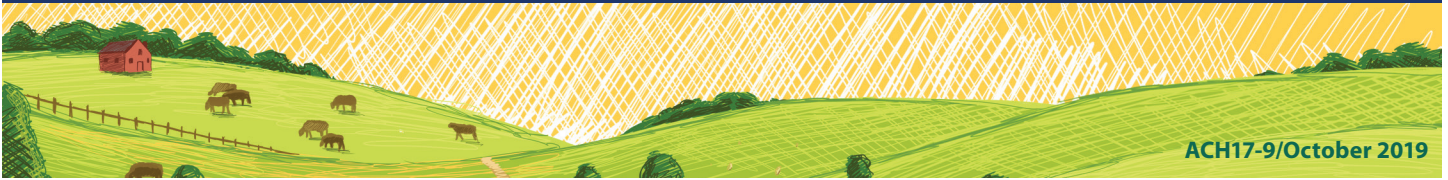


Black Producers

Up 5 percent since 2012; one-fifth serve or have served in the military



ACH17-9/October 2019

In 2017, the United States had 48,697 producers who identified as black, either alone or in combination with another race. They accounted for 1.4 percent of the country's 3.4 million producers, and they lived and farmed primarily in southeastern and mid-Atlantic states. Black producers were older and more likely to have served or to be serving in the military than U.S. producers overall. Their farms were smaller and the value of their agriculture sales was less than 1 percent of the U.S. total.

48,697
producers



4.7 million
acres



\$1.4 billion
agriculture sales



Number and Location

The 2017 Census of Agriculture revised the demographic data collected to better capture the contributions of all persons involved in agricultural production. In response to detailed questions about farm decision making, more farms reported multiple individuals involved in farm operations.

As a result of the new approach to counting producers, the total number of U.S. producers increased 7 percent between 2012 and 2017. The increase in black producers was 5 percent. The number of black-operated farms, like the total number of U.S. farms, declined 3 percent between 2012 and 2017, when black producers operated 35,470 farms.

In Texas, with more black producers than any other state, black producers were 3 percent of the state's total producers. Black producers made up a larger share of total producers in Mississippi (13 percent), Louisiana (7 percent), South Carolina (7 percent), Alabama (6 percent), and Georgia (4 percent).

Number of Producers and Farms, Black and All U.S.

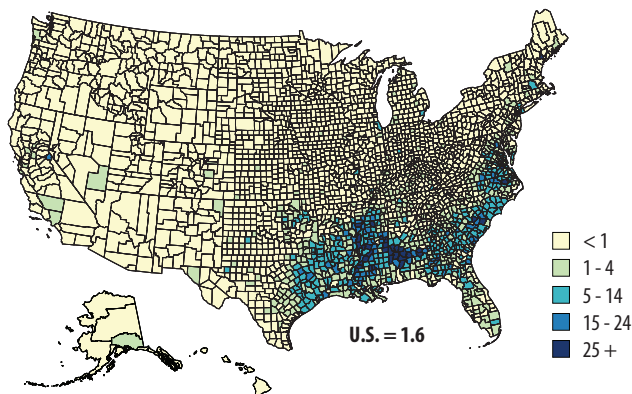
	2012	2017	% change
Producers			
Black	46,582	48,697	+5
All U.S.	3,180,074	3,399,834	+7
Farms			
Black-operated	36,382	35,470	-3
All U.S.	2,109,303	2,042,220	-3

88 The percent of black producers who live in the top twelve states.

Top States Black Producers, 2017

Texas	11,741
Mississippi	7,028
Alabama	4,208
Louisiana	3,222
Georgia	2,870
S. Carolina	2,634
Florida	2,448
N. Carolina	2,099
Oklahoma	2,074
Virginia	1,767
Arkansas	1,525
Tennessee	1,422

Black-operated Farms as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2017



Three counties had more than 300 black-operated farms: Smith County, Texas, (335 farms), Freestone County, Texas (319 farms), and Marion County, Florida (309 farms).

Note: Based on 32,910 farms with producers who identified themselves as black alone.

SNAPSHOT Black Producers, 2017

Number = 48,697*

	Black (percent)	All U.S.
Sex		
Male	71	64
Female	29	36
Age		
<35	6	8
35 - 64	51	58
65+	43	34
Years farming		
10 or less	29	27
11 or more	71	73
Lived on their farm	61	74
Worked off farm		
No days	40	39
1 to 199 days	25	21
200+ days	35	40
Primary occupation		
Farming	44	42
Other	56	58
Hispanic	3	3
With military service	19	11
Average age (years)	60.8	57.5

*Of the total, 45,508 identified themselves as black alone, and 3,189 as black in combination with another race. Data collected for up to four producers per farm.

About the Census

The Census of Agriculture, conducted once every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Results from the 2017 and earlier censuses are available at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, the new Census Data Query Tool, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products including profiles by race, ethnicity, and sex.

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

Producer Characteristics

Black producers are on average older than U.S. producers overall (60.8 versus 57.5 years in 2017) and more likely to have served or be serving in the U.S. military. A larger share are male (71 percent versus 64 percent for all U.S. producers). A smaller share lived on their farm (61 percent compared with 74 percent for all).

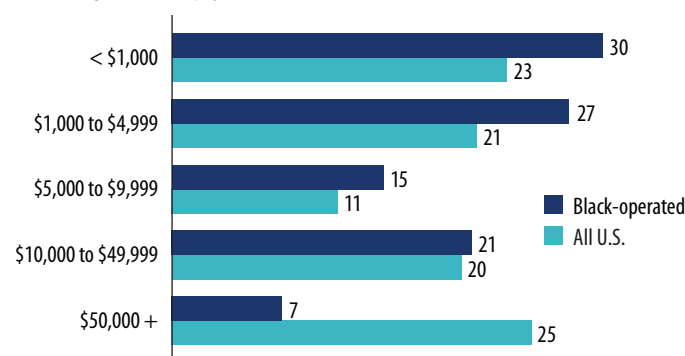
19

The percent of black producers with military service, compared with 11 percent of all producers.

Farm Characteristics

Black-operated farms sold \$1.4 billion in agricultural products in 2017, with 61 percent (\$858 million) in crop sales and 39 percent (\$559 million) in sales of livestock and livestock products. These farms accounted for 0.4 percent of total U.S. agriculture sales. They received \$59 million in government payments in 2017.

Black-operated and U.S. Farms by Economic Class, 2017 (percent)
(sales and government payments combined)



Fifty-seven percent of black-operated farms had sales and government payments of less than \$5,000 per year; 7 percent had sales and payments of \$50,000 or more, compared with 25 percent of all farms.

Farms and Land

Black-operated farms accounted for 4.7 million acres of farmland, 0.5 percent of the U.S. total. The majority of these farms (85 percent), like U.S. farms generally (70 percent), had fewer than 180 acres. The average size of black-operated farms was 132 acres.

Farm Size in Acres	Black-operated	All U.S.
	(percent of total)	
1 to 9	16	13
10 to 49	36	29
50 to 179	33	28
180 to 499	11	15
500 +	4	15

Two thirds (67 percent) of black-operated farms were operated by farmers who own all the land they farm, 9 percent by farmers who rent all the land.

Farm Specialization^a

Nearly half (48 percent) of black-operated farms specialized in cattle and dairy production in 2017, almost all in beef cattle production.

	% of farms
Oilseeds and grains	7
Specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, nursery)	12
Other crops	18
Cattle and dairy	48
Hogs and pigs	1
Poultry and eggs	1
Sheep and goats	4
Other animals	9

16,934

The number of black-operated farms specializing in beef cattle.

^aRefers to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). More than half of a farm's sales come from the commodity.

62

The percent of black-operated farms with internet access.