

LOUISIANA FARM LABOR



Young Producers: 2022 Census of Agriculture Highlights

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Report in a Snapshot

With increased concerns over the ageing of US farmers, attracting and retaining new growers and ranchers has been a continuous effort of USDA programs. The 2022 Census of Agriculture (AgCensus) collected separately for the first-time data on young producers, i.e., female and male operators less than 25 years of age. In the US 296,480 young producers were documented. This report discusses highlights for the young producers recorded in Louisiana.

- 1) **Demographics:** Out of 3,589 young producers, 37% are women, 93% white.
- 2) **Primary Occupation:** About 81% of young producers work off-farm jobs.
- 3) **Experience & Decision Making:** 52% of young producers have less than five years of farming experience and they predominately engage in day-to-day decisions.
- 4) **Production Focus:** Beef ranching, sugarcane farming, and aquaculture among the top 5 production specialties where we see a high concentration of young producers.
- 5) **Market Value:** Highest concentration of young producers in farms in the \$50,000 or more economic class, indicating a positive trend toward profitability.

Visit the Farm Labor website to find publications in the series for selected subgroups including producers with military service, female producers, and new and beginning producers.

Producer Characteristics

A total of 3,589 young producers were listed in the 2022 AgCensus with a little over one third (37%) of them young female producers. In terms of race and ethnicity, 93% were white, 5% were black, 1% were American Indian, 1% identified of more than one race, and less than 1% were Native Hawaiian.

This demographic breakdown provides insight into the diversity of young producers in Louisiana's agricultural sector.

Surprisingly, no Asian producers were recorded which should be further explored as Louisiana has several communities of Asian farmers. Here we note that Louisiana had one of the lowest response rates well below the desired 60% response rate.

Occupation & Experience

A total of 2,428 **(81%) young producers reported off-farm occupation**, with 18% of them working more than 200 days (about 6 and a half months) a year off-farm. About two-thirds (59%) reside on farms which may be promising for their engagement in farm activities.

Within the young producer group, 2,957 (82%) identified as N&B farmers with less than 11 years of farm experience. Specifically, 52% of these producers have been operating a farm for less than 5 years, while 30% have been involved in farming for a period of 6 to 10 years. This information highlights the diversity of experience levels within the young producer category.

Decision Making

The 2022 AgCensus continued the collection of data on producer's involvement in decision making for six categories (Table 1).

Table 1. Involvement in Decision Making

Decision Making	2022
Day-to-day decisions	82%
Land use and/or crop decisions	65%
Livestock decisions	64%
Marketing decisions	53%
Record Keeping/ Financial Management	61%
Estate planning	31%

It is not surprising that young producers are involved in day-to-day decisions particularly if they are the primary farm operators. Involvement in estate planning has received the least attention from young operators. This can be justified as it may not be a priority for them, or they may not be given the

opportunity to engage in such decisions. Estate planning though is at the end of the list for all Louisiana producers and all other subpopulations we have examined (please refer to publications in the series for more information).

Facts for Operations

The 2022 AgCensus reported 2,707 farms with young producers with 900,373 acres of land.

Farm Composition

The 2022 AgCensus did not clarify the role of the young producers, for example if they were the primary operators (decision-maker). Looking closely to the composition of farm operators in farms that report young operators we notice the following:

1. The number of farms reporting one producer, hence **farms with young producers as primary operators equal 530**.
2. **Most of the operations with young producers report two producers**.
3. In farms reporting more than three young producers, the chance that these producers are male is 3:1 to female.

Farm Size

We observe the highest concentration of young producers in operations with farm size 10-49 acreage (31%).

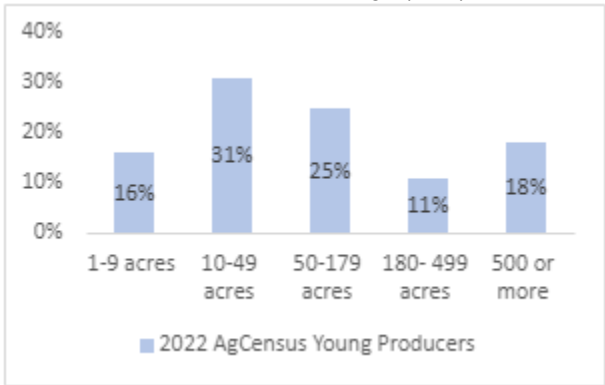


Figure 1: Farms with Young Producers by Size

It is hard to disentangle with aggregate data if these producers are involved in family operations or starting their own business. A look into tenure and ownership may offer some extra information but again the way the data were collected do not allow to make connections to primary operators.

Production

In 2022, young producers showed significant involvement in several agricultural industries by NAICS classification. We noticed the highest concentration of young producers in beef ranching operations (42%) followed by sugarcane farming and aquaculture (14% respectively).

Ownership and Tenure

Ownership and tenure offer important insights into the financial health of the ag sector. Figure 2 presents respective information on farms with young producers.

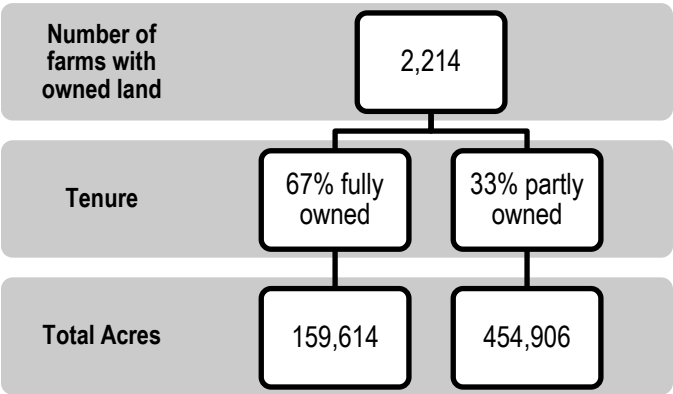


Figure 2: Ownership and Tenure Information

The notable difference in acreage between full ownership and part ownership suggests a potential disparity in landholding sizes among young producers. Another option is renting or leasing farmland. A total of 1,213 farms were rented or leased, accounting for 613,605 acres, highlighting that land access continues to be one of the main challenges young producers face.

Market Value & Economic Class

USDA reports on economic activities, with operations listing young producers making 594,213 (in \$1,000) in market value of products sold and receiving 16,248 (in \$1,000) in government payments.

Turning our attention to economic activities (Figure 3), we see a higher concentration of young producers in farms reporting \$50,000 or more. This suggests that these young producers are part of family operations.

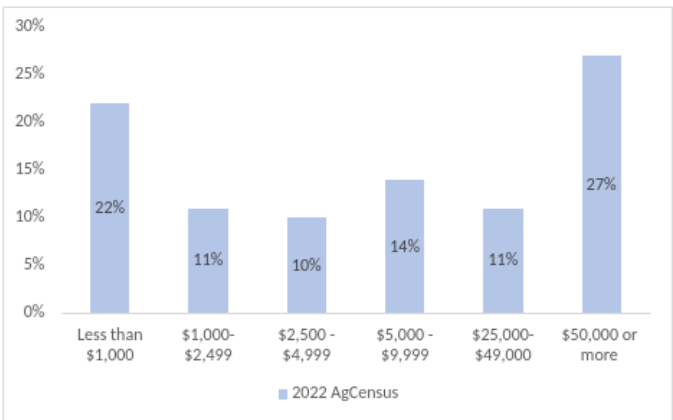


Figure 3: Economic Class Classification

Glossary:

Farm with sales of less than \$1,000. This category includes farms with sales of less than \$1,000 but having the potential for sales of \$1,000 or more. Some of these farms had no sales in the census year. It provides information on all report form items for farms that normally would be expected to sell agricultural products of \$1,000 or more. (Appendix B, Ag Census 2022).

Farms by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The NAICS classifies economic activities. For the 2022 census, all agricultural production establishments (farms, ranches, nurseries, greenhouses, etc.) were classified by type of activity or activities using the NAICS code. The 2022 census is the sixth census to use NAICS. Censuses prior to the 1997 census used the old Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to classify farms.

For more information:

Ag Census (2017). Census of Agriculture. "Full Report"
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/#full_report

Ag Census (2022). Census of Agriculture. "Full Report"
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/index.php#full_report

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