Analysis of Agricultural Production Trends in New Mexico between 2014 and 2023

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Characteristics of the Producers

Figure 1 shows distribution of agricultural producers in New Mexico by age group in 2022, broken down into 7 major categories.
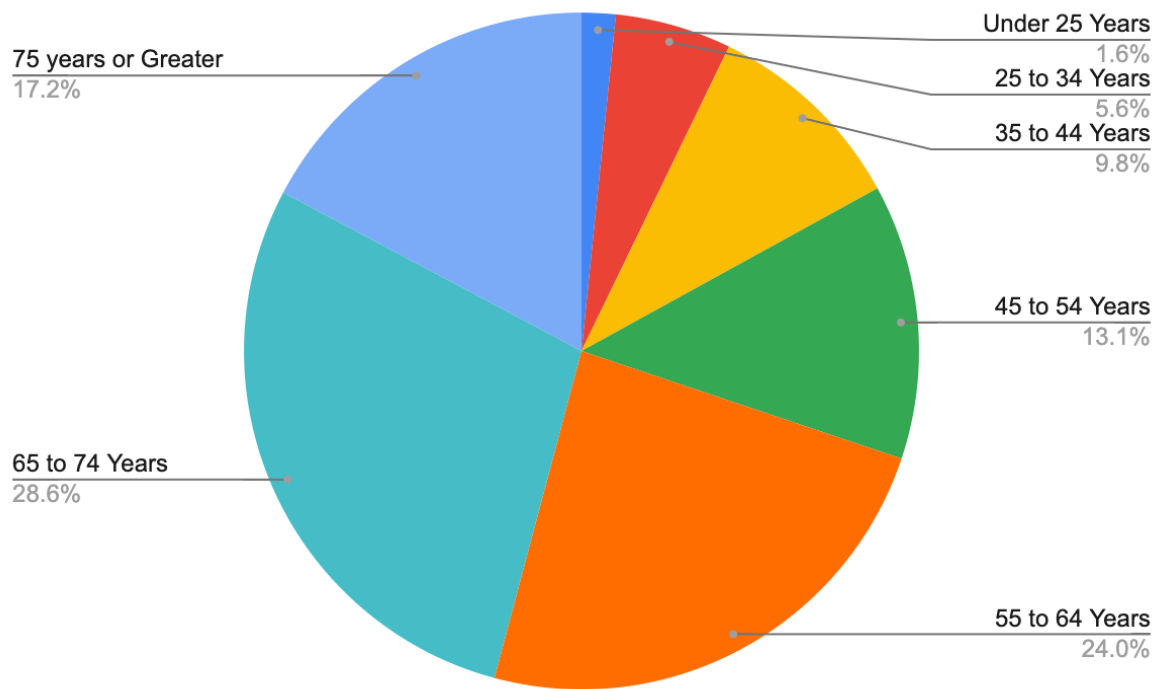
Figure 1: Distribution of agricultural producers in New Mexico by age group in 2022

Analysis of this chart illustrates that the majority of the agricultural producers in New Mexico are concentrated in older age brackets, with around 60% being 55 or older. The largest component of this range, the 65 to 74 age group, accounts for 10,589 producers representing almost 29% of all producers, followed by those aged between 55 and 64 totaling 8,887. On the other hand, younger producers represent minority, with just 602 under the age of 25. This distribution showcases a significant imbalance in generational proportion in agricultural sector. This low number of young producers creates an uncertainty and raises concerns about future sustainability which highlights the need to encourage the next generation to continue the valuable work for New Mexico's economy.

Agricultural Economy Components

Figure 2 shows cash receipts for major agricultural commodities in New Mexico in 2023.
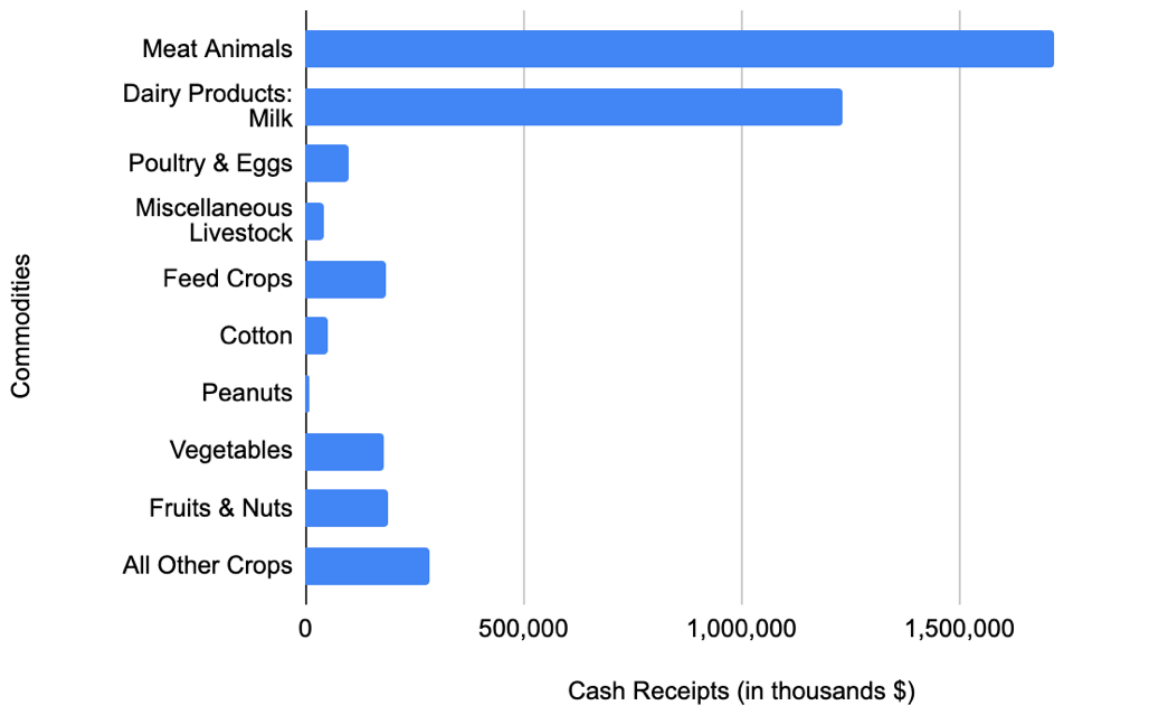

Figure 2: Cash receipts for major agricultural commodities in New Mexico in 2023

Analysis of this bar chart shows that total 2023 cash receipts in New Mexico can be separated into two major categories: Livestock Products and Crops. Livestock Products contributed approximately $3.1 billion making it the dominant sector. Within this category, Meat Animals and Dairy Products were the major sources of revenue, followed by Poultry and Eggs and Miscellaneous Livestock. The Crops category, totaling about $905 million, consists of Feed Crops, Cotton, Peanuts, Vegetables, Fruits & Nuts, and All Other Crops. This bar chart provides visual representation of economic importance of each subgroup in New Mexico's agricultural industry, with Livestock Products being its major contributor.

Cattle Production Trends

Figure 3 shows how many thousands of pounds of cattle and calves have been produced in New Mexico between 2014 and 2023.
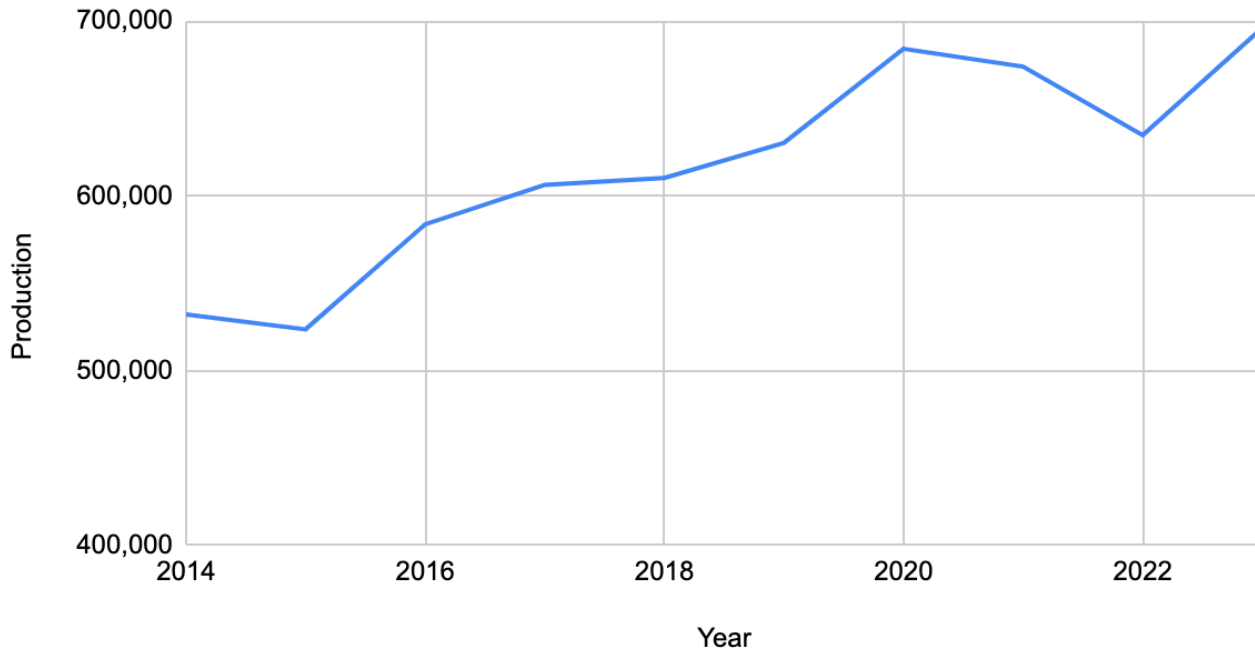

Figure 3: Cattle and Calves Production in New Mexico between 2014 and 2023 (in thousands of pounds)

Analysis of this line graph shows a general upward trend in the production of cattle and calves in New Mexico over the 10-year period from 2014 to 2023. The increase from just over 532 million pounds in 2014 to approximately 696 million pounds in 2023 shows a constant and steady growth pattern in state's beef production. Although there was a slight decline in 2022, as the production dropped to around 635 million pounds produced, the overall trend showcases general growth in beef production. This beef production expansion emphasizes the importance of the livestock sector in New Mexico's agricultural economy given its major economic contribution to the state's agricultural output

Sources

United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. *2023 New Mexico Agricultural Statistics Bulletin*, 2023.