

## LP1 Introduction to Land Tenure

### Resource List

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

***A Sand County Almanac, and Sketches Here and There*, Aldo Leopold, New York: Oxford University Press, 1949.** A collection of essays by conservationist and forester Aldo Leopold. Leopold's writings describe how the natural world works and call on readers to care for the land and water that sustain all life. The final essay, "Land Ethic," calls for a moral responsibility to the natural world.

***Agricultural Land Tenure: A Curriculum for Beginning Farmers and Farm Seekers*, FarmLASTS Project, University of Vermont and Land for Good, 2007**

<https://farmlandinfo.org/publications/agricultural-land-tenure-a-curriculum-for-beginning-farmers-and-farmer-seekers/>

This curriculum includes lessons organized around seven topics designed to provide a thorough introduction to the complex issues of farmland access and tenure, including Farmland Tenure Basics, Financial Assessment, Owning Farmland, Finding Farmland, Leasing Farmland, Communication & Negotiation and Community Partners.

***Cultivating the Next Generation: Resources and Policies to Help Beginning Farmers Succeed in Agriculture*, Julia Freedgood and Jennifer Dempsey, American Farmland Trust, 2014**

<https://farmlandinfo.org/publications/cultivating-the-next-generation-resources-and-policies-to-help-beginning-farmers-succeed-in-agriculture/>

This report includes an inventory of state and federal policies and programs that support beginning farmers by providing access to capital, land and infrastructure and assistance with agricultural production, business planning and marketing.

***Harvesting a Profit*, Farm Credit East, 2016**

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/products-and-services/new-farmer-programs/harvesting-a-profit>

This publication is a comprehensive guide to using financial information to help improve farm profitability. It is designed for those people involved in agriculture with limited exposure to agricultural economics, accounting or financial management. The guide includes chapters on how to make a profit, benchmarking your business and financial statements and reports.

***Preparing Key Financial Statements*, Northwest Farm Credit Services**

<https://www.northwestfcs.com/resources/about-business-resources>

This fact sheet provides a thorough overview of key financial statements. It explains how financial statements are used and gives detailed instructions on how to complete a balance sheet, income statement and a cash flow statement.

***SMART Financial Goal-Setting*, eXtension, 2019**

<https://personal-finance.extension.org/smart-financial-goal-setting>

This eXtension Web page provides additional information about SMART goals and SMART goal worksheets.

## DATA SOURCES

***An Overview of Beginning Farms and Farmers, USDA Economic Research Service, September 2019***

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=95009>

This ERS report provides a summary of economic and demographic trends for new and beginning farmers nationwide between 2013-2019. Contents summarize things like average on-farm vs. off-farm income for new and beginning farmers, average asset to debt ratio, type of farm operation and expected revenue, etc.

***2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2019***

<https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/>

The Census of Agriculture provides a comprehensive summary of agricultural activity nationwide. It is the only source of uniform, comprehensive data about U.S. farms and ranches at the state and county level, including information about land tenure and farmland ownership. The census is conducted every five years by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

All 2017 Census information can be filtered by state through NASS's Quick Stats database, found at this link: <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>.

***Table 53. Selected Farm Characteristics by Producers' Involvement in Decisionmaking: 2017***

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0053\\_0053.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0053_0053.pdf)

Table 53 details farm characteristics by five different types of decision making – most importantly, involvement in estate or succession planning. This table allows you to see how many producers are involved in the process, and what type of farms they operate.

***Table 57 and 58. Female Producers -- Selected Farm and Producer Characteristics: 2017***

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0057\\_0057.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0057_0057.pdf)

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0058\\_0058.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0058_0058.pdf)

Table 57 includes national information on owned and rented land in farms and tenure by women producers and principal producers. Table 58 includes demographic information like farming experience, age, and race for women producers and principal producers.

***Table 59 and 60. Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin Producers - Selected Farm and Producer Characteristics: 2017***

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0059\\_0059.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0059_0059.pdf)

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0060\\_0060.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0060_0060.pdf)

Table 59 provides national information on owned and rented land in farms and tenure by Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino producers. Table 60 includes demographic information like farming experience, age, and race for Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino producers and principal producers.

***Table 61 and 62. Selected Farm Characteristics by Race of Producer and Principal Producer: 2017***

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0061\\_0061.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0061_0061.pdf)

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0062\\_0062.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0062_0062.pdf)

Table 61 provides national information on owned and rented land in farms and tenure by race of producers. Table 62 provides the same information but by race of principal producers.

***Table 69 and 70. New and Beginning Producers – Selected Farm and Producer Characteristics: 2017***

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0069\\_0069.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0069_0069.pdf)  
[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0070\\_0070.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0070_0070.pdf)

Table 69 provides national information on owned and rented land in farms and tenure for new and beginning producers and principal producers exclusively. Table 70 includes demographic information like farming experience, age, and race for new and beginning producers and principal producers.

**Table 76. Summary by Tenure of Farm Operation: 2017**

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_US/st99\\_1\\_0076\\_0076.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/st99_1_0076_0076.pdf)

Table 76 includes national information on farm characteristics by full ownership, partial ownership, and tenant operations. Full owners operate only land they own. Part owners operate land they own and land they rent from others. Tenants operate only land they rent from others or work on shares for others. Ownership information is embedded in the tenure data in this table. To calculate acres used for farming and ranching that are owned by operators, add the acres listed for full owners and the owned land in farms listed for part owners. To calculate acres used for farming and ranching rented from others for one or more counties, add the rented land in farms acres listed for part owners and the acres listed for tenant farmers.

**2014 Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land Survey (TOTAL), USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service and the USDA Economic Research Service, 2015**

<https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/index.php>

This survey is a study of all agricultural land and agricultural landowners, including non-operator landlords. It provides information about acres rented out, demographic information, and land transfer plans. TOTAL was conducted by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service and the USDA Economic Research Service and is part of the Census of Agriculture program.

**2014 Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land Survey Talking Points, American Farmland Trust Farmland Information Center, 2015**

A summary of key points from the TOTAL survey.

<https://farmlandinfo.org/publications/2014-tenure-ownership-and-transition-of-agricultural-land-survey-talking-points/>

**Cash Rent Survey Web Page, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service**

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide\\_to\\_NASS\\_Surveys/Cash\\_Rents\\_by\\_County/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Cash_Rents_by_County/)

This site provides data about cash rents by county. The Cash Rents Survey provides the basis for county estimates of the cash rent paid for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and pasture. NASS conducts the county-level Cash Rents Survey every other year in all states except Alaska. U.S. and state estimates are released in August every year using the June Area Survey.

**Land Values 2019 Summary, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2019**

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Todays\\_Reports/reports/land0819.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Todays_Reports/reports/land0819.pdf)

This report summarizes information from the annual June Area Survey, which collects data on crop acreage, land use, grain stocks, farms, rents and the value of land and sales. NASS estimates national and state agricultural land values and rental rates paid by producers (cash rents) from that survey.

Information about land values in chart and map format is posted at:

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts\\_and\\_Maps/Land\\_Values/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/Land_Values/)