

# Coconino County, AZ

Arizona County Agricultural Economy Profiles  
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

## Overview

Coconino County is located in northern Arizona bordered to the north by Utah. With an area of 18,619 square miles, Coconino is the second-largest county in the contiguous U.S. and includes land within tribal areas of the Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Kaibab Paiute, and the Navajo Nation. Flagstaff is the county's largest population center and home of Northern Arizona University.

Home to the Grand Canyon, tourism and related industries are top economic activities in Coconino County. Agriculture accounts for less than 1% of all private employment and less than 0.5% of county GDP. Nonetheless, agriculture plays an important role in land management, with nearly 50% of Coconino County land area in farms. Agricultural production in Coconino County is heavily influenced by tribal agriculture, both as a share of total farms, and in terms of top commodities produced. Coconino County accounts for less than 1% of Arizona's total agricultural cash receipts.



Map of Coconino County, Arizona

Indicator	Coconino County	Arizona
Land Area (square miles)	18,619	113,591
Land in Farms (Crops, Grazing) (square miles) (2022)	8,615	39,883
Population (2022)	144,060	7,359,197
Annual Average Population Growth Rate (2010-22)	0.6%	1.2%
Percent of Population Over 65 (2022)	14.6%	18.8%
Percent Population Rural (2020)	32.4%	10.7%
Total Employment (2022)	61,999	3,075,427
Share Federal, State, & Local Government Employment (2022)	22.3%	13.5%
GDP (2022)	\$9.1 billion	\$475.7 billion
Ag, Forestry, & Hunting GDP (on-farm only) (2022)	\$52.2 million	\$2.6 billion

Industry	Location Quotient
Scenic and sightseeing transportation, land	29.11
Tour operators	27.18
Nature parks and other similar institutions	23.29
RV (recreational vehicle) parks and campgrounds	9.36
Recreational goods rental	9.25
All other traveler accommodation	9.10
Hotels (except casino hotels) and motels	7.43
Bed-and-breakfast inns	7.06
Breweries	5.17
Other personal and household goods repair and maintenance	4.20

*Top 10 Private Industries in Coconino County by Employment LQ, 2022*

An economy can be characterized by the industries that make up its "base". A common way to measure this is with location quotients (LQs), the ratio of a particular industry's share of employment within a region to the same industry's share of national employment. An industry with a LQ greater than 1.25 is considered part of the economic base, exporting goods and services and bringing money into the region. LQs also help identify a region's areas of specialization. Higher LQs indicate greater specialization. Top-ranked industries in terms of employment LQ include many outdoor recreation and tourism-related industries, of which none are directly related to agriculture. While there are many farms in Coconino County, many do not employ individuals besides the farm proprietors.

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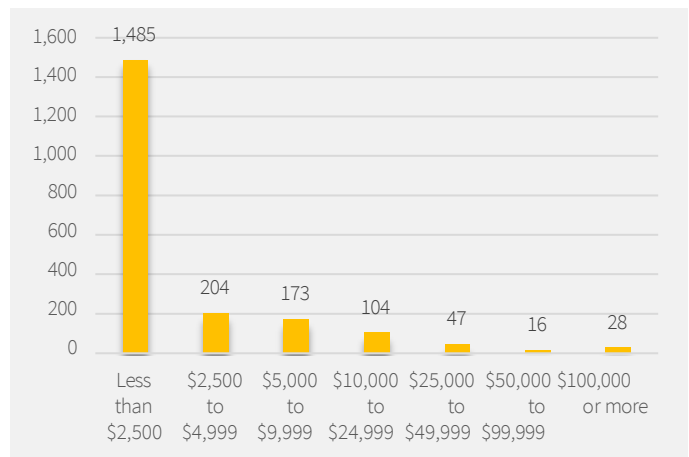
Every 5 years, U.S. Department of Agriculture releases the Census of Agriculture, the most comprehensive source of information on agricultural production by county. The Census provides information on the number of farms, types of crops and livestock produced, and farm characteristics, among other information. A farm is defined as any establishment that produced and sold, or could have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in the Census year. The following information comes from the most recent 2022 Census of Agriculture.

## Farms

There were 2,057 farms in Coconino County in 2022, covering 418 acres of cropland (98% of harvested cropland irrigated) and 5.5 million acres of pastureland (<1% irrigated). The average farm size was 2,680 acres, significantly larger than the state average of 1,528 acres, with the top 6% of farms accounting for 97% of county acreage. Of 2,057 farms, 1,485 had less than \$2,500 in sales and 28 farms had more than \$100,000 in sales. The vast majority (89%) of county farms were family- or individually- held farms, and only 0.1% of farms were non-family-held corporate farms.

Farms are classified by the type of agricultural products they produce. When a farm or ranch produces more than one agricultural product, they are classified by the product that constitutes more than 50% of their sales. The most common type of operation in Coconino County is beef cattle ranching and farming (809 farms), followed by sheep and goat farming (766 farms), and aquaculture and other animal production (205 farms). While the number of farms is helpful in understanding how many farms “specialize” in different types of agricultural production, it does not reflect the magnitude or scale of production by commodity, which is better captured by sales or cash receipts (next page).

Coconino County Farms by Annual Sales, 2022



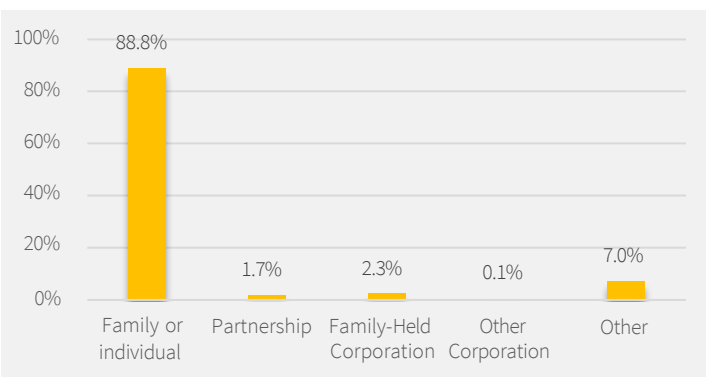
Source: USDA

Coconino County Farms by Industry, 2022

Category	Farms
Total farms	2,057
Oilseed and grain farming	1
Vegetable and melon farming	90
Fruit and tree nut farming	12
Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production	13
Other crop farming	135
Cotton farming	0
Sugarcane farming, hay farming, and all other crop farming	135
Beef cattle ranching and farming	809
Cattle feedlots	0
Dairy cattle and milk production	0
Hog and pig farming	3
Poultry and egg production	23
Sheep and goat farming	766
Aquaculture and other animal production	205

Source: USDA

Coconino County Farms by Legal Organization, 2022



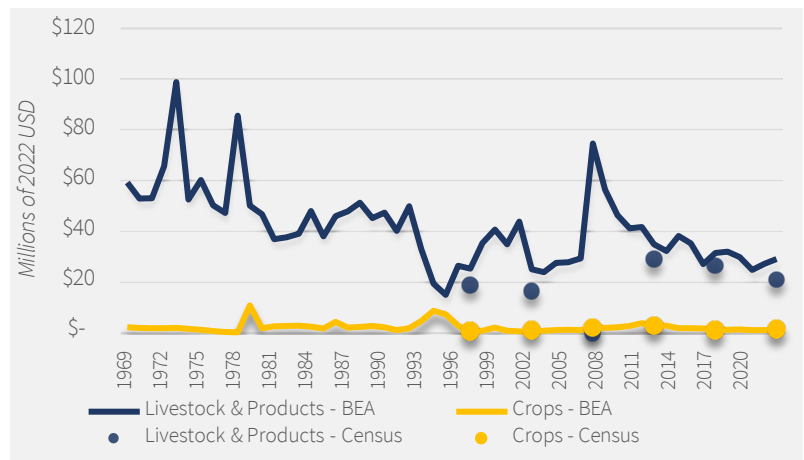
Source: USDA

# Coconino County, AZ

## Production & Marketing

Coconino County is a livestock-dominant county, with an estimated 94% of county cash receipts originating from sales of livestock and animal products. Sales of cattle and calves represented 81% of county agricultural cash receipts in 2022, followed by sales of sheep, goats, wool, mohair, and milk at 7% of the county agricultural cash receipts. Cattle growers in Coconino County held an inventory of 41,999 head of beef and dairy cows.

Coconino County Agricultural Cash Receipts, Crops & Livestock, 1969-2022



Source: USDA & BEA

## Tribal Agriculture

Coconino County contains tribal lands including the Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, and Kaibab Paiute reservations, and the Navajo Nation. Data on agricultural production within these tribal areas was reported for 4 of the 5 tribal areas, except the Havasupai. Agricultural production in these areas includes livestock production, in particular cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, horses, goats, as well as crop production, particularly traditional corn, vegetables, and hay. Statistics reported below represent production within entire tribal areas, therefore production occurring within Coconino County is only a portion of the totals reported.

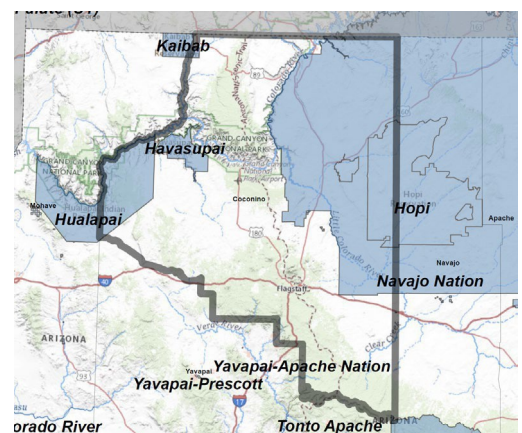
Agriculture in Coconino County is heavily influenced by tribal agriculture. The county ranks 4th among U.S. counties in its production of traditional or Indian corn (2022). Important livestock produced include cattle, sheep, goats, and products thereof. Tribal agriculture also influences the profile of Coconino County agricultural producers. Within the Navajo Nation, 53% of producers are female, resulting in Coconino County being one of three counties in Arizona (with Apache and Navajo counties) with more female than male principal agricultural producers. In fact, because of these counties, Arizona has the highest share of female agricultural producers (48%) in the nation.

Summary of Agricultural Production in Coconino County Tribal Areas, 2017

	Hopi	Hualapai	Kaibab Paiute	Navajo Nation
Farms	204	49	4	16,129
Cropland (total acres)	3,182	-	N.D.	212,465
Value of ag. products sold (\$1,000)	1,483	673	297	87,653
Producers	384	64	7	26,495
Top commodities	Cattle & calves; Horses; Traditional corn; Dry beans; Vegetables	Cattle & calves	Cattle & calves	Cattle & calves; Sheep & lambs; Horses; Goats; Traditional corn; Hay; Vegetables

Source: USDA, 2019

Coconino County Tribal Areas



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## Irrigation Water Use

In Arizona, agriculture accounts for about 75% of the state's water use. More than half of withdrawals for agricultural uses in the state are from surface water. In some areas of the state with high demand, groundwater withdrawals for irrigated agriculture are limited by the 1980 Groundwater Management Act. This legislation established five Active Management Areas (AMA) as well as other Irrigation Non-Expansion Areas (INA) where groundwater pumping and expansion of irrigated agriculture are limited. There is no land in Coconino County within an AMA or INA.

Irrigated agriculture in Coconino County is minimal, with a total of 1,429 irrigated acres county-wide in 2022, roughly one-tenth of one percent of irrigated agricultural land in Arizona.

For more information on water in Coconino County, please visit the University of Arizona Water Resource Research Center county water factsheets by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code →



Coconino County Water Map



## About Us

### Extension Regional Economic Analysis Program

The Extension Regional Economic Analysis Program (EREAP) conducts applied research and economic analysis addressing economic development issues around Arizona. We work serving the needs of Cooperative Extension and its stakeholders, such as Arizona agricultural and agribusiness industries, natural resource users and organizations, and regional economic groups, to provide specialized analysis and targeted information. For more information or to contact us, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code to visit our site →

