



# Ag Census Update

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# Agenda

Introduction to Ag  
Census

Highlights and Big  
Picture

4 Big Things

Q&A

# Ag Census Overview

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- The Ag Census is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them.
- Conducted every five years by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Ag Census provides comprehensive data on the agricultural sector.
- The Ag Census collects information on land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, and expenditures.
- The data collected by the Ag Census is used by farmers, ranchers, policymakers, researchers, and others to make informed decisions about agriculture and rural development.
- The Ag Census is the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation.
- Participation in the Ag Census is required by law for all those who receive a report form.

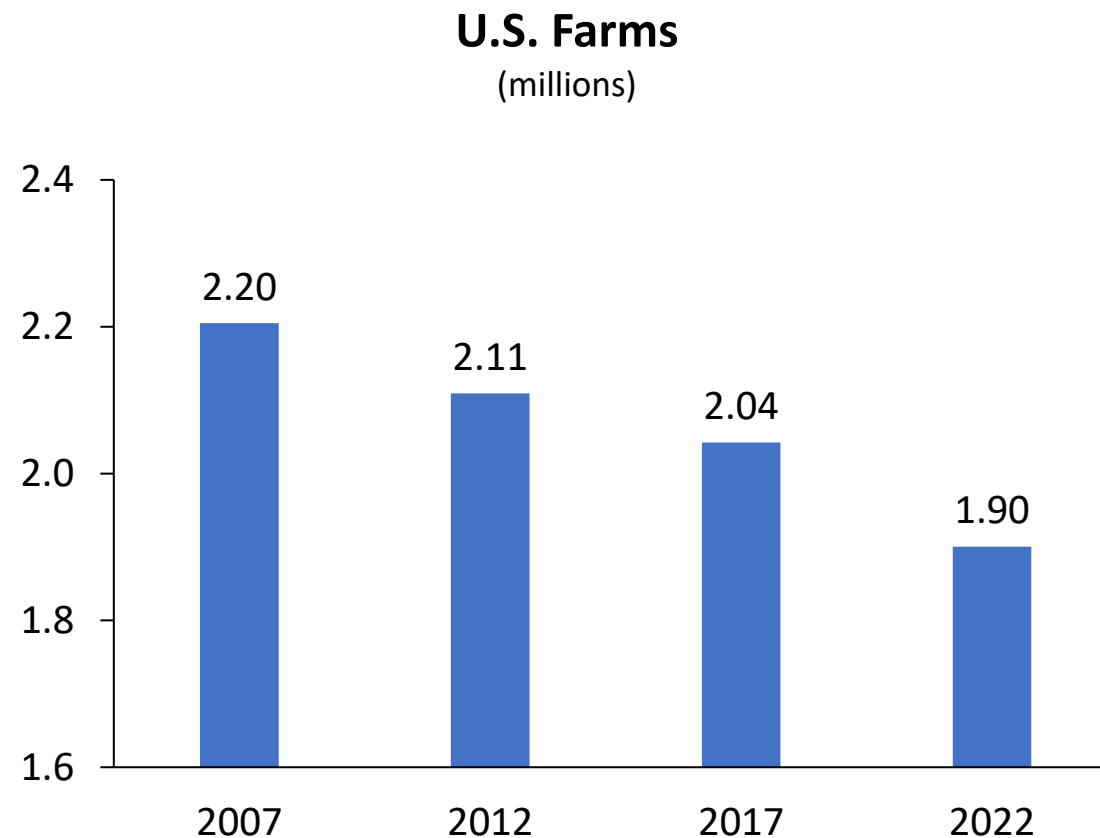




# Common Highlights

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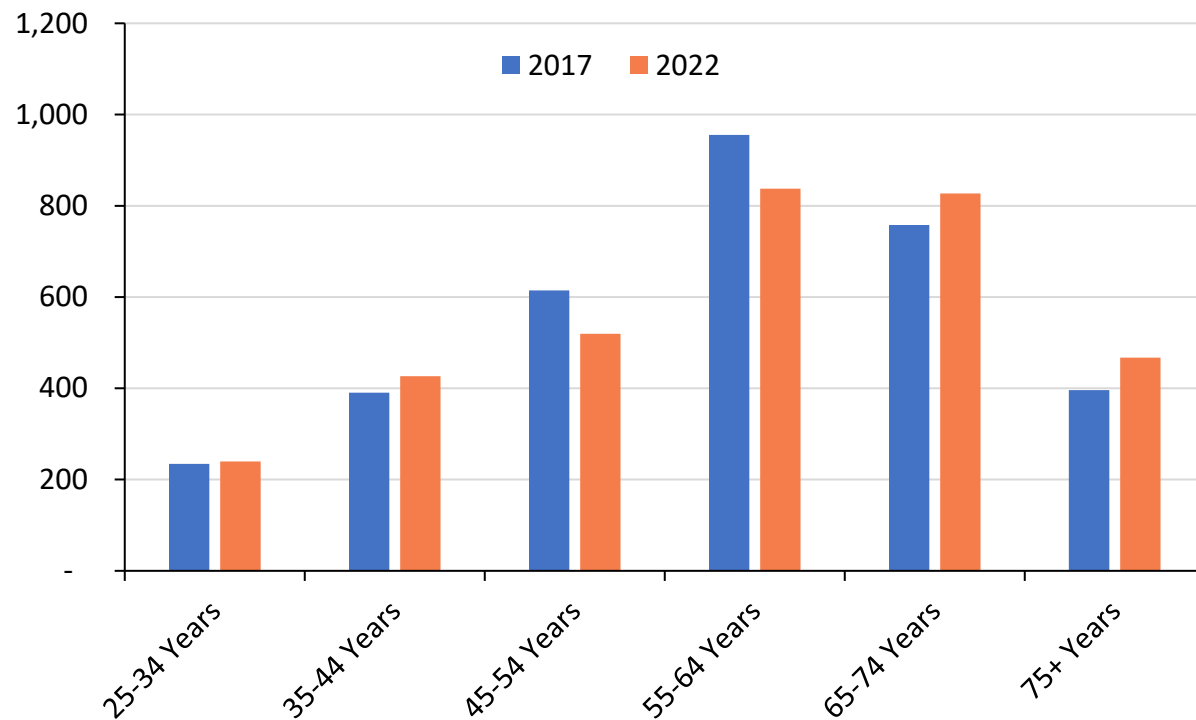
- Total number of farms down 7% to 1.9 million.
- Land in farms down from 900 million acres to 880 million.
- Average farm size increased 5% to 463 acres per operation.
- Family-owned and operated farms constitute 95% of all U.S. farms and they operate 84% of the acres.
- Average producer age rose from 57.5 to 58.1.





# Demographics

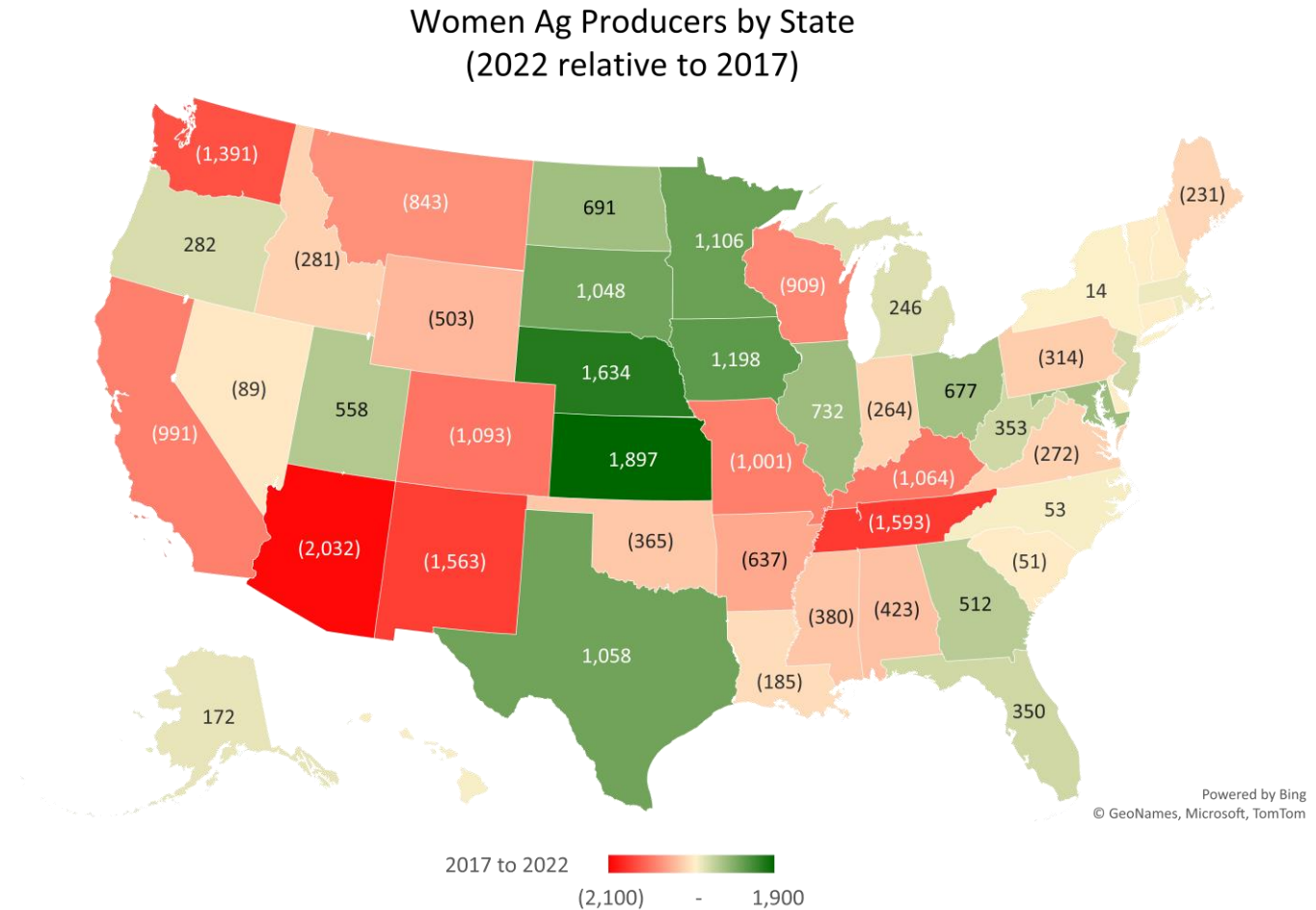
Number of Producers by Age  
(1,000s)



- The average producer age increased slightly, but the proportion of producers 65 and older increased from 34% to 39%.
- Interestingly, number of small farms (1-9 acres) dropped from 273k to 235k.
- Number of farms down 7% but the decline in number of agricultural producers was only 0.8%.
- Number of producers per farm:
  - 1-2 producers down from 990k to 916k
  - 3-5+ producers rose from 150k to 195k

# Demographics

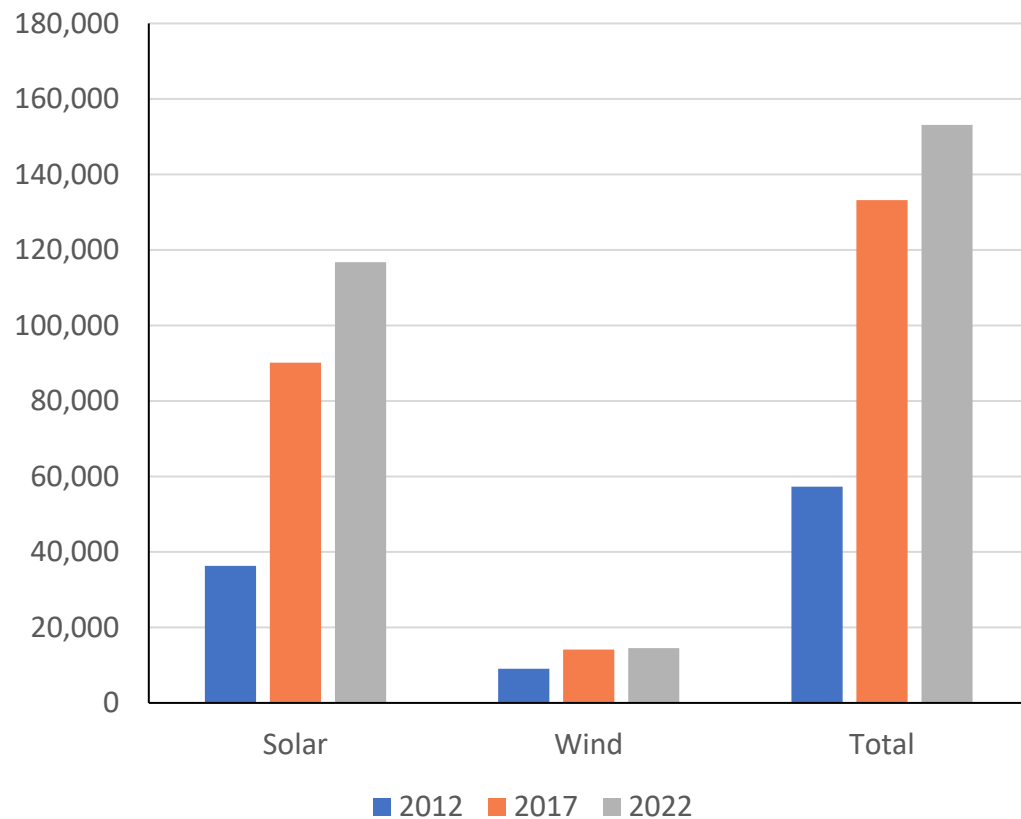
- The number of full-owner female farmers was relatively unchanged.
- However, females listing farming as primary occupation increased by 11k and number of acres farmed by female increased.
- Number of female producers below 45 increased 9% since 2017.
- No big differences in farm counts by race or ethnicity – most groups contracted in a similar trajectory.





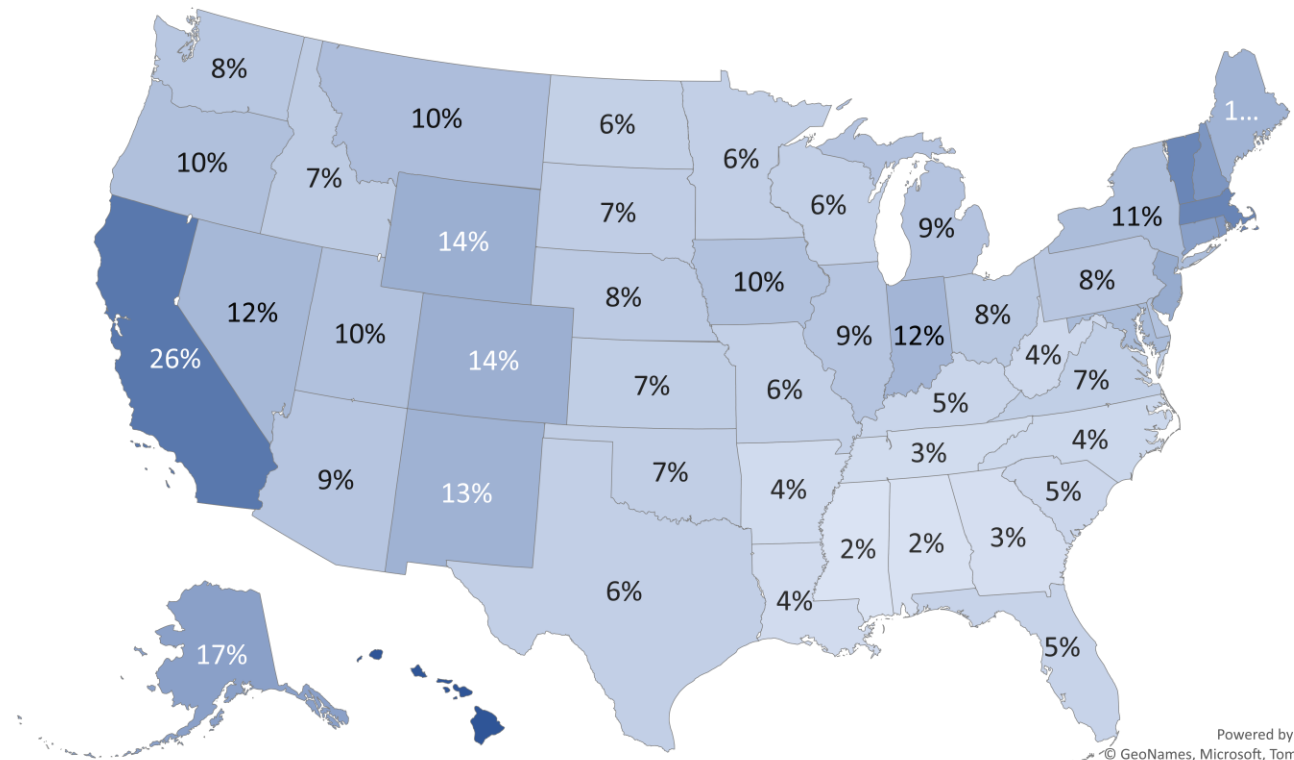
# On-Farm Renewable

## Number of Farms with Renewable Energy Projects



## % of Farms with Renewable Projects in 2022

% of All Farms Reporting 1 or more Renewable Energy Projects On-Farm

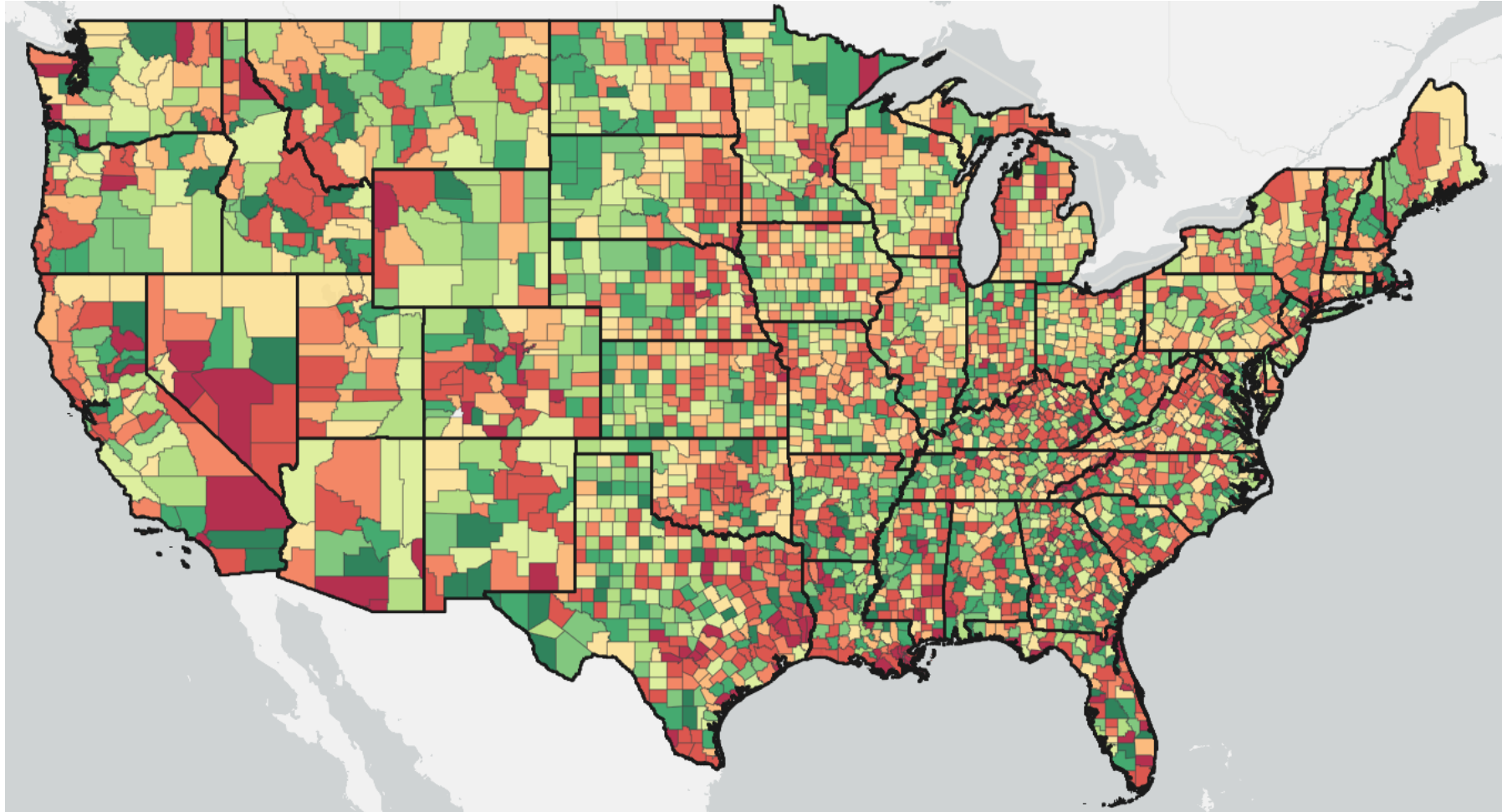


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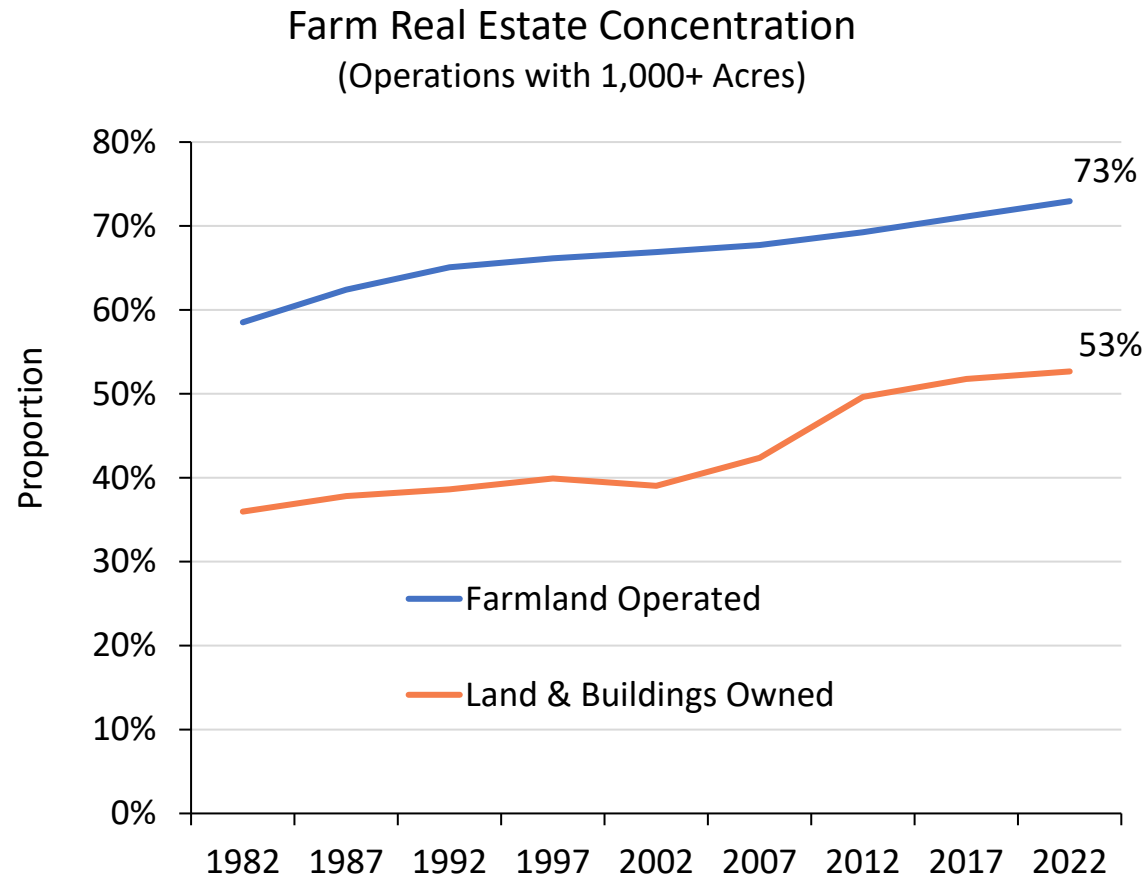
# Disappearing Farmland?

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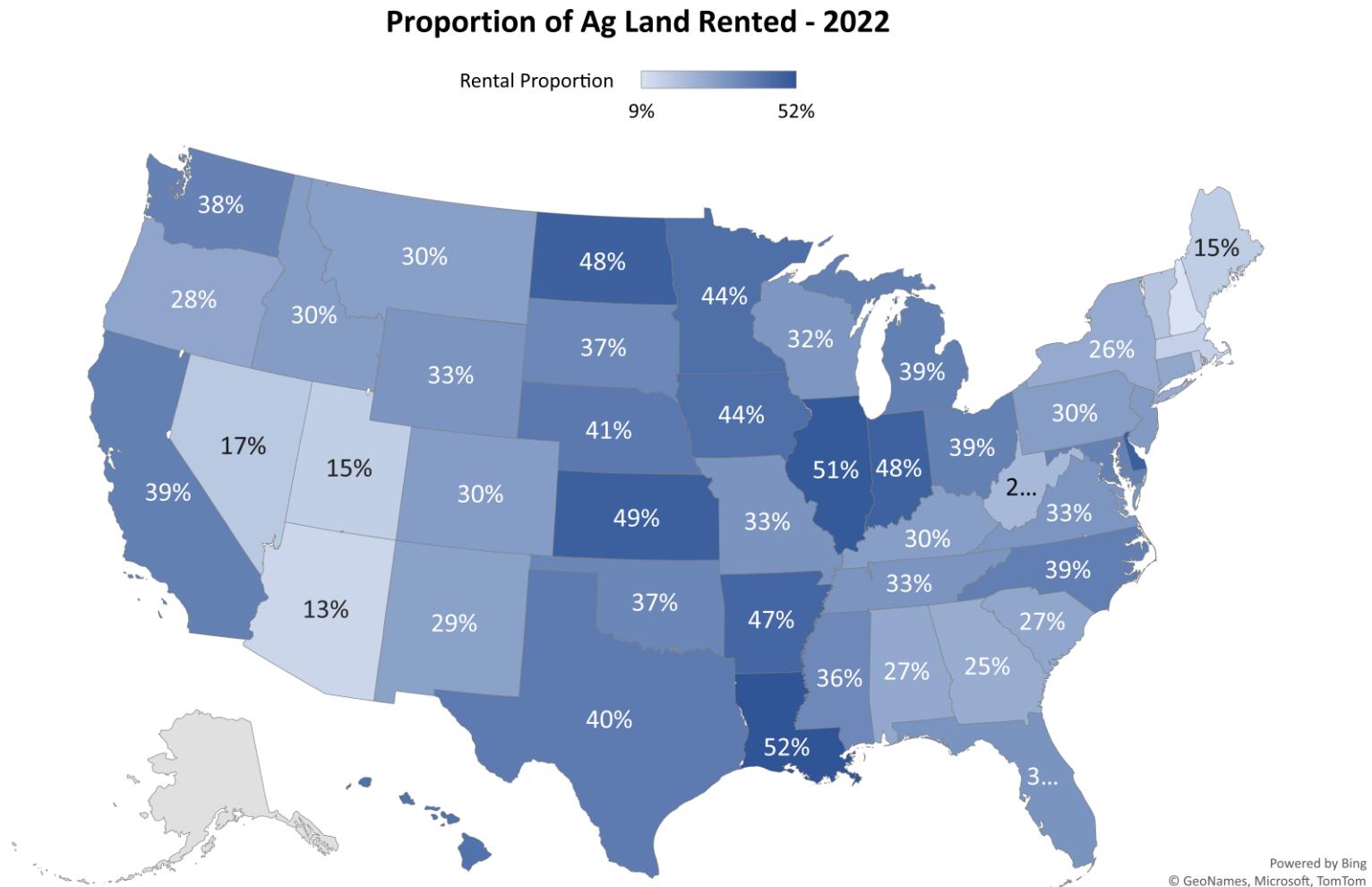
# Rising Farmland Concentration



- Over 73% of farmland is operated by producers that farm over 1,000 acres.
- In a similar vein, nearly 53% of ag land and buildings are owned by these producers.
- Rising farmland values play a role, as does the ability to spread fixed costs over a higher number of acres.
- As highlighted earlier, larger operations also include a growing number of producers.



# Producer Land Ownership Rising

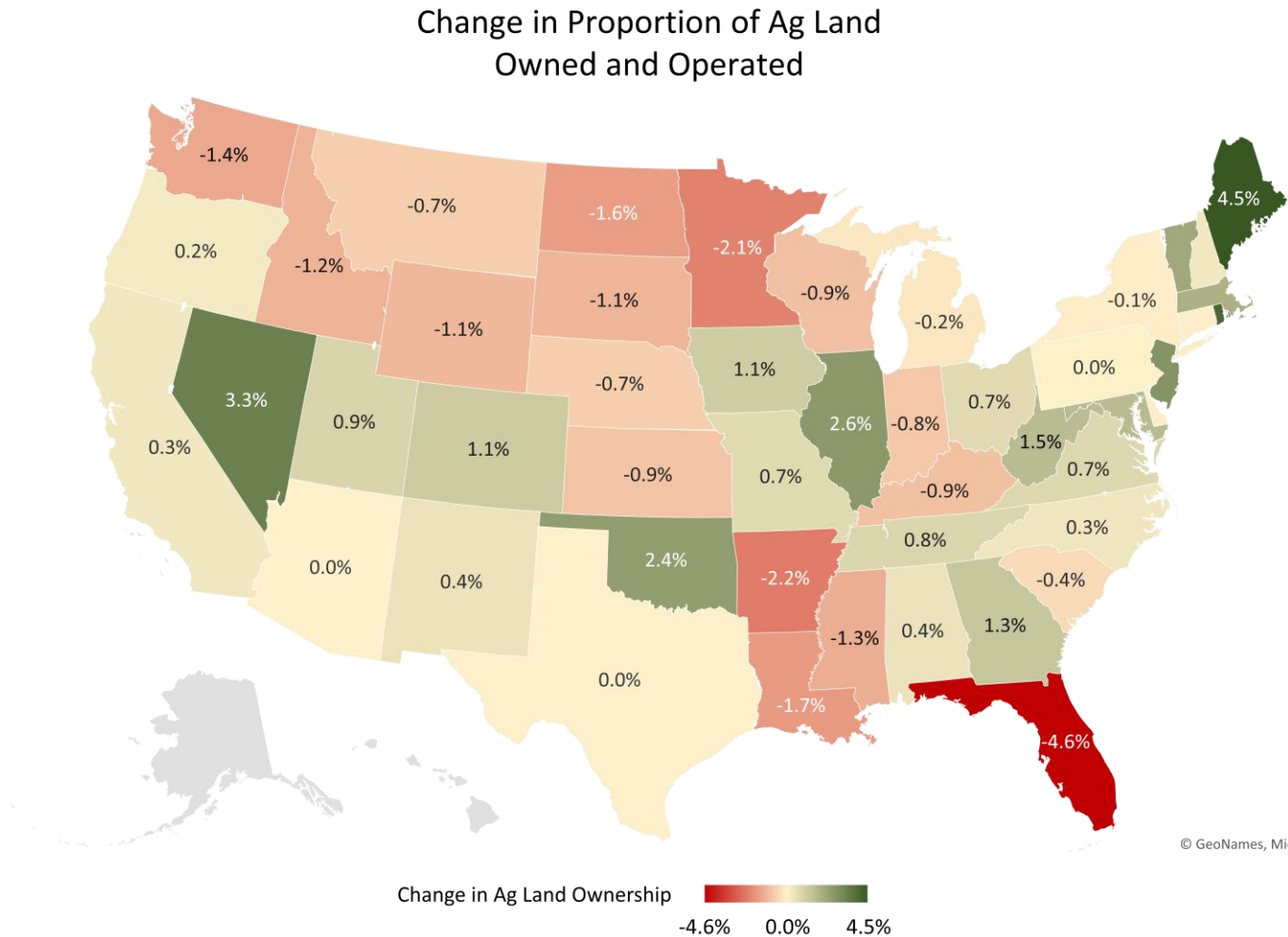


# Ownership Drill-down

- Upper Midwest, Delta, and Plains states saw producer ownership of land decline.
- Large farms remain most likely to rent a greater proportion of acres.

	2017	
	Farms - \$250k or less	Farms \$250k+
Own	79%	58%
Rent	21%	42%

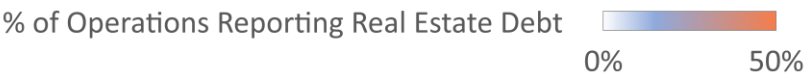
	2022	
	Farms - \$250k or less	Farms \$250k+
Own	81%	60%
Rent	19%	40%



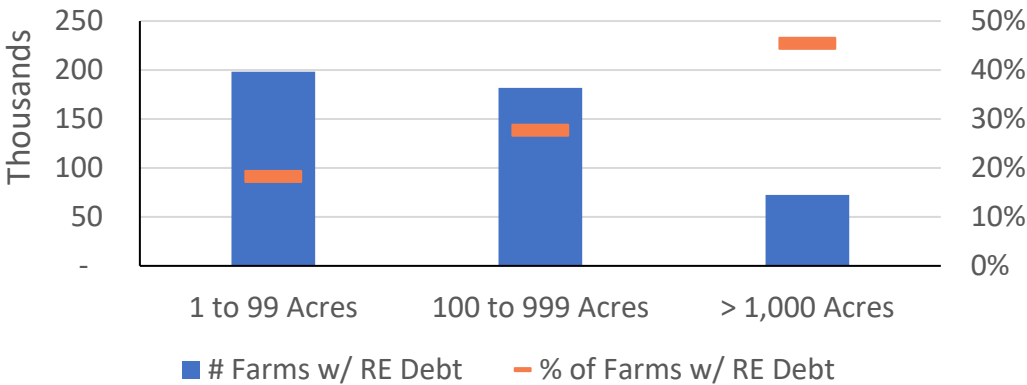


# Where's the Borrowing?

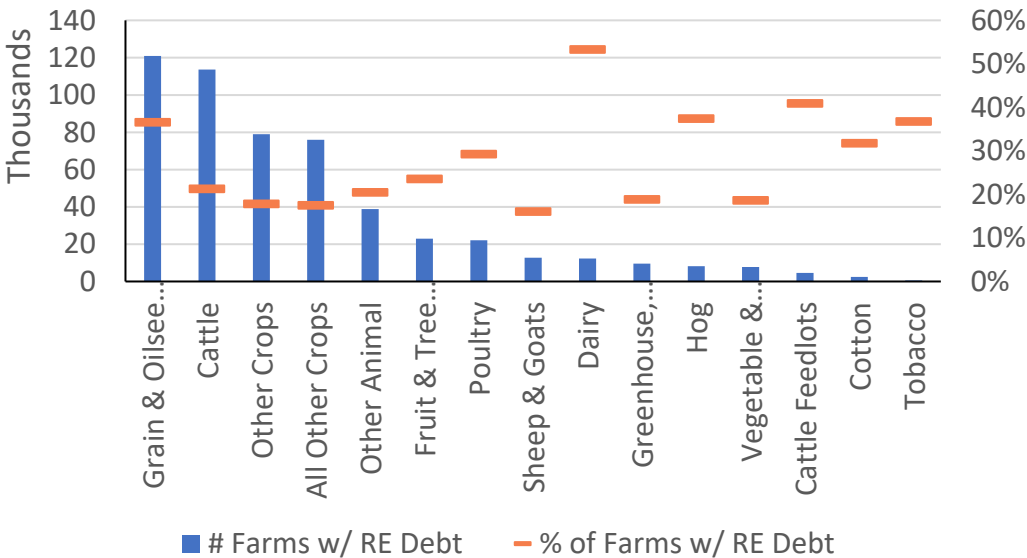
% of Farms Reporting Real Estate Interest Expense in 2022



By Size of Operation

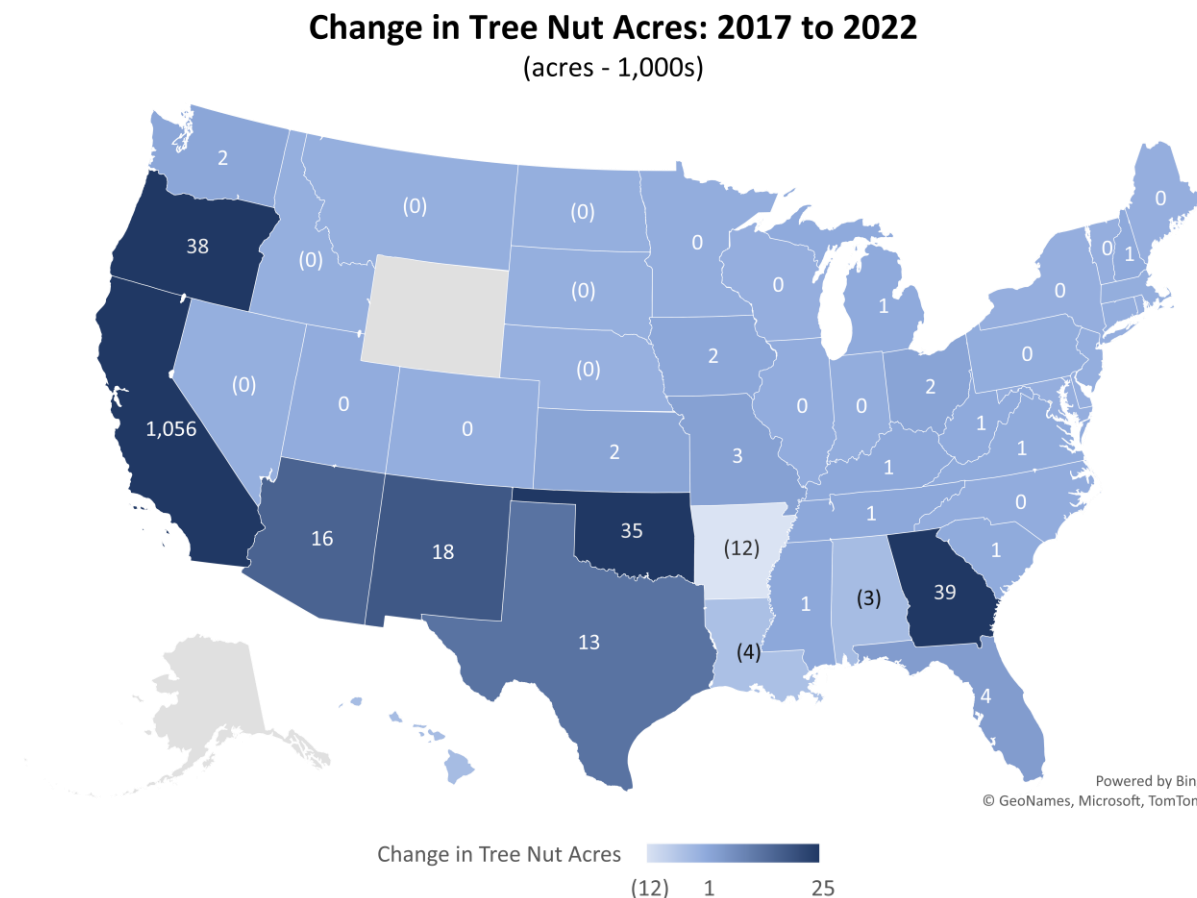


By Type of Operation



# Production Trends

- Census showed sharp increase in value of agricultural production from 2017 to 2022.
  - Total sales increased 40% from \$389 billion to \$543 billion.
- More Farms:
  - Grains
  - Fruit & Tree Nut
  - Poultry & Eggs
  - Greenhouses
- Fewer Farms:
  - Dairy
  - Cattle
- Tree nut planted acreage increased 1.22 million acres (22%). Berries and other permanent crops also increased – in select states.





**Q&A**



# Details on The Feed

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- Realtime release schedule
- Focus on sectors and stories relevant to the rural and agricultural economies
- Available on the Farmer Mac website to download historical issues or subscribe to new releases (<https://www.farmermac.com/thefeed/>)
- Subscribers automatically receive summaries via email
- Send comments and requests to [thefeed@farmermac.com](mailto:thefeed@farmermac.com)



Farmer Mac's expert perspective on agriculture that combines the most relevant insightful commentary and analysis from our own team of experts into a single, reliable source.



ECONOMY

Income Forecast Reveals a  
Bag



POWER & ENERGY

Winds of Change: Renewable Energy  
Set to Grow in Rural America,  
Powering New Opportunities



**FARMER  AC**

**Thank You!**

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