



Quick Look at Indian Country's Farm Acreage - Census of Agriculture

2022 TRENDS

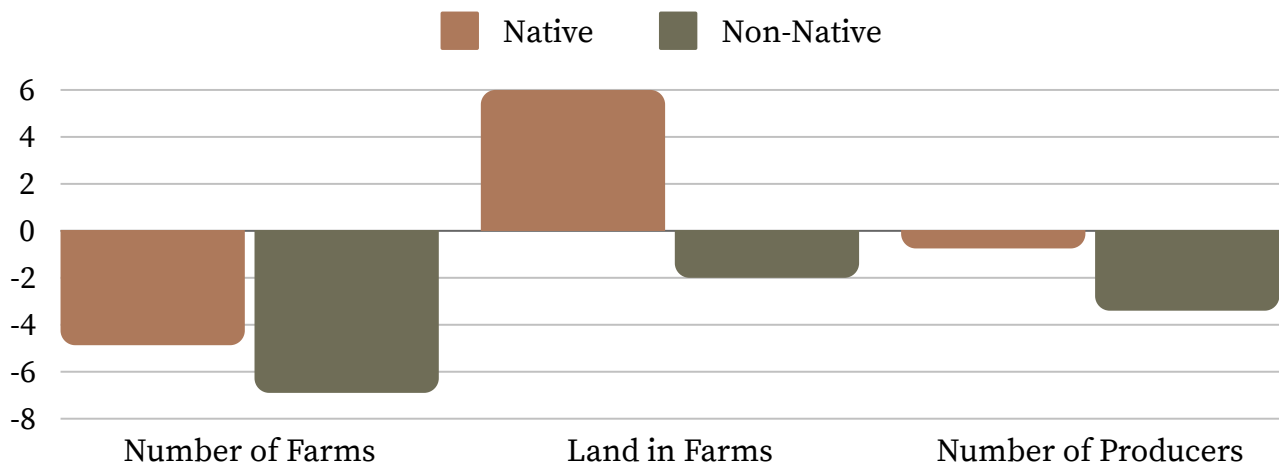
There is a long history of changes in Indian Country farm acreage and ownership. The U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Agriculture Statistic Survey (USDA - NASS) reports an increase in the number of acres farmed by Native Americans in the 2022 Census of Agriculture. While the data released in February includes nationwide crop production and average farm size for non-Native producers, NASS will release Indian Country specific data in August 2024.

ACRES OVER TIME



Since the USDA - NASS took over administering the Census of Agriculture in 2007, Indian Country total acreage has varied from 57 million in 2012 to around 55 million in 2022.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2017 - 2022



Indian Country and the United States as a whole has experienced a decrease in the number of farms and producers; However, the 2022 Census of Agriculture reported more than a 6 percent increase in acres while non-Native data indicated a more than 2% loss in acres.





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WHAT DOES THE CENSUS OF AG ASK?

- Total acres owned
 - Acres rented or leased to and from others
 - Acres with harvested crops
- Land status: permits, land ownership, land rented or used
- Number of acres operated under a permit by this farm or ranch on federal trust lands or Tribal lands on an American Indian Reservation. Include grazing permits and land use or farm permits, homesite leases, and other permit arrangements.
- The number of acres of:
 - land harvested from plots
 - land on which all crops failed or were abandoned
 - Cropland in summer fallow
- Land idle for any reason or used for cover crops or soil improvement but not harvested and not pastured or grazed
- Permanent pasture, rangeland, open grazing land, or range management units
- Woodland pastured
- Land in farm plots is used only for pasture or grazing
- Woodland is not pastured
- All other land
- Acres from which field crops were harvested

BIA - USDA DIFFERENCES

NASS defines Indian agriculture acreage as “ land in farms’ consisting primarily of agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing. It also includes woodland and wasteland not actually under cultivation or used for pasture or grazing, provided it was part of the farm operator’s total operation. Large acreages of woodland or wasteland held for nonagricultural purposes were deleted from individual reports during the edit process.”

NASS did not ask for specific crop acreages or livestock inventories on reservation land, but the agency did collect information regarding harvested cropland acreage and the percent of livestock inventory on reservation land. Consequently, the total crop acreage or livestock inventory may include some acreage or livestock located outside reservation boundaries.

