

2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

New Jersey Data Highlights: Socially-Disadvantaged Producers and their Farm Operations



Photo: Michael Cardona, RU Ready to Farm Program. Photo credit, Linnea Eberly.

The last Census of Agriculture was in 2022. Prior to that, the Census of Agriculture was completed in 2017. These posts highlight noteworthy statistics of NJ producers from the 2022 Census of Agriculture.



Farm size and ownership

More than half of NJ's 9,998 farms are under 49 acres in size, and nearly a third are under 10 acres in size.

The number of farms owned by corporations (either for or nonprofit) is higher than it's ever been in the last 10 years (since the 1992 Census), at 1,144. Although, the vast majority of NJ's farmers are still owned by families or individuals -- 7,849.

52,000 acres of NJ's farmland is in use for vegetable and orchard production.

82% of farms with new and beginning producers in NJ are under 50 acres in size. One third are under 10 acres.

Organic production

The number of certified organic farms increased by only 5, but average sales per organic farm increased from \$128k to \$356k.

Diversity/Gaps in Diversity in NJ Agriculture

The number of **Black (322) and Asian (97) farmers both increased**, up from 248 and 76 in the 2017 Ag Census, while the number of farmers identifying as White also increased by nearly 2000.

The number of Hispanic or Latino/a farmers decreased very slightly.

The number of Military veteran farmers slightly decreased from 1411 in 2017 to 1340 in 2022.

97% of female farm owner/operators identified as White.

The number of female farmers who identified as Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino/a, or more than one “race” all increased slightly from 2017.

Diversity/Gaps in Diversity in NJ

Agriculture

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The **number of women who are full owners of their farms rose**, but only very slightly from 5,423 to 5,536.

Nearly **40% of women farmer owners/operators in NJ do not hold any off-farm job, they are farming full-time.**

The **majority of woman-owned/operated farms are under 49 acres** in NJ.

New and beginner producers who are Black/African American, Asian, and American Indian or Alaska Native have all slightly increased from 2017 to 2022 in NJ (B/AA: from 22 to 54; Asian: from 104 to 139; and AI/AN: from 9 to 19)

AGE OF NJ FARMERS/PRODUCERS

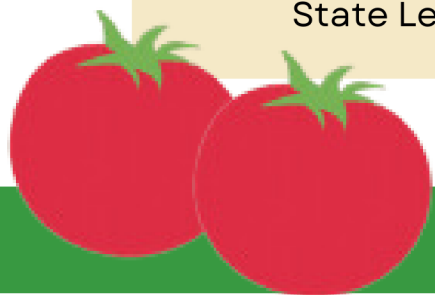
The **average age of farmers in NJ did not change since the last Census** but the number of farmers above the age of 65 increased. 6,889 = the number of farmers above the age of 65. Compared to 4,659 in 2017.

The **number of farmers under 25 years old increased** by about 44% from 221 to 319.

1500 = the number of "Young Farmer" farms in NJ, which USDA defines as 35 years of age or younger.

In 2022, **60% of young producers in NJ are not farming as their primary occupation.** 60% have off-farm jobs; 40% farm as their primary occupation.

Data found on Tables 52 of the 2022 Census Volume 1, Chapter 1:
State Level Data for NJ.



YOUNG AND BEGINNER FARMERS

Note: USDA deems Young Farmer/Producers as those 35 years of age or younger, and New and Beginner Farmers as producers who have been farming for fewer than 10 consecutive years. Learn more [here](#).

The number of New and Beginner Farmers in NJ rose from 4,002 in 2017 to 5,570 in 2022, a **39% increase**.

Young and beginner producers are farming on a total of 3,375 individual farms, totaling 160,038 acres, only a small increase in acres farmed by Beginner Farmers since 2017.

The number of new and beginning producers in NJ increased for all ages between 2017 and 2022 with the **highest number of beginner farmers in the 35 to 65 year old age group**.

The number of **new and beginning producers in NJ who own their farmland increased** between 2017 and 2022 as opposed to those who rented or leased farmland which decreased. (owned: 2,418 to 3,201; leased: 446 to 403).

Data found on Tables 69 and 70 of the 2022 Census Volume 1, Chapter 1:
State Level Data for NJ

YOUNG AND BEGINNER FARMERS

The majority (56%) of young producer-operated farms in NJ have an average value of **less than \$10,000**.

New and beginning producers in the state who identified as White increased from 3,843 to 5,316 in the past 5 years, **an increase of 38%**.

Of all **young female farmers in NJ, 80% are single producers**, meaning they are the **sole-owners** of their farm businesses.

The number of NJ's New and Beginner producers of Hispanic, Latino/a or Spanish origin has slightly **increased** from 2017 to 2022 (From 168 to 236).

Data found on Tables 69 and 70 of the 2022 Census Volume 1, Chapter 1:
State Level Data for NJ





View the 2022 Census of Agriculture at
<https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022>

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