

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

United States, 1959-69
By States 1967-69

Release:
January 10, 1969
3:00 P.M. (EST)

TREND TO FEWER AND LARGER FARMS CONTINUES

The nation had an estimated 3,054 thousand operating farms in 1968, and will probably have fewer in 1969. The preliminary estimate for this year indicates 2,976 thousand farms will be in operation. This reduction would be slightly smaller than the average of recent years.

Total land in farms continued to decrease, to approximately 1,128 million acres, but the decrease was much slower than the decline in farm numbers. For 1969, the preliminary estimate of land in farms is 1,123 million acres.

Since 1959, farm numbers have declined slightly more than a fourth while land in farms has decreased only 5 percent. These changes are associated with an increase in the average size of farms from 288 acres in 1959 to 377 acres in 1969. Discontinuation of small farming enterprises and the merging of larger units continue as the important influences in the change in farm numbers.

This report includes data for Alaska and Hawaii in national totals for all years presented. For explanation of basis for estimates of farms, see Number of Farm report, January 10, 1968.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms, U. S. 1959-69

| Year | Farms (Thousands) | Land in Farms (Thousand Acres) | Average size of farms (Acres) |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1959 | 4,105 | 1,182,563 | 288 |
| 1960 | 3,962 | 1,176,946 | 297 |
| 1961 | 3,821 | 1,169,899 | 306 |
| 1962 | 3,685 | 1,161,383 | 315 |
| 1963 | 3,561 | 1,153,072 | 324 |
| 1964 | 3,442 | 1,146,806 | 333 |
| 1965 | 3,340 | 1,141,536 | 342 |
| 1966 | 3,239 | 1,137,161 | 351 |
| 1967 | 3,146 | 1,131,982 | 360 |
| 1968 | 3,054 | 1,127,567 | 369 |
| 1969 1/ | 2,976 | 1,123,372 | 377 |

1/ Preliminary

Number of Farms and Land in Farms, by States, 1967-69

| State | Number of Farms | | | Land in Farms | | |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 1/ | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 1/ |
| | | | | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | | | | acres | acres | acres |
| Maine | 11,800 | 11,000 | 10,300 | 2,600 | 2,500 | 2,400 |
| N. H. | 4,200 | 3,900 | 3,600 | 830 | 780 | 740 |
| Vt. | 8,600 | 8,100 | 7,500 | 2,490 | 2,410 | 2,300 |
| Mass. | 7,500 | 7,000 | 6,500 | 840 | 800 | 750 |
| R. I. | 1,100 | 1,000 | 900 | 102 | 97 | 92 |
| Conn. | 5,700 | 5,300 | 4,900 | 700 | 660 | 620 |
| N. Y. | 64,000 | 61,000 | 58,000 | 12,400 | 12,000 | 11,600 |
| N. J. | 9,500 | 9,100 | 8,700 | 1,080 | 1,050 | 1,010 |
| Pa. | 80,000 | 77,000 | 75,000 | 11,000 | 10,800 | 10,650 |
| Ohio | 118,000 | 115,000 | 113,000 | 17,800 | 17,600 | 17,400 |
| Ind. | 105,000 | 100,000 | 96,000 | 17,900 | 17,600 | 17,300 |
| Ill. | 133,000 | 131,000 | 129,000 | 30,000 | 29,800 | 29,700 |
| Mich. | 92,000 | 89,000 | 87,000 | 13,700 | 13,400 | 13,200 |
| Wis. | 118,000 | 116,000 | 114,000 | 21,000 | 20,800 | 20,600 |
| Minn. | 135,000 | 133,000 | 130,000 | 32,400 | 32,300 | 32,200 |
| Iowa | 150,000 | 147,000 | 143,000 | 34,500 | 34,500 | 34,500 |
| Mo. | 152,000 | 148,000 | 145,000 | 33,700 | 33,500 | 33,300 |
| N. Dak. | 47,000 | 45,000 | 43,000 | 42,000 | 42,000 | 42,000 |
| S. Dak. | 50,000 | 48,500 | 47,500 | 45,600 | 45,500 | 45,500 |
| Nebr. | 78,000 | 76,000 | 74,000 | 48,200 | 48,200 | 48,200 |
| Kans. | 93,000 | 91,000 | 88,000 | 50,100 | 50,100 | 50,000 |
| Del. | 4,100 | 3,900 | 3,700 | 730 | 720 | 710 |
| Md. | 20,400 | 19,500 | 18,700 | 3,350 | 3,300 | 3,250 |
| Va. | 78,000 | 75,000 | 73,000 | 12,000 | 11,800 | 11,600 |
| N. Va. | 33,000 | 31,000 | 30,000 | 5,500 | 5,300 | 5,200 |
| N. C. | 168,000 | 165,000 | 163,000 | 16,200 | 16,100 | 16,100 |
| S. C. | 58,000 | 55,000 | 52,000 | 8,800 | 8,600 | 8,400 |
| Ga. | 82,000 | 80,000 | 78,000 | 18,400 | 17,900 | 17,600 |
| Fla. | 37,000 | 35,000 | 34,000 | 16,200 | 16,200 | 16,200 |
| Ky. | 138,000 | 133,000 | 130,000 | 17,100 | 17,000 | 16,900 |
| Tenn. | 135,000 | 132,000 | 128,000 | 15,700 | 15,600 | 15,500 |
| Ala. | 96,000 | 93,000 | 90,000 | 15,400 | 15,200 | 15,000 |
| Miss. | 101,000 | 99,000 | 97,000 | 17,800 | 17,700 | 17,600 |
| Ark. | 80,000 | 77,000 | 75,000 | 17,900 | 17,900 | 17,900 |
| La. | 59,000 | 56,000 | 54,000 | 11,800 | 12,000 | 12,100 |
| Okla. | 93,000 | 92,000 | 92,000 | 37,300 | 37,200 | 37,200 |
| Texas | 200,000 | 195,000 | 191,000 | 145,000 | 145,000 | 145,000 |
| Mont. | 27,600 | 27,100 | 26,700 | 67,100 | 67,100 | 67,100 |
| Idaho | 30,000 | 29,400 | 28,900 | 15,400 | 15,400 | 15,400 |
| Wyo. | 9,000 | 8,800 | 8,600 | 37,000 | 37,000 | 37,000 |
| Colo. | 31,500 | 31,000 | 30,500 | 39,500 | 39,500 | 39,500 |
| N. Mex. | 14,300 | 14,000 | 13,800 | 48,600 | 48,600 | 48,300 |
| Ariz. | 6,300 | 6,100 | 6,000 | 43,500 | 43,500 | 43,400 |
| Utah | 15,500 | 15,000 | 14,500 | 13,300 | 13,300 | 13,300 |
| Nev. | 2,200 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 8,800 | 8,800 | 8,800 |
| Wash. | 47,000 | 46,000 | 46,000 | 18,100 | 18,100 | 18,100 |
| Oreg. | 42,000 | 41,500 | 41,000 | 20,900 | 20,900 | 20,900 |
| Calif. | 70,000 | 64,000 | 59,000 | 37,400 | 37,200 | 37,000 |
| 48 States: | 3,141,300 | 3,049,300 | 2,971,400 | 1,127,722 | 1,123,317 | 1,119,122 |
| Alaska 2/ | 320 | 310 | 310 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 |
| Hawaii | 4,800 | 4,700 | 4,600 | 2,360 | 2,350 | 2,350 |
| U. S. | 3,146,420 | 3,054,310 | 2,976,310 | 1,131,982 | 1,127,567 | 1,123,372 |

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Exclusive of grazing land leased from U. S. Government, Alaska farmland totals about 70,000 acres.