

# Black Producers

Acreage up 14% since 2017; nearly one-fifth served or had served in the military



ACH22-10/June 2024

In 2022, the United States had 46,738 producers who identified as Black, either alone or in combination with another race. They accounted for 1.4% of the country's 3.4 million producers, and they lived and farmed primarily in east Texas and the 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, both in average acres operated and average sales of agricultural products.

46,738  
producers



5.3 million  
acres



\$2.8 billion  
agriculture sales



## Number and Location

In 2022, the ag census counted 46,738 Black producers involved in decision making for 32,653 U.S. farms. The number of Black producers decreased 4% from 2017. The number of Black-operated farms declined 8% between 2017 and 2022. Black producers operated 5,323,654 acres, up 14% from 2017.

In Texas, with more Black producers than any other state, Black producers accounted for 3% of the state's total producers. States with the highest percentage of Black producers as a share of total producers included Mississippi (12%), Louisiana (7%), South Carolina (7%), Alabama (6%), and Georgia (4%).

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

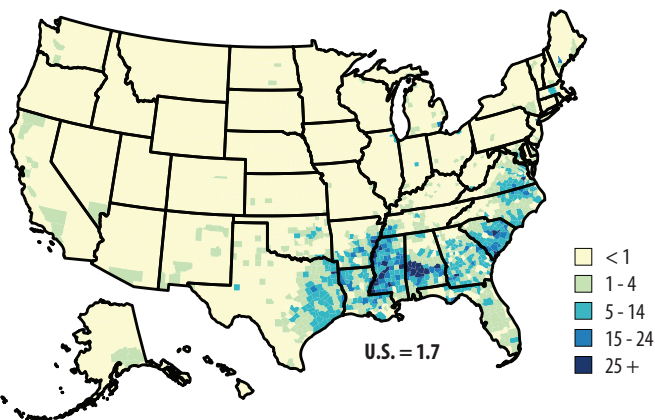
	2017	2022	% change
<b>Producers</b>			
Black	48,697	46,738	-4.0
All U.S.	3,399,834	3,374,044	-0.8
<b>Farms</b>			
Black-operated	35,470	32,653	-7.9
All U.S.	2,042,220	1,900,487	-6.9

### Top States Black Producers, 2022

Texas	11,511
Mississippi	6,380
Alabama	3,717
Louisiana	3,000
Georgia	2,906
South Carolina	2,501
Florida	2,278
North Carolina	2,058
Oklahoma	1,911
Virginia	1,766
Arkansas	1,525
Tennessee	1,332

**87** The percent of black producers who lived in the top 12 states.

### Black-operated Farms as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2022



Hinds county, Mississippi, (307 farms) was the only county that had more than 300 Black-operated farms.

	2017	2022	% change
<b>Owned</b>			
Farms	32,186	30,136	-6.4
Acres	2,887,102	3,245,991	12.4
<b>Rented</b>			
Farms	11,694	9,667	-17.3
Acres	1,786,038	2,077,663	16.3
<b>Total acres</b>	<b>4,673,140</b>	<b>5,323,654</b>	<b>13.9</b>

Note: Based on 28,723 farms with producers who identified themselves as Black alone.

## SNAPSHOT Black Producers, 2022

Number = 46,738\*

	Black (percent)	All U.S.
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	69	64
Female	31	36
<b>Age</b>		
<35	7	9
35 - 64	46	53
65+	47	38
<b>Years farming</b>		
10 or less	32	30
11 or more	68	70
<b>Lived on their farm</b>	60	70
<b>Worked off farm</b>		
No days	37	38
1 to 199 days	28	22
200+ days	35	40
<b>Primary occupation</b>		
Farming	46	42
Other	54	58
<b>Hispanic</b>	4	3
<b>With military service</b>	18	9
<b>Average age (years)</b>	60.8	58.1

\*Of the total 41,807 identified themselves as Black alone, and 4,931 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 2022 ag census as well as previous censuses are available online at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products.

[www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](http://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus)

## Producer Characteristics

Black producers were on average older than U.S. producers overall (60.8 versus 58.1 years in 2022) and more likely to have served or be serving in the U.S. military. A larger share were male (69% versus 64% for all U.S. producers). A smaller share lived on their farm (60% compared with 70% for all U.S. producers).

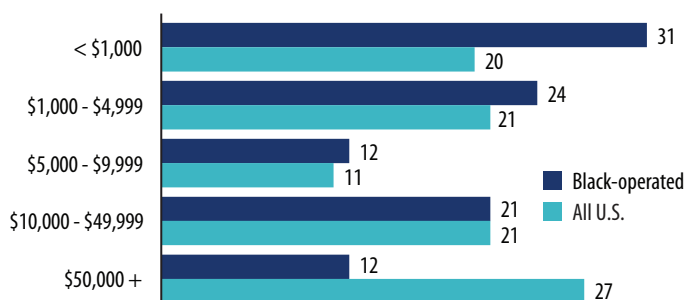
# 18

The percent of black producers with military service, compared with 9% of all producers.

## Farm Characteristics

Black-operated farms sold \$2.8 billion in agricultural products in 2022, with 56% (\$1.6 billion) in crop sales and 44% (\$1.2 billion) in sales of livestock and livestock products. These farms accounted for 0.5% of total U.S. agriculture sales. They received \$78 million in government payments in 2022.

**Black-operated and U.S. Farms by Economic Class, 2022** (percent)  
(sales and government payments combined)



Fifty-five percent of Black-operated farms had sales and government payments of less than \$5,000 per year, compared to 41% of all farms; 12% had sales and government payments of \$50,000 or more, compared with 27% of all farms.

## Farms and Land

Black-operated farms accounted for 5.3 million acres of farmland, 0.6% of the U.S. total. The majority of Black-operated farms (84%), like all U.S. farms (70%), had fewer than 180 acres. The average size of Black-operated farms was 163 acres.

Farm Size in Acres	Black-operated	All U.S.
	(percent of total)	
1 to 9	15	12
10 to 49	38	30
50 to 179	31	28
180 to 499	10	15
500 +	6	15

Seventy percent of Black-operated farms were operated by farmers who own all the land they operate, 22% by farmers who were part owners (own some land and rent some land), and 8% by farmers who rent all land operated.

**69** The percent of black-operated farms with internet access.

## Farm Specialization<sup>a</sup>

Nearly half (45%) of Black-operated farms specialized in cattle and dairy production in 2022, almost all in beef cattle production.

	% of farms
Oilseeds and grains	6
Specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, nursery)	13
Other crops	19
Cattle and dairy	45
Hogs and pigs	1
Poultry and eggs	3
Sheep and goats	4
Other animals	9

# 14,542

The number of black-operated farms that specialized in beef cattle.

<sup>a</sup>Refers to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). More than half of a farm's sales come from the commodity.