

LOUISIANA FARM LABOR



Louisiana Producers With Military Service 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture

The 2017 U.S. Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture (2017 Ag Census) collected information about producers with military service for the first time. According to the USDA, a producer with military service is defined as a producer who "currently or previously served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces" (2017 Ag Census). With the information collected, the 2017 Ag Census revealed 370,619 producers that have served in or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

This group of producers accounted for 11% of the total producers in the United States. On a national scale, they operated farms and ranches on 128,144,965 acres of land and were mainly concentrated in the southeastern portion of the United States.

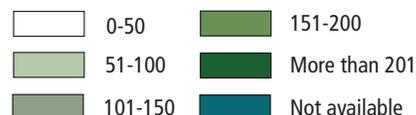
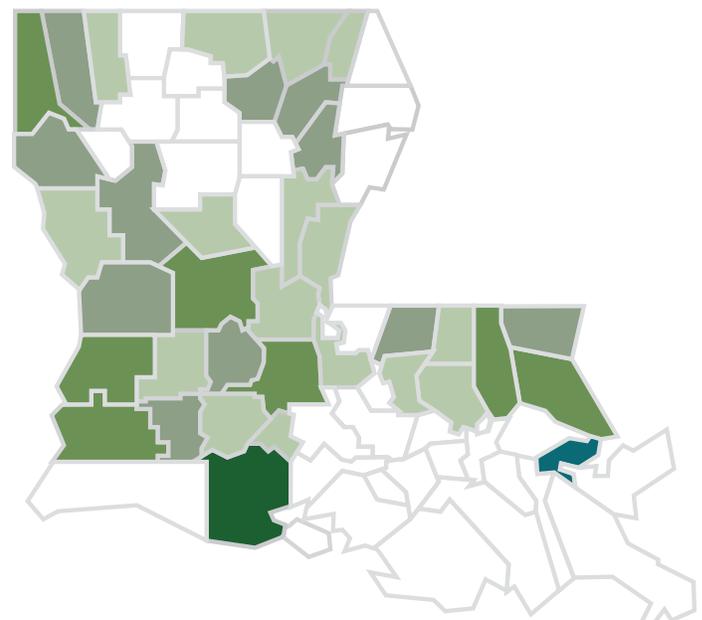
This document highlights information related to producers that have served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It reports on producer characteristics, farm operation characteristics and decision-making.

Producer Characteristics

According to the Ag Census, 4,167 producers (95%) were male, while only 178 producers (5%) were female. This indicates that approximately seven-eighths of producers with military service in Louisiana are male, while about one-eighth of these producers are female. This closely matches the composition of the U.S. Armed Forces, which was composed of 16% women and 84% men in 2016 and 2017 (Reynolds and Shendruk, 2018). According to the Ag Census, 351,647 producers (95%) with military identified themselves as male, while 18,972 producers (5%) identified as female.

Parish Data. In Louisiana, Vermilion, St. Landry, Beauregard, Calcasieu, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa parishes have the largest number of producers who are currently serving or have previously served in the U.S. Armed Forces with 225, 194, 192, 182, 175 and 167 producers, respectively. On the other hand, Assumption, St. Bernard, West Baton Rouge, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary, and St. James parishes have the smallest concentration of producers with a military background.

Veteran Producers in Louisiana



Of the 4,751 producers with a military background, 4,115 (approximately 87%) were white. Black or African American producers made up the second-largest group of producers with military service, with 557 (approximately 12%) producers. Producers with Hispanic, Spanish or Latino origins made up the third-largest category of producers with military service. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander producers with military service and Asian producers with military service had extremely small concentrations in Louisiana with 0 and 5 producers, respectively. The order of the groups matches the state race and ethnicity profile of producers (Table 1).

Table 1. Louisiana Producers With Military Service Race/ Ethnicity Decomposition

Race/Ethnicity	Any Producer	Percentage of Producers
White	4,115	86.61%
Black or African American	557	11.72%
Hispanic, Spanish or Latino	84	1.77%
More than one race reported	41	0.86%
American Indian or Native American	33	0.69%
Asian	5	0.11%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0.00%

Source: USDA NASS 2017 Census of Agriculture

Experience. Most veteran producers are experienced farmers and ranchers. In 2017, 3,680 (77%) had 11 years or more of farming and/or ranching experience. Approximately 1,100 producers have only operated farms and/or ranches for 10 years or fewer (Table 2).

Table 2. Louisiana Producers With Military Service

Experience	Any Producer	Percentage
5 years or less	549	11.56%
6 to 10 years	522	10.99%
11 years or more	3,680	77.46%

Source: USDA NASS 2017 Census of Agriculture

Labor. In Louisiana, 2,311 producers with military service listed farming as their primary occupation. This indicates that 2,311 producers (49%) that served or are currently serving in the military spend at least half of their time doing farm and/or ranch work. On the other hand, 2,440 producers (51%) with a military background have listed some occupation other than farming as their primary source of income.

Decision-Making. The Ag Census collected information on decision-making on the farm. Table 3 presents information on the types of decisions producers undertake in their operations. "Day-to-day decisions" and "Land use and/or crop decisions" were the categories with the highest concentrations. "Estate planning or succession planning" was the category with the lowest concentration. These concentrations mirror the concentrations of the overall population surveyed.

Table 3. Louisiana Producers With Military Service Decision-Making

Type of Decision	Any Producer	Percentages
Day-to-day decisions	4,344	91.43%
Land use and/or crop decisions	3,695	77.77%
Livestock decisions	3,347	70.45%
Record keeping and/or financial management	3,505	73.77%
Estate planning or succession planning	2,620	55.15%

Source: USDA NASS 2017 Census of Agriculture

Operation Characteristics

Farm Specialization. In 2017, most producers with a military background operated beef cattle ranching and farming establishments. There were 1,923 farms in the state that focused on beef cattle production. Sugarcane, hay and crop farming had the second-highest concentration of producers in this group with 1,080 farms located throughout Louisiana. Aquaculture and small-animal production was another type of popular farming operation among producers with military service, with 675 farms.

Farm Size. There were 4,538 farms operated by producers that have served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces on 959,896 acres of land. These farms varied greatly in size from 1 to over 500 acres. The largest concentration of these producers operated farms between 10 and 179 acres, with 66% of farms falling within this range. Few (8.4%) veteran farming operations have 500 acres or more (Table 4).

Economic Class. Economic class classifies farms by summing the market value of agricultural products that a farm sells and the amount of federal farm program payments that a farm receives. Most farms operated by producers with military service were classified into economic classes of less than \$1,000 in 2017, with 1,344 farms. There was a relatively even distribution of farms in economic classes between \$1,000 and \$25,000 (Table 5).

Table 4. Average Farm Size Operated by Louisiana Producers With Military Service

Farm Size	Any Producer	Percentages
1 to 9 acres	608	13.40%
10 to 49 acres	1,596	35.17%
50 to 179 acres	1,397	30.78%
180 to 499 acres	557	12.27%
500 acres or more	380	8.37%

Source: USDA NASS 2017 Census of Agriculture

Table 5. Louisiana Producers With Military Service Farm Economic Class

Economic Class	Any Producer	Percentage
Less than \$1,000	1,344	29.62%
\$1,000 to \$2,499	638	14.06%
\$2,500 to \$4,999	583	12.85%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	652	14.37%
\$10,000 to \$24,999	536	11.81%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	280	6.17%
\$50,000 or more	505	11.13%

Source: USDA NASS 2017 Census of Agriculture

References:

- Ag Census (2017). Census of Agriculture. "Full Report."
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