Highlights of NYS Agriculture in the Latest Ag Census

by Adriana Hernandez, Robin Blakely-Armitage and Jan Vink, Cornell University

Every five years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts a census. The data collected in the most recent Census of Agriculture (2017) is now publicly available, and includes information on production practices, farm ownership, land use, characteristics of farm operators, and much more. In New York State (NYS) there is very little racial or ethnic diversity among agricultural producers, with almost 99% identifying as white and only 1% as Hispanic/Latino. More than a quarter of producers are new or beginning farmers, over a third are female, and 8% have served in the military. The increasing average age of farmers has caused concern - the average age of all producers in NYS increased from 54.8 to 55.8 years between 2012 and 2017. Areas of the state with higher proportions of young producers are shown in the map below. In New York City, Kings and New York counties report relatively high percentages of young producers, who are most likely involved in small-scaled urban agriculture. For more data, interactive tools, and analyses, visit: https://www.nass.usda.gov/Data_and_Statistics/index.php