

# Farms and Land in Farms



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

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Released February 26, 1999, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Farms and Land in Farms" call Brad Parks at 202-690-3229, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## Farm Numbers Up Slightly and Land in Farms Down Slightly

The number of farms in the United States in 1998 is estimated at 2.19 million, up fractionally from 1997. Total land in farms, at 953.8 million acres, was down 2.2 million acres from last year. The decline in land in farms continues to follow historical trends. The average farm size decreased 1 acre from 1997 to 435 acres.

The U.S. number of farms in the economic sales class between \$1,000-\$9,999 increased 1,150 farms during 1998 to 1,192,200. Those with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 class decreased 3,760 farms from 1997 to 642,200 in 1998. The \$100,000 and over sales class increased 3,610 farms from 1997 to 357,110 farms in 1998. These changes in the sales class mix of farms continues the trend of losing farms in the \$10,000-\$99,999 sales class, while gaining farms in both the \$1,000-\$9,999 and the \$100,000 and over sales classes.

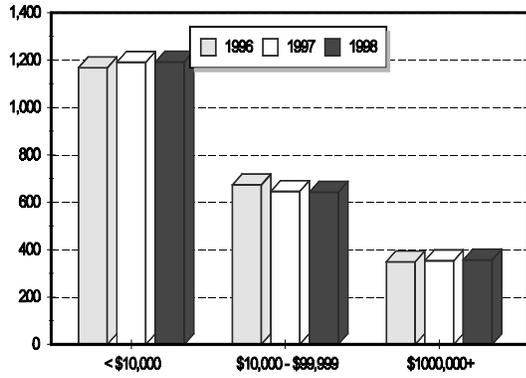
The West Region showed the largest increase in number of farms, up 4,500 farms or 1.5 percent. The largest decrease was in the North Central Region with a loss of 3,500 farms or 0.4 percent.

Eleven States increased in farm numbers while 10 States decreased from a year ago. California showed the largest increase with 2,000 farms while Texas, Georgia, Washington, and Ohio showed increases of 1,000 farms from last year. Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Kentucky, Iowa, and North Carolina had decreases of 1,000 farms each.

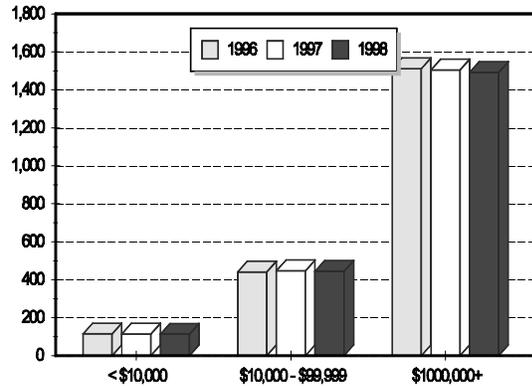
Texas remained the State with the most farms, at 226,000, up 1,000 from a year earlier. Missouri was second with 110,000 farms, the same as last year, followed by Iowa with 97,000 farms, down 1,000 from 1997.

Texas continued to lead the nation in land in farms and ranches with 131.5 million acres, unchanged from 1997. Oregon, Montana, and Colorado tied for the largest decrease in agricultural land from a year ago, each decreasing 300,000 acres. There were 13 States with decreases of 100,000 acres or more in agricultural land from a year ago.

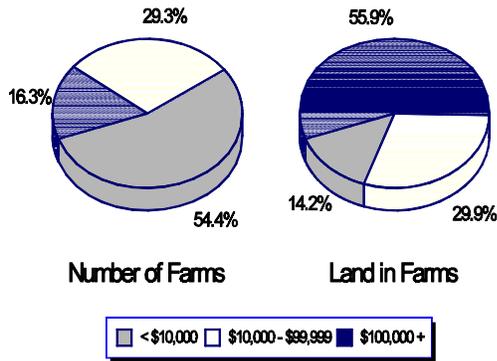
**U. S. Number of Farms by Sales Class**  
Gross Value of Sales, 1996-98



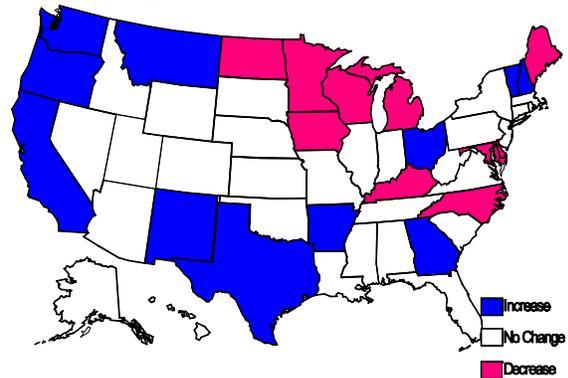
**U.S. Average Size Farm by Sales Class**  
Gross Value of Sales, 1996-98



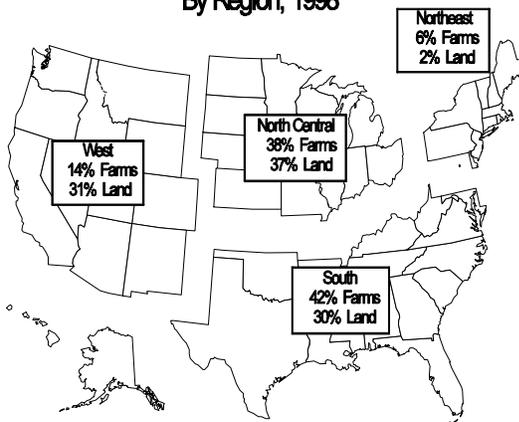
**U.S. Percentages by Sales Class - 1998**



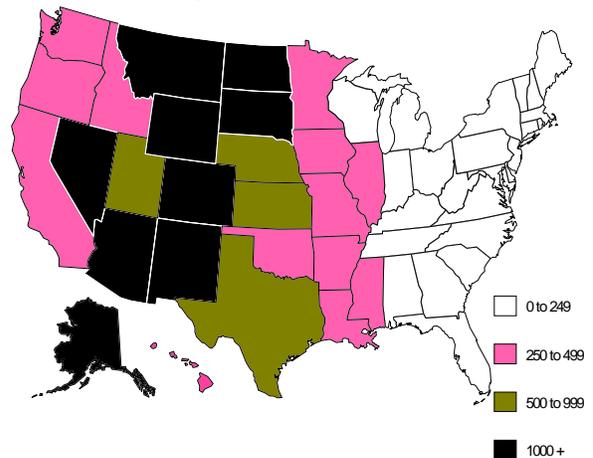
**Change in Number of Farms Since 1997**



**Distribution of Farms and Land in Farms**  
By Region, 1998



**Average Farm Size in Acres, 1998**



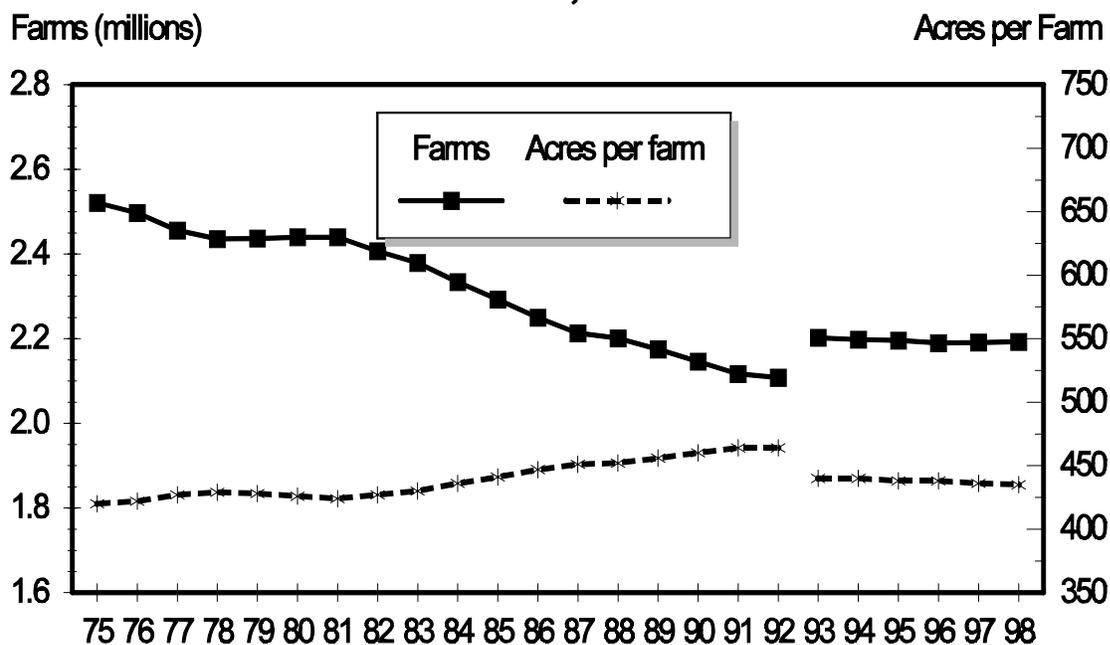
**Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size:  
United States, 1988-98<sup>1 2</sup>**

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Farm Size
		<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
1988	2,200,940	994,423	452
1989	2,174,520	990,723	456
1990	2,145,820	986,850	460
1991	2,116,760	981,736	464
1992	2,107,840	978,503	464
1993	2,201,590	968,845	440
1994	2,197,690	965,935	440
1995	2,196,400	962,515	438
1996	2,190,500	958,675	438
1997	2,190,510	956,010	436
1998	2,191,510	953,765	435

<sup>1</sup> A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year. See the Survey Procedures, page 13, that denote changes to the definition of a farm.

<sup>2</sup> 1988 - 1992 estimates are for a June 1 reference date. 1993 - 1998 estimates are for the entire calendar year.

**Number of Farms and Average Farm Size  
United States, 1975 - 1998<sup>1/</sup>**



<sup>1/</sup> See the Survey Procedures, page 13, for changes in the farm definition that attributed to the level change between 1992 and 1993.

**Number of Farms: By State and United States, 1996-98**

State	1996 <i>Number</i>	1997 <i>Number</i>	1998 <i>Number</i>
AL	49,000	49,000	49,000
AK	550	560	560
AZ	7,900	7,900	7,900
AR	49,500	49,000	49,500
CA	86,000	87,000	89,000
CO	29,500	29,500	29,500
CT	4,100	4,100	4,100
DE	2,800	2,800	2,700
FL	45,000	45,000	45,000
GA	49,000	49,000	50,000
HI	5,400	5,500	5,500
ID	24,000	24,500	24,500
IL	79,000	79,000	79,000
IN	66,000	66,000	66,000
IA	99,000	98,000	97,000
KS	65,000	65,000	65,000
KY	92,000	91,000	90,000
LA	30,000	30,000	30,000
ME	7,200	7,000	6,900
MD	13,700	13,000	12,500
MA	6,000	6,000	6,000
MI	54,000	53,000	52,000
MN	82,000	81,000	80,000
MS	42,000	42,000	42,000
MO	110,000	110,000	110,000
MT	26,500	27,000	27,500
NE	56,000	55,000	55,000
NV	3,000	3,000	3,000
NH	2,900	3,000	3,100
NJ	9,500	9,600	9,600
NM	15,500	15,500	16,000
NY	38,000	38,000	38,000
NC	59,000	59,000	58,000
ND	32,000	31,500	31,000
OH	78,000	79,000	80,000
OK	82,000	83,000	83,000
OR	38,500	39,000	39,500
PA	59,000	60,000	60,000
RI	750	750	750
SC	25,000	25,000	25,000
SD	32,500	32,500	32,500
TN	91,000	91,000	91,000
TX	224,000	225,000	226,000
UT	15,000	15,000	15,000
VT	6,500	6,600	6,700
VA	49,000	49,000	49,000
WA	39,000	39,000	40,000
WV	21,000	21,000	21,000
WI	79,000	79,000	78,000
WY	9,200	9,200	9,200
US	2,190,500	2,190,510	2,191,510

**Land in Farms: By State and United States, 1996-98**

State	1996 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	1997 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	1998 <i>1,000 Acres</i>
AL	9,700	9,600	9,500
AK	920	910	910
AZ	28,300	28,300	28,300
AR	14,900	14,800	14,750
CA	29,000	28,700	28,500
CO	32,500	32,500	32,200
CT	380	380	380
DE	590	585	580
FL	10,700	10,600	10,600
GA	11,400	11,300	11,300
HI	1,440	1,440	1,440
ID	12,100	12,000	12,000
IL	27,900	27,800	27,800
IN	15,600	15,600	15,600
IA	33,000	33,000	33,000
KS	47,500	47,500	47,500
KY	14,000	13,900	13,900
LA	8,300	8,200	8,200
ME	1,310	1,280	1,280
MD	2,200	2,200	2,100
MA	570	570	570
MI	10,600	10,400	10,400
MN	29,200	29,100	28,900
MS	11,900	11,700	11,600
MO	30,100	30,100	30,100
MT	58,500	57,800	57,500
NE	46,400	46,400	46,400
NV	6,900	6,900	6,900
NH	420	420	420
NJ	840	830	830
NM	45,100	45,300	45,300
NY	7,800	7,800	7,800
NC	9,500	9,500	9,400
ND	39,900	39,700	39,500
OH	14,900	14,900	14,900
OK	34,000	34,000	34,000
OR	17,500	17,500	17,200
PA	7,600	7,700	7,700
RI	65	65	65
SC	5,000	5,000	4,900
SD	44,000	44,000	44,000
TN	12,000	12,000	11,900
TX	132,000	131,500	131,500
UT	11,400	11,600	11,600
VT	1,340	1,330	1,340
VA	8,800	8,800	8,800
WA	15,700	15,700	15,700
WV	3,700	3,700	3,700
WI	16,600	16,500	16,400
WY	34,600	34,600	34,600
US	958,675	956,010	953,765

**Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, and United States, 1998**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000-\$9,999	\$10,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
<b>Northeast</b>				
NY	18,400	11,000	8,600	38,000
PA	33,300	17,200	9,500	60,000
Other States <sup>1</sup>	24,700	8,800	3,650	37,150
Total	76,400	37,000	21,750	135,150
<b>North Central</b>				
IL	27,700	27,800	23,500	79,000
IN	31,000	22,500	12,500	66,000
IA	26,500	38,500	32,000	97,000
KS	24,200	27,300	13,500	65,000
MI	27,000	17,000	8,000	52,000
MN	29,500	29,500	21,000	80,000
MO	62,700	36,700	10,600	110,000
NE	14,000	22,600	18,400	55,000
ND	8,200	14,000	8,800	31,000
OH	41,500	27,300	11,200	80,000
SD	7,000	15,300	10,200	32,500
WI	34,000	25,500	18,500	78,000
Total	333,300	304,000	188,200	825,500
<b>South</b>				
AL <sup>2</sup>	35,000			49,000
AR	27,500	11,500	10,500	49,500
FL <sup>2</sup>	29,500			45,000
GA	32,500	9,700	7,800	50,000
KY <sup>2</sup>	51,000			90,000
LA <sup>2</sup>	19,000			30,000
MS <sup>2</sup>	30,000			42,000
NC	34,000	14,000	10,000	58,000
OK	52,000	25,000	6,000	83,000
TN <sup>2</sup>	69,000			91,000
TX	153,000	56,000	17,000	226,000
VA <sup>2</sup>	32,000			49,000
Other States <sup>2 3</sup>	51,000			61,200
Total	615,500	216,200	92,000	923,700
<b>West</b>				
CA	42,600	24,400	22,000	89,000
OR <sup>2</sup>	26,500			39,500
WA	25,700	7,500	6,800	40,000
Other States <sup>2 4</sup>	72,200			138,660
Total	167,000	85,000	55,160	307,160
US	1,192,200	642,200	357,110	2,191,510

<sup>1</sup> CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates not available for all sales classes.

<sup>3</sup> DE, MD, SC, and WV.

<sup>4</sup> AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.

**Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, and United States, 1998**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
<b>Northeast</b>				
NY	1,800	2,200	3,800	7,800
PA	2,100	2,500	3,100	7,700
Other States <sup>1</sup>	1,575	1,310	2,000	4,885
Total	5,475	6,010	8,900	20,385
<b>North Central</b>				
IL	1,700	6,000	20,100	27,800
IN	1,500	4,000	10,100	15,600
IA	1,700	9,200	22,100	33,000
KS	3,500	16,000	28,000	47,500
MI	1,900	2,800	5,700	10,400
MN	3,100	8,500	17,300	28,900
MO	7,300	11,600	11,200	30,100
NE	2,100	12,500	31,800	46,400
ND	3,400	14,000	22,100	39,500
OH	2,800	4,600	7,500	14,900
SD	2,000	14,400	27,600	44,000
WI	2,800	4,800	8,800	16,400
Total	33,800	108,400	212,300	354,500
<b>South</b>				
AL <sup>2</sup>	4,000			9,500
AR	2,250	3,300	9,200	14,750
FL <sup>2</sup>	1,800			10,600
GA	3,000	2,400	5,900	11,300
KY <sup>2</sup>	3,900			13,900
LA <sup>2</sup>	1,800			8,200
MS <sup>2</sup>	3,800			11,600
NC	2,300	1,900	5,200	9,400
OK	6,900	14,100	13,000	34,000
TN <sup>2</sup>	4,800			11,900
TX	22,000	45,500	64,000	131,500
VA <sup>2</sup>	2,800			8,800
Other States <sup>2 3</sup>	5,350			11,280
Total	64,700	93,730	128,300	286,730
<b>West</b>				
CA	3,000	7,300	18,200	28,500
OR <sup>2</sup>	1,700			17,200
WA	2,600	2,800	10,300	15,700
Other States <sup>2 4</sup>	23,700			230,750
Total	31,000	77,500	183,650	292,150
US	134,975	285,640	533,150	953,765

<sup>1</sup> CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates not available for all sales classes.

<sup>3</sup> DE, MD, SC, and WV.

<sup>4</sup> AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.

**Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, and United States, 1997**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
<b>Northeast</b>				
NY	18,700	11,000	8,300	38,000
PA	33,300	17,200	9,500	60,000
Other States <sup>1</sup>	24,050	9,100	3,900	37,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,050</b>	<b>37,300</b>	<b>21,700</b>	<b>135,050</b>
<b>North Central</b>				
IL	27,700	27,800	23,500	79,000
IN	31,500	22,000	12,500	66,000
IA	27,500	38,500	32,000	98,000
KS	24,200	27,300	13,500	65,000
MI	28,500	17,000	7,500	53,000
MN	29,500	30,500	21,000	81,000
MO	62,700	36,500	10,800	110,000
NE	13,500	23,300	18,200	55,000
ND	8,500	14,000	9,000	31,500
OH	40,600	27,500	10,900	79,000
SD	7,000	15,500	10,000	32,500
WI	33,600	26,700	18,700	79,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>334,800</b>	<b>306,600</b>	<b>187,600</b>	<b>829,000</b>
<b>South</b>				
AL <sup>2</sup>	35,000			49,000
AR	26,500	12,000	10,500	49,000
FL <sup>2</sup>	29,500			45,000
GA	31,900	9,600	7,500	49,000
KY <sup>2</sup>	53,000			91,000
LA <sup>2</sup>	19,500			30,000
MS <sup>2</sup>	30,000			42,000
NC	35,000	14,000	10,000	59,000
OK	52,700	24,000	6,300	83,000
TN <sup>2</sup>	69,000			91,000
TX	154,000	54,000	17,000	225,000
VA <sup>2</sup>	32,000			49,000
Other States <sup>2 3</sup>	49,900			61,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>618,000</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>89,800</b>	<b>923,800</b>
<b>West</b>				
CA	42,000	25,000	20,000	87,000
OR <sup>2</sup>	26,000			39,000
WA	24,300	7,800	6,900	39,000
Other States <sup>2 4</sup>	69,900			137,660
<b>Total</b>	<b>162,200</b>	<b>86,060</b>	<b>54,400</b>	<b>302,660</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>1,191,050</b>	<b>645,960</b>	<b>353,500</b>	<b>2,190,510</b>

<sup>1</sup> CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates not available for all sales classes.

<sup>3</sup> DE, MD, SC, and WV.

<sup>4</sup> AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.

**Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, and United States, 1997**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Northeast				
NY	1,900	2,200	3,700	7,800
PA	2,100	2,500	3,100	7,700
Other States <sup>1</sup>	1,475	1,400	2,000	4,875
Total	5,475	6,100	8,800	20,375
North Central				
IL	1,700	6,000	20,100	27,800
IN	1,500	4,100	10,000	15,600
IA	1,800	9,500	21,700	33,000
KS	3,800	16,000	27,700	47,500
MI	2,000	2,900	5,500	10,400
MN	3,100	8,700	17,300	29,100
MO	7,300	11,500	11,300	30,100
NE	2,100	12,700	31,600	46,400
ND	3,500	14,000	22,200	39,700
OH	2,800	4,800	7,300	14,900
SD	2,100	14,800	27,100	44,000
WI	2,800	4,900	8,800	16,500
Total	34,500	109,900	210,600	355,000
South				
AL <sup>2</sup>	4,000			9,600
AR	2,200	3,300	9,300	14,800
FL <sup>2</sup>	1,800			10,600
GA	3,000	2,500	5,800	11,300
KY <sup>2</sup>	4,000			13,900
LA <sup>2</sup>	1,800			8,200
MS <sup>2</sup>	3,700			11,700
NC	2,400	2,000	5,100	9,500
OK	7,000	14,000	13,000	34,000
TN <sup>2</sup>	4,800			12,000
TX	22,000	45,500	64,000	131,500
VA <sup>2</sup>	2,800			8,800
Other States <sup>2 3</sup>	5,400			11,485
Total	64,900	93,985	128,500	287,385
West				
CA	3,000	7,300	18,400	28,700
OR <sup>2</sup>	1,700			17,500
WA	2,500	2,900	10,300	15,700
Other States <sup>2 4</sup>	23,300			231,350
Total	30,500	78,500	184,250	293,250
US	135,375	288,485	532,150	956,010

<sup>1</sup> CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates not available for all sales classes.

<sup>3</sup> DE, MD, SC, and WV.

<sup>4</sup> AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.

**Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, and United States, 1996**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
<b>Northeast</b>				
NY	18,600	11,200	8,200	38,000
PA	32,600	17,200	9,200	59,000
Other States <sup>1</sup>	24,650	8,500	3,800	36,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,850</b>	<b>36,900</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>133,950</b>
<b>North Central</b>				
IL	27,000	28,500	23,500	79,000
IN	30,000	23,000	13,000	66,000
IA	27,000	41,000	31,000	99,000
KS	23,500	28,500	13,000	65,000
MI	29,800	17,000	7,200	54,000
MN	29,000	31,500	21,500	82,000
MO	61,500	38,200	10,300	110,000
NE	12,800	25,000	18,200	56,000
ND	7,400	15,100	9,500	32,000
OH	39,000	28,600	10,400	78,000
SD	6,000	17,000	9,500	32,500
WI	32,900	27,400	18,700	79,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>325,900</b>	<b>320,800</b>	<b>185,800</b>	<b>832,500</b>
<b>South</b>				
AL <sup>2</sup>	35,000			49,000
AR	26,500	12,500	10,500	49,500
FL <sup>2</sup>	29,500			45,000
GA	32,000	9,700	7,300	49,000
KY <sup>2</sup>	52,000			92,000
LA <sup>2</sup>	19,000			30,000
MS <sup>2</sup>	30,000			42,000
NC	34,000	15,000	10,000	59,000
OK	50,200	25,500	6,300	82,000
TN <sup>2</sup>	68,000			91,000
TX	151,000	56,000	17,000	224,000
VA <sup>2</sup>	32,000			49,000
Other States <sup>2 3</sup>	49,300			62,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>608,500</b>	<b>227,400</b>	<b>88,100</b>	<b>924,000</b>
<b>West</b>				
CA	41,500	26,000	18,500	86,000
OR <sup>2</sup>	25,500			38,500
WA	24,200	7,700	7,100	39,000
Other States <sup>2 4</sup>	66,350			136,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,550</b>	<b>88,500</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>300,050</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>1,167,800</b>	<b>673,600</b>	<b>349,100</b>	<b>2,190,500</b>

<sup>1</sup> CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates not available for all sales classes.

<sup>3</sup> DE, MD, SC, and WV.

<sup>4</sup> AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.

**Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, and United States, 1996**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Northeast				
NY	1,900	2,200	3,700	7,800
PA	2,100	2,500	3,000	7,600
Other States <sup>1</sup>	1,490	1,400	2,035	4,925
Total	5,490	6,100	8,735	20,325
North Central				
IL	1,700	6,400	19,800	27,900
IN	1,400	4,300	9,900	15,600
IA	1,800	10,600	20,600	33,000
KS	3,800	16,800	26,900	47,500
MI	2,200	3,100	5,300	10,600
MN	3,100	9,000	17,100	29,200
MO	7,300	11,900	10,900	30,100
NE	2,100	13,300	31,000	46,400
ND	3,400	14,500	22,000	39,900
OH	2,800	5,200	6,900	14,900
SD	2,100	15,700	26,200	44,000
WI	2,700	5,100	8,800	16,600
Total	34,400	115,900	205,400	355,700
South				
AL <sup>2</sup>	4,100			9,700
AR	2,200	3,500	9,200	14,900
FL <sup>2</sup>	1,800			10,700
GA	2,900	2,700	5,800	11,400
KY <sup>2</sup>	4,000			14,000
LA <sup>2</sup>	1,800			8,300
MS <sup>2</sup>	3,600			11,900
NC	2,400	2,100	5,000	9,500
OK	7,300	14,000	12,700	34,000
TN <sup>2</sup>	4,800			12,000
TX	22,000	46,000	64,000	132,000
VA <sup>2</sup>	2,800			8,800
Other States <sup>2 3</sup>	5,990			11,490
Total	65,690	95,500	127,500	288,690
West				
CA	3,100	7,600	18,300	29,000
OR <sup>2</sup>	1,700			17,500
WA	2,500	3,100	10,100	15,700
Other States <sup>2 4</sup>	20,910			231,760
Total	28,210	79,700	186,050	293,960
US	133,790	297,200	527,685	958,675

<sup>1</sup> CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates not available for all sales classes.

<sup>3</sup> DE, MD, SC, and WV.

<sup>4</sup> AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.

**Percent of Farms, Land in Farms and Average Farm Size: By Economic Sales Class, United States, 1996-98**

Economic Sales Class	Percent of Total		Average Size Farm (Acres)
	Farms	Land	
	<i>1996</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1996</i>
\$1,000 - \$2,499	26.2	4.3	72
\$2,500 - \$4,999	14.5	4.4	133
\$5,000 - \$9,999	12.6	5.3	184
\$10,000 - \$19,999	10.5	6.0	250
\$20,000 - \$39,999	9.4	7.5	349
\$40,000 - \$99,999	10.9	17.5	703
\$100,000 - \$249,999	9.5	25.3	1,166
\$250,000 - \$499,999	3.8	13.8	1,589
\$500,000 +	2.6	15.9	2,676
Total	100.0	100.0	438
	<i>1997</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1997</i>
\$1,000 - \$2,499	27.4	4.4	70
\$2,500 - \$4,999	14.6	4.4	132
\$5,000 - \$9,999	12.4	5.4	190
\$10,000 - \$19,999	9.9	5.8	256
\$20,000 - \$39,999	9.0	7.4	359
\$40,000 - \$99,999	10.6	17.0	700
\$100,000 - \$249,999	9.0	24.0	1,164
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.1	14.2	1,512
\$500,000 +	3.0	17.4	2,531
Total	100.0	100.0	436
	<i>1998</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1998</i>
\$1,000 - \$2,499	27.6	4.3	68
\$2,500 - \$4,999	14.7	4.4	130
\$5,000 - \$9,999	12.1	5.5	198
\$10,000 - \$19,999	9.9	5.8	255
\$20,000 - \$39,999	8.9	7.3	357
\$40,000 - \$99,999	10.5	16.8	696
\$100,000 - \$249,999	8.9	23.5	1,149
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.3	14.8	1,498
\$500,000 +	3.1	17.6	2,471
Total	100.0	100.0	435

**Average Farm Size: By State and United States, 1996-98**

State	1996	1997	1998
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	198	196	194
AK	1,673	1,625	1,625
AZ	3,582	3,582	3,582
AR	301	302	298
CA	337	330	320
CO	1,102	1,102	1,092
CT	93	93	93
DE	211	209	215
FL	238	236	236
GA	233	231	226
HI	267	262	262
ID	504	490	490
IL	353	352	352
IN	236	236	236
IA	333	337	340
KS	731	731	731
KY	152	153	154
LA	277	273	273
ME	182	183	186
MD	161	169	168
MA	95	95	95
MI	196	196	200
MN	356	359	361
MS	283	279	276
MO	274	274	274
MT	2,208	2,141	2,091
NE	829	844	844
NV	2,300	2,300	2,300
NH	145	140	135
NJ	88	86	86
NM	2,910	2,923	2,831
NY	205	205	205
NC	161	161	162
ND	1,247	1,260	1,274
OH	191	189	186
OK	415	410	410
OR	455	449	435
PA	129	128	128
RI	87	87	87
SC	200	200	196
SD	1,354	1,354	1,354
TN	132	132	131
TX	589	584	582
UT	760	773	773
VT	206	202	200
VA	180	180	180
WA	403	403	393
WV	176	176	176
WI	210	209	210
WY	3,761	3,761	3,761
US	438	436	435

## Reliability of Data in this Report

**Survey Procedures:** These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service during the June Agricultural Survey and the Fall Agricultural Survey using sampling procedures to ensure every farm operator had a chance of being selected. Two samples of farm operators are selected for June, while only the area sample is surveyed in the Fall. First, NASS maintains a list of farms which are classified and sampled by size and type. Larger farms are selected with greater frequency but all farms are represented. A second sample, used in June and the Fall consists of area segments of land scientifically selected from aerial photography. Each June and December, highly trained interviewers locate each selected land segment and identify every farm operating land within the sample segment's boundaries. The names associated with those farms found in the area segments are matched against the list of farms; those not found on the list represent all farms not on the NASS list. This methodology is known as multiple frame sampling, with an area sample used to measure incompleteness of the list. The area segments also provide independent indications of number of farms and land in farms.

Beginning in 1995, interviewers counted operations having 5 or more horses or ponies and no other agricultural sales as horse farms. An operation with 1 or more horses with agricultural sales of at least \$1,000, qualified as a farm. Beginning in 1997 the Fall Agricultural Survey was added to estimate all operations qualifying as a farm during the year. Two new 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. These changes are a continuing effort to have 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 1993-98 estimates. This change ensured comparability between the Census of Agriculture data and the annually published NASS estimates and also provided users a consistent data series. 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.

**Estimation Procedures:** National, Regional, and State data were reviewed for reasonableness and consistency. Each State Statistical Office submits its analysis to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB) which prepares the estimates for publication. Farm numbers and land in farm estimates are based on survey results and the historical relationship of official estimates to the survey results.

**Revision Policy:** Farm numbers information is 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 that directly affect the level of the estimate. A historical publication with revisions for 1993-97 was published January 19, 1999.

**Reliability:** Two types of errors, sampling and nonsampling, are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both types affect the "precision" 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. The relative sampling error for the U.S. number of farms was just above 1 percent and just above 1 percent for land in farms. The sampling error for total number of farms and total land in farms is less than the sampling error for each component of the total, such as number of farms by economic sales class. Relative sampling errors by economic sales class generally ranged from 2.2 to 3.5 percent for number of farms and 2.6 to 7.9 percent for land in farms at the U.S. level.

Nonsampling errors can occur in complete censuses as well as sample surveys. They are caused by the inability to obtain correct information from each person sampled, 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 nonsampling errors.

## Terms and Definition

A **farm** is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with their entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, set aside, or other government programs are considered operating farms.

**Land in farms** is all land operated by farms during the year. It includes crop and livestock acreage, wasteland, woodland, pasture, land in summer fallow, idle cropland, and land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and other set aside or commodity acreage programs. It excludes public, industrial, and grazing association land and nonagricultural land. It excludes all land operated by establishments not qualifying as farms.

**Economic sales classes** are based on the gross value of sales, which includes sales of agricultural products such as crops, livestock, horses, honey, furs, fish, nursery and greenhouse products, rabbits, etc. Government program payments from the previous year are also included.

The next "Farms and Land in Farms" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on February 18, 2000.

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