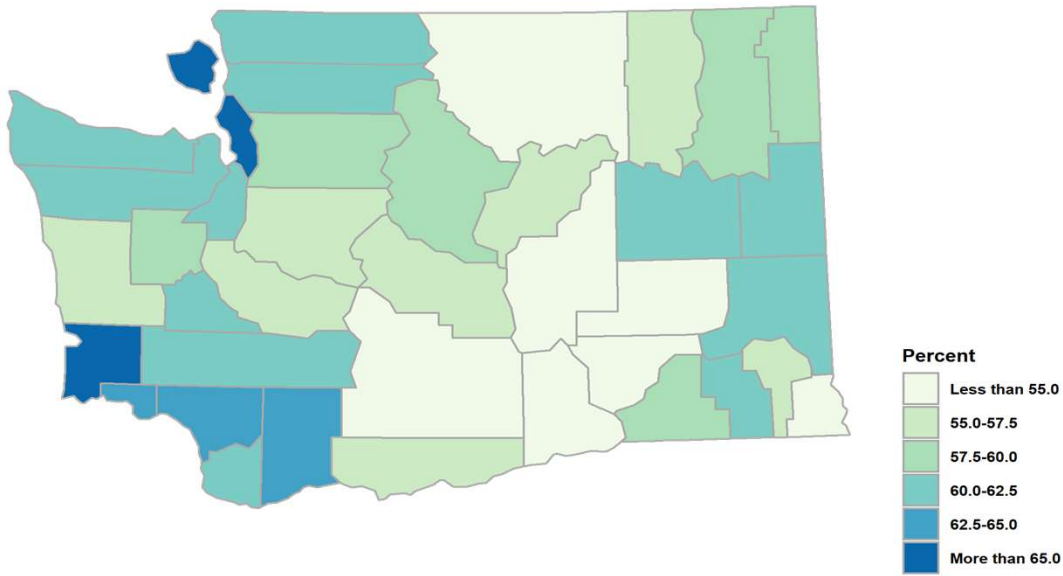


All Reports Available at  
[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

For Questions  
360-890-3300  
[Dennis.Koong@usda.gov](mailto:Dennis.Koong@usda.gov)

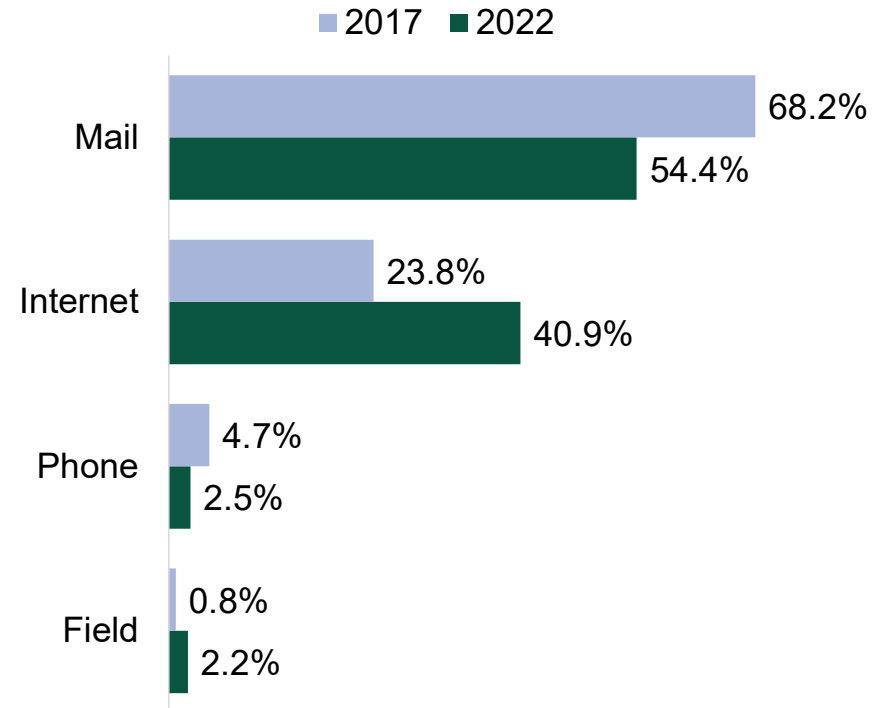
# Census Data Collection

## Response Rate by County, 2022



**U.S. = 61%**  
**Washington = 57.9%**

## U.S. Return Rate by Mode, 2017 and 2022 (percent of returns)





# Upcoming Census Releases in 2024

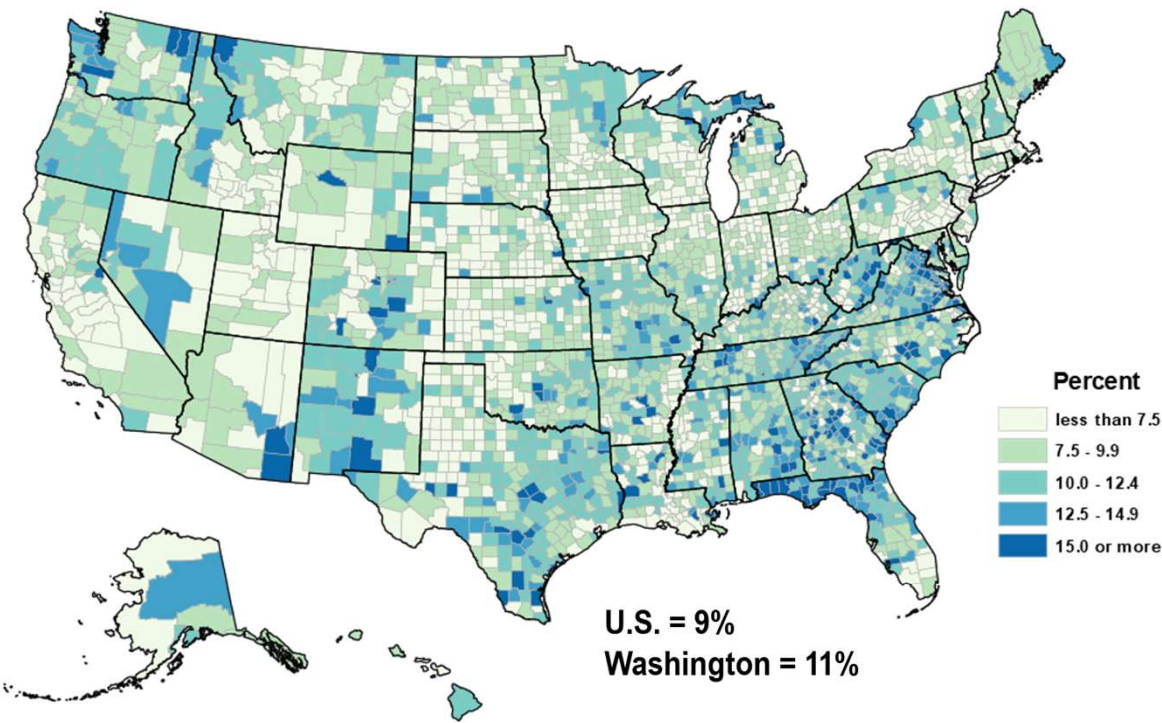
Release Date	Release Title
March 27	Market Value of Ag Products Sold Rankings
March 27	State & County Profiles
May 15	Congressional District Profiles and Rankings
June 28	Race, Ethnicity & Gender Profiles
July 18	Puerto Rico
July 24	Watersheds
August 29	American Indian Reservations
October 17	Specialty Crops
November 7	Zip Code Tabulations
November 14	2023 Irrigation and Water Management Survey
December 16	2023 Census of Aquaculture

## Farm Income and Expenses, 2017 and 2022 *(\$ millions)*

	2017	2022	% Change
Value of ag products sold	9,634	12,752	+32
Government payments	169	247	+46
Farm-related income	366	463	+27
Production expenses	8,464	11,054	+31
Net income	1,705	2,408	+41
Per farm average net income (dollars)	\$47,641	\$75,079	+58

# Producers with Military Service, 2022

## As a Percent of All Producers, by County



Producers		
	With Military Service	All
Number	6,471	60,453
Average Age	68.1	59.3
Farms		
Number	6,077	32,076
Average Farm Size (Acres)	265	432
Average Total Value of Production	\$232,306	\$397,542