

Idaho Farmers and Ranchers: Comparison of Women and Men Primary Producers

Idaho has nearly 25,000 farms and ranches. Women farmers and ranchers are the primary producers on about 20% of these enterprises. Our research shows, on average, men and women primary farmers are somewhat similar in their ages and years of experience farming, but that men operate and own more acreage, while women rent out more acreage. Our research seeks to understand the reasons for these differences.

Comparison of Women and Men Primary Producers (2017)	Women's Average	Men's Average
Age	58	59
Years of Experience on this Farm	19	24
Acres Operated	267	514
Acres Owned	374	404
Acres Rented from Others	68	176
Acres Rented to Others	1122	262

In analyzing the 2017 Census of Agriculture data, our U of I Research Team designated one farmer per farm as the primary producer. The **primary producer** is the farmer who made the most farm decisions and worked the fewest days off farm.

Data Source: USDA NASS 2017 Census of Agriculture.