

# NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

United States, 1959-70  
By States 1968-70

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## Farm Numbers Drop 28 Percent During Past Decade

The Nation had an estimated 2,971,000 operating farms during 1969, 3 percent less than in 1968. The preliminary estimate for 1970 indicates 2,895,000 farms will be in operation, another 3 percent drop.

Total land in farms, estimated at about 1,124 million acres for 1969, continues a slow steady decline but at a slower rate than the farm numbers. For 1970, the preliminary estimate of land in farms is 1,119 million acres.

The past decade saw a 28 percent decline in number of farms while only a 5 percent drop was recorded in land in farms. These changes are associated with a 31 percent increase in the average size of farms. The continued disappearance of the small marginal farms along with larger unit mergers into more efficient operations contribute most to the change in farm numbers. Urbanization and highway construction lead the reasons for decline in land in farms. These are partially offset by new lands being brought into production.

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

## Number of Farms and Land in Farms, U. S. 1959-70

Year	Farms	Land in Farms	Average size of farms
	Thousands	Thousand acres	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	2,971	1,123,984	378
1970 1/	2,895	1,119,410	387

1/ Preliminary.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms, by States, 1968-70

State	Farms			Land in Farms		
	1968	1969	1970 1/	1968	1969	1970 1/
	Number			1,000 acres		
Maine	11,000	10,300	9,700	2,500	2,400	2,300
N. H.	3,900	3,700	3,500	780	740	700
Vt.	8,100	7,600	7,200	2,410	2,320	2,250
Mass.	7,000	6,500	6,000	800	750	710
R. I.	1,000	1,000	900	97	94	90
Conn.	5,300	4,900	4,600	660	620	590
N. Y.	61,000	59,000	57,000	12,000	11,800	11,500
N. J.	9,100	8,900	8,700	1,050	1,020	1,010
Pa.	77,000	75,000	73,000	10,800	10,650	10,585
Ohio	115,000	113,000	111,000	17,600	17,500	17,400
Ind.	100,000	98,000	96,000	17,600	17,400	17,200
Ill.	131,000	128,000	126,000	29,800	29,700	29,600
Mich.	89,000	87,000	85,000	13,400	13,200	13,000
Wis.	116,000	114,000	112,000	20,800	20,600	20,400
Minn.	133,000	129,000	125,000	32,300	32,200	32,200
Iowa	147,000	143,000	140,000	34,500	34,500	34,400
Mo.	148,000	145,000	142,000	33,500	33,300	33,000
N. Dak.	45,000	43,000	41,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
S. Dak.	48,500	47,500	46,500	45,500	45,500	45,500
Nebr.	76,000	74,000	73,000	48,200	48,200	48,100
Kans.	91,000	88,000	86,000	50,100	50,000	50,000
Del.	3,900	3,800	3,700	720	710	700
Md.	19,500	18,700	17,700	3,300	3,250	3,200
Va.	75,000	73,000	71,000	11,800	11,600	11,400
W. Va.	31,000	30,000	29,000	5,300	5,200	5,100
N. C.	165,000	161,000	157,000	16,100	16,100	16,100
S. C.	55,000	53,000	51,000	8,600	8,400	8,200
Ga.	80,000	78,000	75,000	17,900	17,600	16,900
Fla.	35,000	34,000	34,000	16,200	16,200	16,200
Ky.	133,000	125,000	120,000	17,000	16,900	16,800
Tenn.	132,000	128,000	125,000	15,600	15,500	15,400
Ala.	93,000	89,000	85,000	15,200	15,000	14,800
Miss.	99,000	97,000	93,000	17,700	17,600	17,500
Ark.	77,000	75,000	74,000	17,900	17,900	17,900
La.	56,000	54,000	52,000	12,000	12,100	12,200
Okla.	92,000	91,000	90,000	37,200	37,200	37,200
Texas	195,000	191,000	187,000	145,000	145,000	145,000
Mont.	27,100	26,700	26,300	67,100	67,100	67,100
Idaho	29,400	28,900	28,500	15,400	15,400	15,500
Wyo.	8,800	8,600	8,400	37,000	37,000	37,000
Colo.	31,000	31,000	30,500	39,500	39,500	39,000
N. Mex.	14,000	13,800	13,600	48,600	48,300	48,200
Ariz.	6,100	6,000	5,900	43,500	43,400	43,300
Utah	15,000	14,500	14,500	13,300	13,300	13,200
Nev.	2,100	2,100	2,100	8,800	9,000	9,000
Wash.	46,000	46,000	45,500	18,100	18,100	18,100
Oreg.	41,500	40,500	39,500	20,900	20,900	20,900
Calif.	64,000	60,000	57,000	37,200	37,000	36,800
48 States	3,049,300	2,966,000	2,890,300	1,123,317	1,119,754	1,115,235
Alaska 2/	310	310	310	1,900	1,880	1,835
Hawaii	4,700	4,600	4,600	2,350	2,350	2,340
U. S.	3,054,310	2,970,910	2,895,210	1,127,567	1,123,984	1,119,410

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