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Farms and Land in Farms 2017 Summary

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2017 Farms and Land in Farms Highlights

The number of farms in the United States for 2017 is estimated at 2.05 million, down 12 thousand farms from 2016. Total land in farms, at 910 million acres, decreased 1 million acres from 2016. The average farm size for 2017 is 444 acres, up 2 acres from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are differentiated by six economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these six sales classes by summing the sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, \$500,000, and \$1,000,000. Producers were asked during the 2017 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2016 calendar year.

Point Farms are farms that did not have the required minimum \$1,000 in sales for the year to qualify as a farm, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more. Point Farms are assigned a sales class based on the sum of the agricultural point (dollar) values assigned to the quantity of commodities produced but not sold. The 2012 Census of Agriculture showed that 428,810 farms or 20.3 percent of the 2.11 million farms were Point Farms. These Point Farms operated 63.0 million acres or 6.9 percent of the 914.5 million acres of farmland.

Number of farms declined by 12 thousand from 2016. The number of farms in Sales Classes \$100,000 - \$249,999 and \$1,000,000 or more increased while all other sales classes declined. Fifty percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales. Eighty percent of all farms had less than \$100,000 in sales. Eight percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

Changes in the number of farms by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 at 1.02 million farms, declined by 9 thousand farms.
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999 at 618 thousand farms, declined by 3 thousand farms.
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999 at 145 thousand farms, increased by 2 hundred farms.
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999 at 98 thousand farms, declined by 4 hundred farms.
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999 at 82 thousand farms, declined by 3 hundred farms.
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more at 83 thousand farms, increased by 4 hundred farms.

The percent of all farms by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999: 49.9%
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999: 30.2%
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999: 7.1%
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999: 4.8%
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999: 4.0%
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more: 4.0%

Land in farms, at 910 million acres, was down 1 million acres from 2016. The biggest change for 2017 is that producers in Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more operated 1.3 million more acres than in 2016. Similar to the previous year, in 2017 over 30 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with less than \$100,000 in sales. Forty-one percent of all farmland was operated by farms with sales of \$500,000 or more.

Farmland changes by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 at 86.0 million acres, declined by 930 thousand acres.
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999 at 191.3 million acres, declined by 720 thousand acres.
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999 at 129.3 million acres, declined by 590 thousand acres.
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999 at 127.0 million acres, declined by 140 thousand acres.
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999 at 156.5 million acres, increased by 40 thousand acres.
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more at 220.0 million acres, increased by 1.3 million acres.

Percent of all farmland by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999: 9.5%
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999: 21.0%
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999: 14.2%
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999: 14.0%
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999: 17.2%
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more: 24.2%

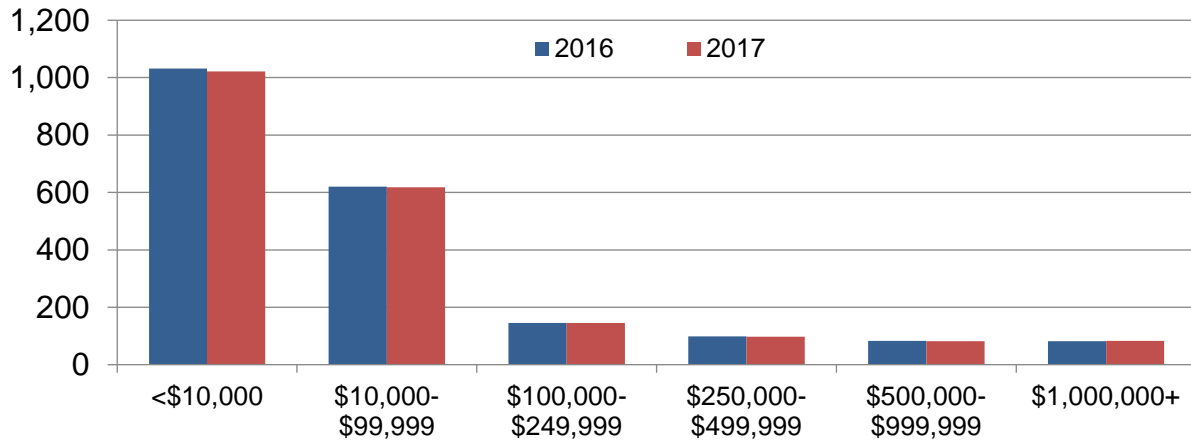
The **average farm size** continued to increase in 2017 as the number of farms declined more than land in farms. The overall average size increased by 2 acres to 444 acres per farm. Average farm sizes increased in the \$250,000 - \$499,999, \$500,000 - \$999,999, and \$1,000,000 or more sales classes and decreased or remained unchanged in the others.

Average farm size by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999: 84 acres
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999: 309 acres
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999: 891 acres
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999: 1,299 acres
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999: 1,904 acres
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more: 2,660 acres

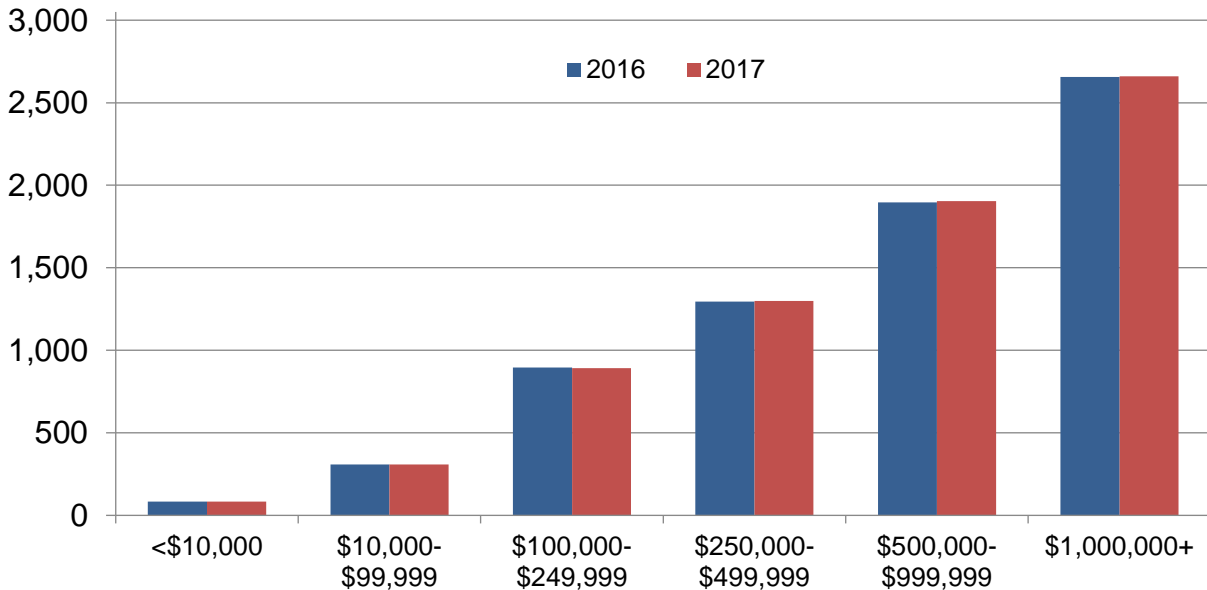
Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2016 and 2017

Thousands of farms



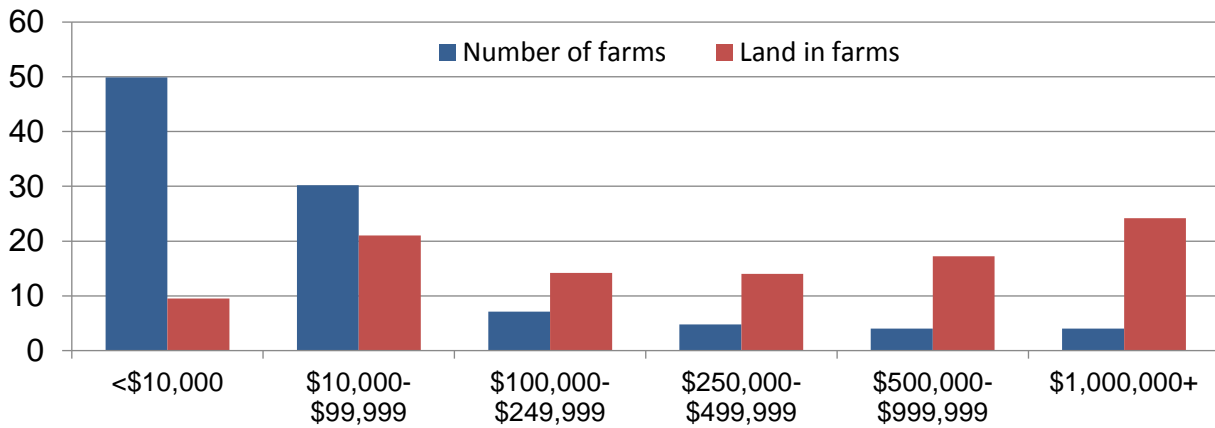
Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2016 and 2017

Acres



Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2017

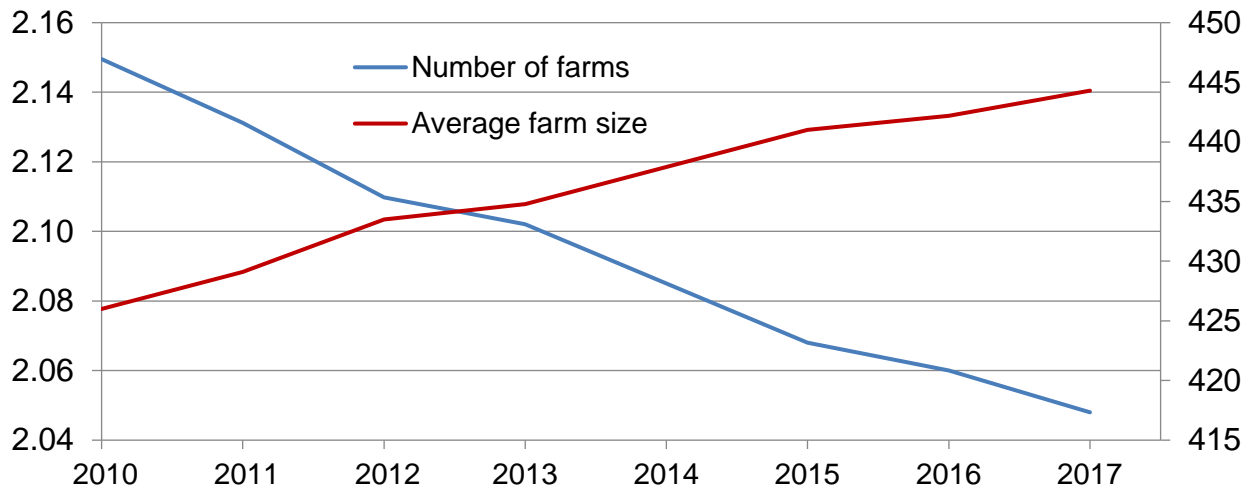
Percent of total



Number of Farms and Average Farm Size – United States: 2010-2017

Millions of farms

Average farm size (acres)



Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size – United States: 2010-2017

Year	Number of farms	Land in farms	Average farm size
	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)
2010	2,149,520	915,660	426
2011	2,131,240	914,420	429
2012	2,109,810	914,600	433
2013	2,102,010	914,030	435
2014	2,085,000	913,000	438
2015	2,068,000	912,000	441
2016	2,060,000	911,000	442
2017	2,048,000	910,000	444

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2016-2017

Economic sales class	Percent of total				Average farm size	
	Farms		Land in farms		2016	2017
	2016	2017	2016	2017		
(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	
\$ 1,000 - \$ 9,999	50.1	49.9	9.5	9.5	84	84
\$ 10,000 - \$ 99,999	30.1	30.2	21.1	21.0	309	309
\$100,000 - \$249,999	7.0	7.1	14.3	14.2	896	891
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.8	4.8	14.0	14.0	1,296	1,299
\$500,000 - \$999,999	4.0	4.0	17.2	17.2	1,897	1,904
\$1,000,000 or more	4.0	4.0	24.0	24.2	2,656	2,660
Total ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	442	444

¹ May not add due to rounding.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size – States and United States: 2016-2017

State	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2016 (number)	2017 (number)	2016 (1,000 acres)	2017 (1,000 acres)	2016 (acres)	2017 (acres)
Alabama	44,000	43,600	8,900	8,900	202	204
Alaska	760	760	830	830	1,092	1,092
Arizona	19,600	19,600	25,900	25,900	1,321	1,321
Arkansas	43,000	42,300	13,700	13,600	319	322
California	76,700	77,100	25,400	25,300	331	328
Colorado	33,800	33,800	31,700	31,800	938	941
Connecticut	6,000	6,000	440	440	73	73
Delaware	2,500	2,500	500	500	200	200
Florida	47,100	47,000	9,410	9,450	200	201
Georgia	41,500	40,900	9,500	9,300	229	227
Hawaii	7,000	7,000	1,120	1,120	160	160
Idaho	24,300	24,300	11,800	11,900	486	490
Illinois	72,200	71,000	26,700	26,600	370	375
Indiana	57,500	56,800	14,700	14,700	256	259
Iowa	87,000	86,900	30,500	30,500	351	351
Kansas	59,600	59,600	45,900	45,900	770	770
Kentucky	76,000	75,800	12,900	12,800	170	169
Louisiana	26,900	26,500	7,750	7,700	288	291
Maine	8,200	8,200	1,450	1,450	177	177
Maryland	12,300	12,200	2,030	2,030	165	166
Massachusetts	7,800	7,800	520	520	67	67
Michigan	51,400	50,900	9,950	9,950	194	195
Minnesota	73,300	73,200	25,900	25,900	353	354
Mississippi	36,200	35,800	10,700	10,700	296	299
Missouri	97,200	97,300	28,500	28,500	293	293
Montana	27,400	27,100	59,700	59,800	2,179	2,207
Nebraska	48,400	47,400	45,200	45,200	934	954
Nevada	4,000	4,000	5,960	5,970	1,490	1,493
New Hampshire	4,400	4,400	470	470	107	107
New Jersey	9,100	9,100	720	720	79	79
New Mexico	24,600	24,700	43,200	43,300	1,756	1,753
New York	35,500	35,500	7,300	7,200	206	203
North Carolina	48,000	47,800	8,200	8,100	171	169
North Dakota	29,800	29,900	39,100	39,100	1,312	1,308
Ohio	74,500	73,600	14,000	14,000	188	190
Oklahoma	78,000	77,200	34,200	34,000	438	440
Oregon	34,400	34,200	16,300	16,300	474	477
Pennsylvania	58,200	58,000	7,630	7,630	131	132
Rhode Island	1,240	1,240	70	70	56	56
South Carolina	24,500	24,300	5,000	5,000	204	206
South Dakota	31,000	31,000	43,300	43,300	1,397	1,397
Tennessee	66,600	65,900	10,800	10,800	162	164
Texas	241,500	240,000	129,800	129,600	537	540
Utah	18,100	18,200	11,000	11,000	608	604
Vermont	7,300	7,300	1,250	1,250	171	171
Virginia	44,800	44,300	8,100	8,100	181	183
Washington	35,900	35,700	14,700	14,700	409	412
West Virginia	20,600	20,400	3,600	3,600	175	176
Wisconsin	68,700	68,500	14,400	14,300	210	209
Wyoming	11,600	11,400	30,300	30,200	2,612	2,649
United States	2,060,000	2,048,000	911,000	910,000	442	444

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2016-2017

State	Economic sales class: \$1,000-\$9,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	25,700	25,200	2,650	2,700	103	107
Alaska	380	380	270	270	711	711
Arizona	14,800	14,900	600	600	41	40
Arkansas	21,500	21,200	1,700	1,700	79	80
California	29,500	30,700	1,300	1,500	44	49
Colorado	18,300	18,100	2,200	2,100	120	116
Connecticut	4,000	4,000	150	150	38	38
Delaware	870	870	20	20	23	23
Florida	27,000	27,000	1,240	1,250	46	46
Georgia	23,500	23,000	2,400	2,100	102	91
Hawaii	3,850	3,850	100	100	26	26
Idaho	12,100	12,200	800	800	66	66
Illinois	28,500	26,200	1,200	1,200	42	46
Indiana	27,600	26,800	930	920	34	34
Iowa	26,000	26,100	900	900	35	34
Kansas	21,400	21,400	2,400	2,300	112	107
Kentucky	41,500	41,800	2,800	2,800	67	67
Louisiana	16,200	15,700	1,180	1,100	73	70
Maine	5,000	5,000	480	480	96	96
Maryland	6,500	6,500	300	300	46	46
Massachusetts	5,000	5,000	210	210	42	42
Michigan	25,500	24,500	1,100	1,100	43	45
Minnesota	26,500	26,700	2,100	2,100	79	79
Mississippi	21,300	21,000	2,600	2,700	122	129
Missouri	44,500	44,500	3,900	4,300	88	97
Montana	11,500	11,500	2,700	2,800	235	243
Nebraska	12,000	11,700	900	900	75	77
Nevada	2,150	2,150	140	160	65	74
New Hampshire	3,100	3,100	240	240	77	77
New Jersey	5,600	5,600	160	160	29	29
New Mexico	16,100	16,200	4,100	4,100	255	253
New York	16,900	17,200	1,600	1,550	95	90
North Carolina	26,500	26,900	1,300	1,400	49	52
North Dakota	9,100	9,100	1,600	1,400	176	154
Ohio	33,200	32,400	1,600	1,550	48	48
Oklahoma	40,900	39,900	5,000	5,000	122	125
Oregon	20,900	20,800	1,440	1,400	69	67
Pennsylvania	26,300	26,100	1,800	1,790	68	69
Rhode Island	710	710	20	20	28	28
South Carolina	17,000	16,700	1,800	1,800	106	108
South Dakota	8,600	8,600	1,300	1,300	151	151
Tennessee	42,400	41,300	2,900	2,800	68	68
Texas	150,000	149,000	16,500	15,800	110	106
Utah	10,700	10,600	700	650	65	61
Vermont	4,050	4,050	340	340	84	84
Virginia	25,500	25,100	1,800	1,900	71	76
Washington	21,400	21,200	1,020	1,000	48	47
West Virginia	14,400	14,300	1,600	1,600	111	112
Wisconsin	30,400	30,200	1,950	1,850	64	61
Wyoming	5,000	5,000	900	800	180	160
United States	1,031,410	1,022,010	86,940	86,010	84	84

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2016-2017

State	Economic sales class: \$10,000-\$99,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	13,300	13,400	3,450	3,400	259	254
Alaska	290	290	450	450	1,552	1,552
Arizona	3,350	3,200	8,000	7,900	2,388	2,469
Arkansas	13,700	13,300	3,600	3,600	263	271
California	26,200	25,500	4,400	4,200	168	165
Colorado	10,000	10,200	6,900	7,100	690	696
Connecticut	1,550	1,550	110	110	71	71
Delaware	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	14,500	14,400	1,850	1,850	128	128
Georgia	10,500	10,500	2,100	2,300	200	219
Hawaii	2,600	2,600	260	260	100	100
Idaho	7,000	6,900	2,050	2,050	293	297
Illinois	18,300	19,000	2,900	2,700	158	142
Indiana	15,300	15,300	1,900	1,850	124	121
Iowa	23,800	23,700	3,300	3,300	139	139
Kansas	21,300	21,100	8,300	8,400	390	398
Kentucky	27,600	27,000	4,700	4,600	170	170
Louisiana	7,300	7,400	1,800	1,850	247	250
Maine	2,400	2,400	400	400	167	167
Maryland	3,600	3,500	400	400	111	114
Massachusetts	2,000	2,000	140	140	70	70
Michigan	14,600	15,100	1,600	1,700	110	113
Minnesota	21,600	21,400	3,600	3,600	167	168
Mississippi	10,000	10,100	2,800	2,700	280	267
Missouri	38,400	38,300	9,300	8,700	242	227
Montana	7,900	7,700	8,900	8,800	1,127	1,143
Nebraska	13,500	13,100	4,700	4,600	348	351
Nevada	830	850	270	280	325	329
New Hampshire	1,050	1,050	150	150	143	143
New Jersey	2,350	2,350	160	160	68	68
New Mexico	6,200	6,200	11,100	11,000	1,790	1,774
New York	11,200	10,600	1,600	1,600	143	151
North Carolina	12,800	12,400	1,500	1,500	117	121
North Dakota	7,100	7,100	3,400	3,200	479	451
Ohio	25,300	25,400	2,650	2,650	105	104
Oklahoma	28,100	28,500	11,400	11,400	406	400
Oregon	9,000	8,900	2,830	2,900	314	326
Pennsylvania	19,800	19,800	2,280	2,330	115	118
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	5,400	5,500	1,300	1,300	241	236
South Dakota	9,300	9,300	4,900	5,100	527	548
Tennessee	19,500	20,000	3,600	3,700	185	185
Texas	71,000	70,200	41,000	41,000	577	584
Utah	5,500	5,600	2,000	1,900	364	339
Vermont	2,100	2,100	320	320	152	152
Virginia	14,200	14,300	2,800	2,800	197	196
Washington	8,400	8,300	1,900	2,000	226	241
West Virginia	5,400	5,300	1,400	1,400	259	264
Wisconsin	20,900	20,900	2,850	2,850	136	136
Wyoming	3,800	3,700	4,600	4,700	1,211	1,270
Other States ¹	1,010	1,010	60	60	(NA)	(NA)
United States	620,830	618,300	191,980	191,260	309	309

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2016-2017

State	Economic sales class: \$100,000-\$249,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	1,150	1,100	800	750	696	682
Alaska	50	50	70	70	1,400	1,400
Arizona	570	590	11,300	11,300	19,825	19,153
Arkansas	1,900	1,800	1,200	1,100	632	611
California	6,300	6,350	3,700	3,600	587	567
Colorado	2,500	2,550	5,500	5,600	2,200	2,196
Connecticut	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	2,250	2,250	920	900	409	400
Georgia	1,300	1,300	630	610	485	469
Hawaii	280	280	160	160	571	571
Idaho	1,900	1,900	1,650	1,550	868	816
Illinois	8,500	8,500	3,100	3,000	365	353
Indiana	5,300	5,200	1,540	1,480	291	285
Iowa	10,300	10,600	2,900	3,000	282	283
Kansas	6,400	6,400	6,900	7,000	1,078	1,094
Kentucky	3,300	3,300	1,200	1,200	364	364
Louisiana	800	800	520	510	650	638
Maine	340	340	100	100	294	294
Maryland	600	600	230	230	383	383
Massachusetts	380	380	50	50	132	132
Michigan	4,200	4,500	1,100	900	262	200
Minnesota	8,600	8,400	2,600	2,400	302	286
Mississippi	1,100	1,000	700	700	636	700
Missouri	6,400	7,000	3,900	4,300	609	614
Montana	3,150	3,000	9,800	9,800	3,111	3,267
Nebraska	7,600	7,500	5,900	6,100	776	813
Nevada	260	260	580	590	2,231	2,269
New Hampshire	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Jersey	450	450	80	80	178	178
New Mexico	1,050	1,030	7,700	7,500	7,333	7,282
New York	3,600	3,800	950	850	264	224
North Carolina	2,000	2,000	700	600	350	300
North Dakota	3,100	3,100	3,700	3,700	1,194	1,194
Ohio	7,200	6,800	1,950	1,900	271	279
Oklahoma	4,450	4,350	5,700	5,600	1,281	1,287
Oregon	1,700	1,700	2,900	2,900	1,706	1,706
Pennsylvania	5,500	5,400	1,040	1,000	189	185
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	600	600	270	270	450	450
South Dakota	4,100	4,100	5,200	5,200	1,268	1,268
Tennessee	2,000	1,900	850	850	425	447
Texas	8,700	9,000	20,500	21,000	2,356	2,333
Utah	800	850	1,300	1,200	1,625	1,412
Vermont	490	490	140	140	286	286
Virginia	2,050	1,950	1,000	950	488	487
Washington	2,200	2,250	1,550	1,400	705	622
West Virginia	350	350	240	240	686	686
Wisconsin	7,300	7,300	1,950	1,900	267	260
Wyoming	1,300	1,150	5,000	4,900	3,846	4,261
Other States ¹	530	530	100	100	(NA)	(NA)
United States	144,900	145,050	129,870	129,280	896	891

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2016-2017

State	Economic sales class: \$250,000-\$499,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	950	950	400	450	421	474
Alaska	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arizona	240	240	2,600	2,600	10,833	10,833
Arkansas	1,000	1,000	600	500	600	500
California	4,700	4,500	2,400	2,200	511	489
Colorado	1,300	1,250	5,800	5,700	4,462	4,560
Connecticut	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	1,300	1,200	1,000	1,000	769	833
Georgia	1,000	1,000	470	490	470	490
Hawaii	120	120	60	60	500	500
Idaho	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,077	1,077
Illinois	7,000	7,000	4,400	4,400	629	629
Indiana	4,000	4,100	2,100	2,200	525	537
Iowa	9,700	9,700	4,900	4,900	505	505
Kansas	4,300	4,300	7,500	7,500	1,744	1,744
Kentucky	1,500	1,500	900	900	600	600
Louisiana	650	650	550	520	846	800
Maine	220	220	110	110	500	500
Maryland	650	650	250	250	385	385
Massachusetts	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Michigan	2,900	2,700	1,200	1,100	414	407
Minnesota	6,200	6,400	3,300	3,400	532	531
Mississippi	800	700	500	450	625	643
Missouri	3,500	3,300	3,400	3,200	971	970
Montana	2,450	2,400	12,300	12,200	5,020	5,083
Nebraska	5,600	5,700	7,700	7,900	1,375	1,386
Nevada	420	400	970	940	2,310	2,350
New Hampshire	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Jersey	270	270	90	90	333	333
New Mexico	500	520	6,300	6,400	12,600	12,308
New York	1,700	1,800	750	900	441	500
North Carolina	1,600	1,600	700	700	438	438
North Dakota	3,000	3,100	5,300	5,400	1,767	1,742
Ohio	3,800	4,000	1,900	1,900	500	475
Oklahoma	2,100	2,050	4,600	4,500	2,190	2,195
Oregon	1,000	950	2,280	2,300	2,280	2,421
Pennsylvania	3,500	3,550	960	940	274	265
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	300	300	230	230	767	767
South Dakota	3,100	3,100	7,000	6,800	2,258	2,194
Tennessee	950	950	700	700	737	737
Texas	4,800	4,600	18,300	18,300	3,813	3,978
Utah	600	650	1,450	1,650	2,417	2,538
Vermont	350	350	150	150	429	429
Virginia	1,200	1,100	700	650	583	591
Washington	1,200	1,250	2,250	2,250	1,875	1,800
West Virginia	150	150	120	120	800	800
Wisconsin	4,800	4,800	2,050	2,150	427	448
Wyoming	800	800	6,300	6,300	7,875	7,875
Other States ¹	560	560	150	150	(NA)	(NA)
United States	98,080	97,730	127,090	126,950	1,296	1,299

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2016-2017

State	Economic sales class: \$500,000-\$999,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	1,500	1,500	550	550	367	367
Alaska	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arizona	300	310	500	500	1,667	1,613
Arkansas	1,400	1,400	1,100	1,200	786	857
California	3,250	3,250	2,800	2,800	862	862
Colorado	800	850	5,400	5,300	6,750	6,235
Connecticut	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware	370	370	100	100	270	270
Florida	820	820	600	650	732	793
Georgia	2,900	2,900	1,620	1,620	559	559
Hawaii	70	70	240	240	3,429	3,429
Idaho	800	800	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,500
Illinois	5,400	5,800	6,100	6,300	1,130	1,086
Indiana	2,900	2,900	2,930	2,950	1,010	1,017
Iowa	10,000	9,700	8,900	8,900	890	918
Kansas	3,000	3,100	9,600	9,500	3,200	3,065
Kentucky	1,000	1,100	1,290	1,300	1,290	1,182
Louisiana	850	850	900	920	1,059	1,082
Maine	110	110	90	90	818	818
Maryland	400	400	260	260	650	650
Massachusetts	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Michigan	2,350	2,350	1,800	1,800	766	766
Minnesota	5,100	5,000	4,900	4,900	961	980
Mississippi	1,100	1,000	1,000	950	909	950
Missouri	2,400	2,200	4,000	3,900	1,667	1,773
Montana	1,450	1,500	13,500	13,500	9,310	9,000
Nebraska	5,000	4,800	9,800	9,800	1,960	2,042
Nevada	180	190	1,100	1,200	6,111	6,316
New Hampshire	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Jersey	210	210	80	80	381	381
New Mexico	370	360	8,300	8,300	22,432	23,056
New York	1,000	950	650	650	650	684
North Carolina	1,600	1,600	950	950	594	594
North Dakota	4,200	4,200	10,100	10,400	2,405	2,476
Ohio	2,850	2,950	2,400	2,500	842	847
Oklahoma	1,400	1,300	3,900	3,900	2,786	3,000
Oregon	800	850	2,650	2,600	3,313	3,059
Pennsylvania	1,850	1,900	750	770	405	405
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	400	400	450	450	1,125	1,125
South Dakota	3,500	3,400	11,500	11,400	3,286	3,353
Tennessee	850	850	900	900	1,059	1,059
Texas	3,700	3,800	15,400	15,000	4,162	3,947
Utah	240	230	4,550	4,500	18,958	19,565
Vermont	160	160	90	90	563	563
Virginia	1,050	1,050	830	830	790	790
Washington	1,050	1,000	2,880	2,850	2,743	2,850
West Virginia	170	170	110	110	647	647
Wisconsin	2,900	2,800	2,050	2,050	707	732
Wyoming	470	500	6,800	6,900	14,468	13,800
Other States ¹	260	260	80	80	(NA)	(NA)
United States	82,480	82,210	156,500	156,540	1,897	1,904

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2016-2017

State	Economic sales class: \$1,000,000 or more					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	1,400	1,450	1,050	1,050	750	724
Alaska	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arizona	340	360	2,900	3,000	8,529	8,333
Arkansas	3,500	3,600	5,500	5,500	1,571	1,528
California	6,750	6,800	10,800	11,000	1,600	1,618
Colorado	900	850	5,900	6,000	6,556	7,059
Connecticut	90	90	100	100	1,111	1,111
Delaware	380	380	270	270	711	711
Florida	1,230	1,330	3,800	3,800	3,089	2,857
Georgia	2,300	2,200	2,280	2,180	991	991
Hawaii	80	80	300	300	3,750	3,750
Idaho	1,200	1,200	3,900	4,100	3,250	3,417
Illinois	4,500	4,500	9,000	9,000	2,000	2,000
Indiana	2,400	2,500	5,300	5,300	2,208	2,120
Iowa	7,200	7,100	9,600	9,500	1,333	1,338
Kansas	3,200	3,300	11,200	11,200	3,500	3,394
Kentucky	1,100	1,100	2,010	2,000	1,827	1,818
Louisiana	1,100	1,100	2,800	2,800	2,545	2,545
Maine	130	130	270	270	2,077	2,077
Maryland	550	550	590	590	1,073	1,073
Massachusetts	80	80	50	50	625	625
Michigan	1,850	1,750	3,150	3,350	1,703	1,914
Minnesota	5,300	5,300	9,400	9,500	1,774	1,792
Mississippi	1,900	2,000	3,100	3,200	1,632	1,600
Missouri	2,000	2,000	4,000	4,100	2,000	2,050
Montana	950	1,000	12,500	12,700	13,158	12,700
Nebraska	4,700	4,600	16,200	15,900	3,447	3,457
Nevada	160	150	2,900	2,800	18,125	18,667
New Hampshire	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Jersey	220	220	150	150	682	682
New Mexico	380	390	5,700	6,000	15,000	15,385
New York	1,100	1,150	1,750	1,650	1,591	1,435
North Carolina	3,500	3,300	3,050	2,950	871	894
North Dakota	3,300	3,300	15,000	15,000	4,545	4,545
Ohio	2,150	2,050	3,500	3,500	1,628	1,707
Oklahoma	1,050	1,100	3,600	3,600	3,429	3,273
Oregon	1,000	1,000	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
Pennsylvania	1,250	1,250	800	800	640	640
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	800	800	950	950	1,188	1,188
South Dakota	2,400	2,500	13,400	13,500	5,583	5,400
Tennessee	900	900	1,850	1,850	2,056	2,056
Texas	3,300	3,400	18,100	18,500	5,485	5,441
Utah	260	270	1,000	1,100	3,846	4,074
Vermont	150	150	210	210	1,400	1,400
Virginia	800	800	970	970	1,213	1,213
Washington	1,650	1,700	5,100	5,200	3,091	3,059
West Virginia	130	130	130	130	1,000	1,000
Wisconsin	2,400	2,500	3,550	3,500	1,479	1,400
Wyoming	230	250	6,700	6,600	29,130	26,400
Other States ¹	40	40	40	40	(NA)	(NA)
United States	82,300	82,700	218,620	219,960	2,656	2,660

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data are collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the June Agricultural Survey using sampling procedures to ensure every farm and ranch has a chance of being selected. NASS uses a multiple sampling frame approach to count farms and measure land in farms. An Area Sampling Frame that divides all land into segments is built for every state except Alaska. A sample of segments is selected in each state except Alaska and Hawaii and enumerated in early June. Highly trained interviewers locate each sampled segment and identify every farm and ranch operating land in the segment and the number of acres in each operation.

These data are used to compute summaries of farm numbers and acres of land in farms. Additionally, all farms found in the segments are checked against a list of farms and ranches maintained by NASS to determine if the farm is on the list. Operations found in the Area Frame sample that are not on the list provide a measure of incompleteness of the list. The summarized totals for these non-overlap (or not-on-list) operations are combined with summarized totals collected from a sample selected from the list to calculate additional indications of farms and land in farms.

Estimation Procedures: Data are checked for reasonableness and consistency and summarized for each state. State estimates are aggregated to national totals for Headquarters review. Field Offices perform a thorough review of their survey results and historical data relationships and recommend official estimates. Headquarters establishes national estimates and ensures that state estimates are in balance with the national numbers.

Revision Policy: Estimates are subject to revision the following year and following review of the five-year Census of Agriculture. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data which directly affect the level of the estimate.

Reliability: Two types of errors, sampling and non-sampling, are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both types can affect the quality of the estimates.

Sampling error occurs because a complete census is not taken. The sampling error measures the variation in estimates from the average of all possible samples. An estimate of 100 with a sampling error of 1 would mean that chances are 19 out of 20 that the estimates from all possible samples averaged together would be between 98 and 102; which is the survey estimate, plus or minus two times the sampling error. The sampling error expressed as a percent of the estimate is called the relative sampling error. In 2017, the relative sampling error for the United States number of farms was 1.7 percent and land in farms was 3.6 percent. Relative sampling errors by economic sales class ranged from 2.0 to 8.1 percent for number of farms and 3.2 to 13.3 percent for land in farms at the United States level.

Non-sampling errors can occur in complete censuses as well as sample surveys. They are caused by the inability to obtain correct information from each person surveyed, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, and mistakes in coding or processing the data. Special efforts are taken at each step of the survey to minimize non-sampling errors.

Terms and Definitions

A **farm** is “any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year.” Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and other government conservation programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 Census.

Land in farms consists of agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing. Also included is woodland and wasteland not actually under cultivation or used for pasture or grazing, provided it was part of the farm operator’s total operation. Land in farms includes acres in CRP, WRP, and other government conservation programs.

Land in farms includes land owned and operated as well as land rented from others. Land used rent-free is included as land rented from others. All grazing land, except land used under government permits on a per-head basis, is included as land in farms provided it was part of a farm or ranch. Land under the exclusive use of a grazing association is reported by the grazing association and included as land in farms. All land in American Indian reservations used for growing crops or grazing livestock is included as land in farms. Land in reservations not reported by individual American Indians or non-Native Americans is reported in the name of the cooperative group that used the land. In many instances, the entire American Indian reservation is reported as one farm.

Economic sales classes are based on the gross value of agricultural products sold. Government program payments are also included.

Point Farms are places that did not have \$1,000 of reported sales for the year, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more.

Farm Definition History

The definition of a farm has remained the same since 1974. Activities included as agriculture, however, have undergone modification in recent years. Beginning in 1995, operations having 5 or more horses or ponies and no other agricultural sales were counted as horse farms. An operation with 1 or more horses with agricultural sales of at least \$1,000, qualified as a farm. Two industries, maple syrup and short rotation woody crop farms, were added beginning in 1997 as a result of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). These changes were made to achieve comparability with the Census of Agriculture farm definition. All the changes in the farm definition beginning in 1995 were carried back to 1993 and included in the 1993-1998 estimates. These changes bring comparability between the Census of Agriculture data and the annually published NASS estimates. Because of these changes in the farm definition, the official estimates show a level difference in the number of farms between 1992 and 1993 in some states. To further align the counting of farms with the Census of Agriculture, places with 100 acres or more of pasture only in 2002 were included in farm and land in farm numbers. The handling of Indian reservation land was changed in 2002 to provide some accounting for individual farms.

Minimum Criteria for “FARM” Definition, 1840 – Present and Enumeration of Apiaries and Fur Farms

Year	Acres in Place	Value of Agricultural Products (Produced)	Value of Sales of Agricultural Products	Required some Agricultural Operations	Apiaries and Fur Farms Enumerated
1974 - Present	--	--	\$1,000 or more	--	--
1959	Less than 10 10 or more	-- --	\$250 or more \$50 or more	-- --	-- --
1954	Less than 3 3 or more	-- \$150 or more	\$150 or more --	-- --	-- --
1950	Less than 3 3 or more	-- \$150 or more	\$150 or more --	-- --	Apiaries Fur Farms
1935 - 1945	Less than 3 3 or more	\$250 or more --	-- --	-- X	Apiaries Fur Farms
1930	Less than 3 3 or more	\$250 or more --	-- --	-- X	Apiaries --
1925	Less than 3 3 or more	\$250 or more --	-- --	-- X	-- --
1910 - 1925	Less than 3 3 or more	\$250 or more --	-- --	-- X	Apiaries --
1900	Less than 3 3 or more	-- --	-- --	-- X	Apiaries --
1870 - 1890	Less than 3 3 or more	-- --	\$500 or more --	-- X	Apiaries --
1860	--	--	--	--	--
1850	--	\$100 or more	--	--	Apiaries
1840	--	--	--	--	--

Historic Estimates: Final estimates of Farms and Land in Farms in earlier years are available in Statistical Bulletins, No.1030 for 2008-2012, No. 1018 for 2003-2007, No. 991 for 1998-2002, No. 955 for 1993-97, No. 895 for 1988-92, No. 792 for 1979-87, SpSy3 for 1975-80, No. 594 for 1969-75, No. 507 for 1959-70, No. 316 for number of farm estimates for 1910-59 and land in farms estimates for 1950-59.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Environmental, Economics and Demographics Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. Email inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

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Rachel Antzak – Cash Receipts, Land Values	(202) 720-5446
Daryl Brinkman – Prices Received, Prices Received Indexes, Parity Prices	(202) 720-8844
Kuan Chen – Prices, Prices Research.....	(202) 690-3347
Ryan Cowen – Farms, Land in Farms, Cash Rents, Grazing Fees.....	(202) 720-2250
Liana Cuffman – Prices Paid, Prices Paid Indexes.....	(202) 690-3229
Stephen Habets – Farm Expenditures.....	(202) 720-9168
Ben Johnson – Database and Application Development.....	(202) 690-3225
Michael Mathison – Farm Expenditures	(202) 720-3243
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