



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Conservation

Jared Daniel

No-till, # of Operations					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Average Acreage Per Farm	248	-	186	-	-25%
1-9 acres	794	26%	1095	36%	38%
10-49 acres	744	25%	1092	36%	47%
50-99 acres	289	10%	387	13%	34%
100-199 acres	354	12%	272	9%	-23%
200-499 acres	349	12%	313	10%	-10%
500-999 acres	278	9%	212	7%	-24%
1000-1,999 acres	164	5%	139	5%	-15%
2,000+ acres	47	2%	44	1%	-6%

- Overall, the number of operations using no-till increased by 18% from 2017 to 2022.
- The average acreage of farms using no-till practices decreased by 25% from 2017 to 2022. This can be attributed to the fact that the number of smaller operations (<100 acres) using no-till practices increased, while the opposite is true for larger-sized operations.

- The total number of operations using conservation or reduced tillage practices (excluding no-till) increased by 30% from 2017 to 2022.
- The average acreage of farms using conservation or reduced tillage practices decreased by 3%.
- Operations using these practices with 2,000+ acres and 10-49 acres saw the largest increases of 104% and 100%, respectively.

Conservation or Reduced Tillage excluding no-till, # of Operations					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Average Acreage Per Farm	429	-	417	-	-3%
1-9 acres	442	15%	664	22%	50%
10-49 acres	414	14%	830	27%	100%
50-99 acres	227	8%	233	8%	3%
100-199 acres	207	7%	201	7%	-3%
200-499 acres	411	14%	503	17%	22%
500-999 acres	423	14%	312	10%	-26%
1,000-1999 acres	220	7%	248	8%	13%
2,000+ acres	91	3%	186	6%	104%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by author, adjusted to 2022 dollars



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Farms Using Renewable Energy Producing Systems					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Total	946	-	1,146	-	21%
Solar Panels	687	73%	968	84%	41%
Wind Turbines	41	4%	46	4%	12%
Methane Digesters	10	1%	14	1%	40%
Geothermal/geoexchange	118	12%	173	15%	47%
Small hydro systems	18	2%	48	4%	167%
Wind rights leased	88	9%	75	7%	-15%

- Overall, the number of operations using renewable energy producing systems increased by 21%.
- All types of renewable energy systems saw increases except for wind rights leased to others, with a decrease of 15%.
- Small hydro systems saw the largest increase of 167%.

- Idle cropland or acreage used for cover crops for soil improvement increased by 29%.
- The number of operations with idle cropland or cover crops used for soil improvement increased by 2%.

Cropland Idle or used for cover crops or soil-improvement, but not harvested and not pastured or grazed					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Farms	7,332	17%	7,513	19%	2%
Acres	443,265	5%	571,711	6%	29%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by author, adjusted to 2022 dollars