



2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Asian Farmers

The number of Asian farm operators grew 40 percent from 2002.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture shows that U.S. farmers and ranchers are becoming more diverse and that the number of Asian operators continues to rise.

The 2007 Census counted a total of 20,417 Asian operators on 15,360 farms and ranches across the United States. The count of Asian operators grew 40 percent from 2002, significantly outpacing the 7 percent increase in U.S. operators overall.

There were a total of 18,289 operators who reported Asian as their only race in 2007. Of these, 11,214 were principal operators, up 34 percent from 2002.*

	2007	2002	% Change
All Farm Operators	3,281,534	3,053,801	+7
Asian Farm Operators	20,417	14,535	+40
Asians as % of Total	0.6%	0.5%	+31
All Principal Farm Operators	2,204,792	2,128,982	+4
Asian Principal Operators	11,214	8,375	+34
Asians as % of Total	0.5%	0.4%	+29

U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service



** Before 2002, the Census of Agriculture collected detailed demographic data on only one operator per farm. Since 2002, the census has taken a more comprehensive approach, counting all operators and collecting detailed demographic information on up to three operators per farm. The principal operator is the person in charge of day-to-day decisions for the farm or ranch.*

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The states with the highest percentage of Asian principal farm operators are:

1. Hawaii
2. California

More than half of all the nation's Asian principal operators live in these two states.

How Do They Compare?

When compared to all farms nationwide, those with Asian principal operators tend to be smaller in terms of acreage but much larger in terms of sales. This is because Asians operate a greater share of farm operations that produce high-value specialty crops.

FARM/RANCH OPERATIONS	All Farms	Asian-Operated Farms
Average Size of Farm	418 acres	124 acres
Average Value of Sales	\$134,807	\$327,621
Sales & Government Payments <\$10,000	58%	42%
Farms with Internet Access	57%	48%

Asian farm operators are predominantly male, as are principal operators overall. However, the total number of Asian female farm operators grew 45 percent from 2002. Women now comprise 18 percent of Asian operators, up from 15 percent in 2002.

Asian farmers and ranchers tend to be slightly younger on average than their counterparts nationwide. They are more likely to own all of the land that they operate, rather than renting or leasing land. They are less likely to have worked at least some days in an off-farm job. And a higher-than-average percentage of Asian operators report that they've been on their present farm or ranch for 4 years or less.

FARM/RANCH OPERATORS	All Operators	Asian Operators
Male	86%	82%
Derive <50% of Income from Farming	80%	73%
Farming as Primary Occupation	45%	57%
Operator Owns All Farm Acres	69%	74%
Worked Off Farm	65%	61%
4 Years or Less on Present Farm	10%	19%
65 Years or Older	30%	26%
Average Age of Operator	57.1	56.4

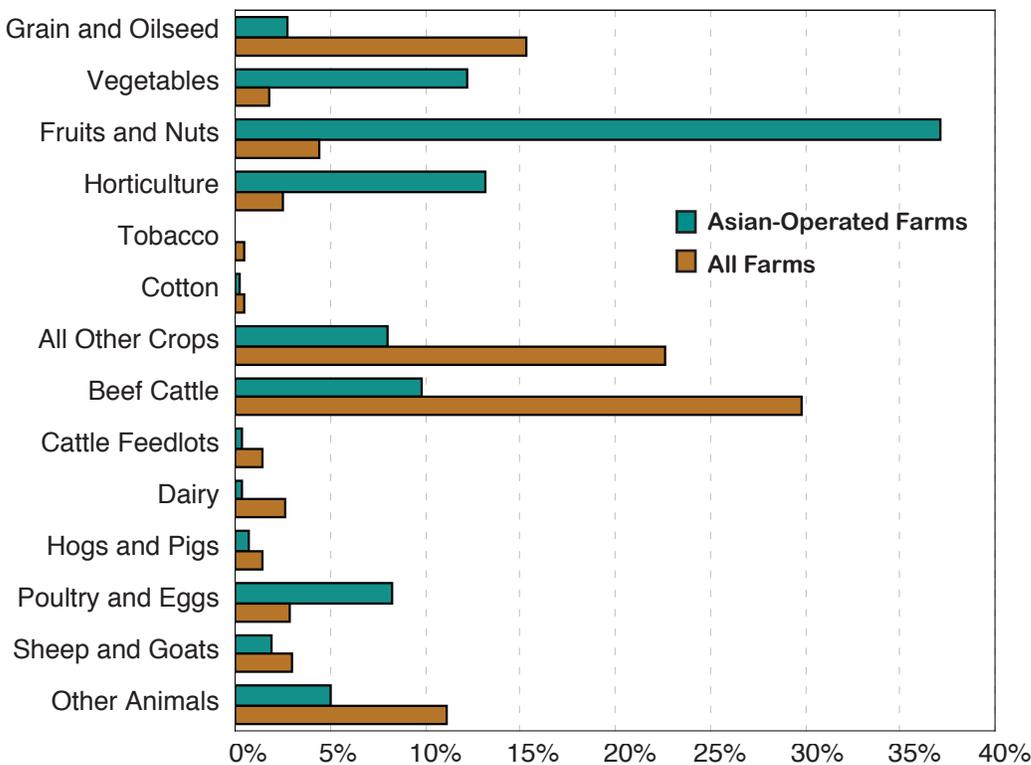
Asian Farmers

What Do They Produce?

A full 63 percent of all Asian-operated farms are classified as specialty crop operations. This category includes fruit and tree nut farms, vegetable and melon farms, and greenhouse, nursery and floriculture operations. In comparison, only 9 percent of all farms nationwide are in the specialty crop category.

The single largest category of farms operated by Asian producers is fruit and tree nut operations at 37 percent. Another 25 percent are classified as horticulture or vegetable farms. And only 26 percent of Asian-operated farms specialize in livestock production, compared to 52 percent of all farms nationwide.

Percent of Farms by North American Industry Classification System



Every Voice Counts

In conducting the 2007 Census of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) placed a special emphasis on outreach to traditionally under-represented populations, including small, minority, female and limited-resource farm operators.

Working in partnership with community-based organizations nationwide, NASS engaged in an extensive effort to make sure the 2007 Census mailing list included all farms and ranches, regardless of size, location or type of operation. NASS also partnered with these groups to provide hands-on assistance and support to local producers — including non-English speakers — in filling out their Census forms. In addition, NASS targeted its media outreach efforts towards publications and broadcast outlets that reach small, minority and non-English-speaking producers.

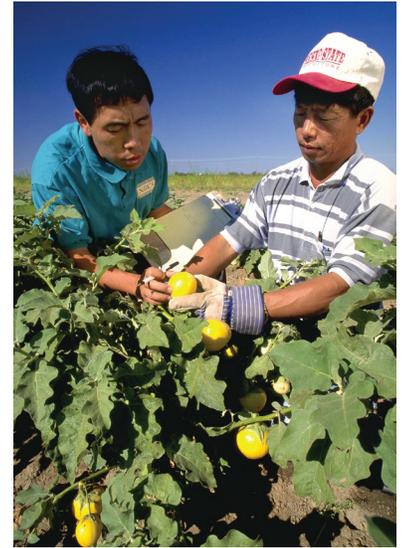
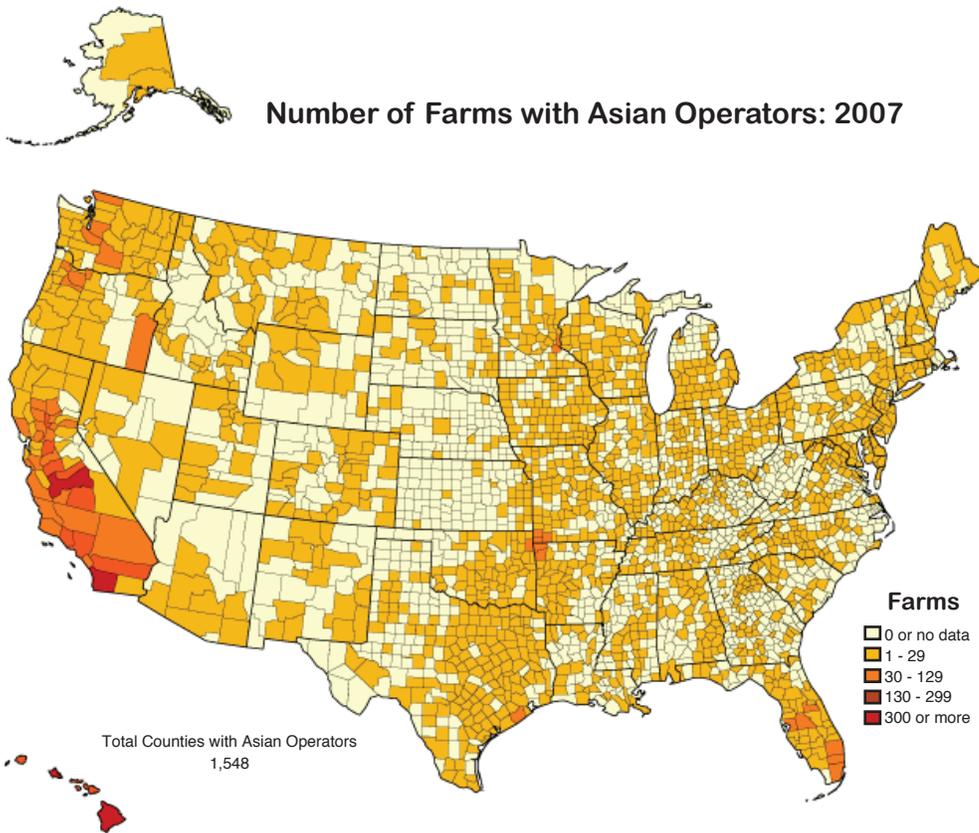
The 2007 Census of Agriculture marked the first time NASS attempted to collect a Census report from individual farm operators on American Indian reservations in all states. In 2002, reservations were counted as a single farm and reservation officials supplied counts of individual operators. NASS will issue a follow-up report about agricultural activity on American Indian reservations in the spring of 2009.

NASS is committed to continuing its outreach to all underserved populations.

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Where Do They Farm?

The percentage of Asian principal operators is highest in Hawaii (34 percent) and California (5 percent). In fact, more than half of all the nation's Asian principal operators live in these two states. In all other states, Asians comprise 1 percent or less of all principal operators.



For more information:

www.nass.usda.gov

www.agcensus.usda.gov

Agricultural Statistics Hotline
(800) 727-9540

To be counted in 2012:

Sign-up at

www.nass.usda.gov/counts

or call

(800) 892-1660

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