



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service



# Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations 2009 Summary

## February 2010

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# USDA





## Contents

	<b>Page</b>
National Summaries	
Number of Farms and Land in Farms .....	2
Livestock Operations .....	3
Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size .....	4
Livestock Operations by Species, U.S.	
Cattle and Calves .....	14
Beef Cows .....	14
Milk Cows .....	15
Milk Production .....	15
Hogs and Pigs .....	16
Sheep and Goats .....	17
Reliability Statement .....	18
Terms and Definitions .....	19
Farm Definition History.....	20
Special Note Regarding the 2007 Estimates .....	21
Contacts .....	22

### *Update Alert*

On page 13, the 2008 estimate for Northeast region's other states total for the land in farms in the "\$500,000 & over" sales class has been corrected to be 965,000 acres. The 2008 estimate for Northeast region total for the land in farms in the "\$500,000 & over" sales class has been corrected to 4,355,000 acres. The 2008 estimate for the U.S. total for the land in farms in the "\$500,000 & over" sales class has been corrected to 293,055,000 acres. The total land in farms for the Northeast region and the U.S. was published correctly.

### **Special Note**

NASS is in the process of modifying report layouts in order to improve readability. This report issue is published using both layouts but all future issues will only be produced with the new layout, which is available on the NASS website: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). This is the last issue using this layout.

### **2009 Number of Farms and Land in Farms Highlights**

**The number of farms in the United States** in 2009 is estimated at 2.2 million, virtually unchanged from 2008. Total land in farms, at 919.8 million acres, decreased 110 thousand acres from 2008. The average farm size is 418 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are broken down into five economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these "sales classes" by summing their sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, and \$500,000.

**Farm numbers declined slightly** in the \$10,000-\$99,999 and \$500,000 and over sales classes. Lower commodity prices and smaller value of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Farm numbers increased 0.5 percent, to 1.23 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$500,000 and over sales class decreased by 1.0 percent to 124,720 farms.

**Land in farms decreased** in the smallest and largest sales classes. In the \$1,000-\$9,999 sales class, land in farms dropped 1.1 percent, to 105.5 million acres. Land operated by farms in the \$500,000 & over in sales class decreased 1.0 percent, to 290.0 million acres. Land operated by farms with \$250,000-\$499,999 in sales increased by 4.1 percent.

The **average farm size** was unchanged in 2009. However, average farm sizes declined in some of the sales classes partially due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

This report also contains estimates of farm numbers and land in farms for **Puerto Rico**. The number of farms with sales of \$1,000 or more in Puerto Rico was 10,400 in 2009, down 800 farms from 2008. Land in farms, at 450,000 acres, is down 20,000 acres from the previous year. The average farm size in Puerto Rico in 2009 was estimated at 43 acres.

## Livestock Operations 2009 Summary

**The number of operations with cattle** totaled 950,000 for 2009, down 1 percent from 2008. Beef cow operations in 2009, at 753,000, were also down 1 percent from last year. The number of milk cow operations for 2009 totaled 65,000, down 3 percent from 2008.

The three operation classes: cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and 1-49 size group for beef cows.

**The number of operations with hogs** totaled 71,450 for 2009, down 2 percent from 2008. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 86 percent of the inventory.

**The number of operations with sheep** totaled 82,000 for 2009, down 1 percent from 2008. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 93.7 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 5.2 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.1 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 36.2 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 20.8 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 43.0 percent of the inventory.

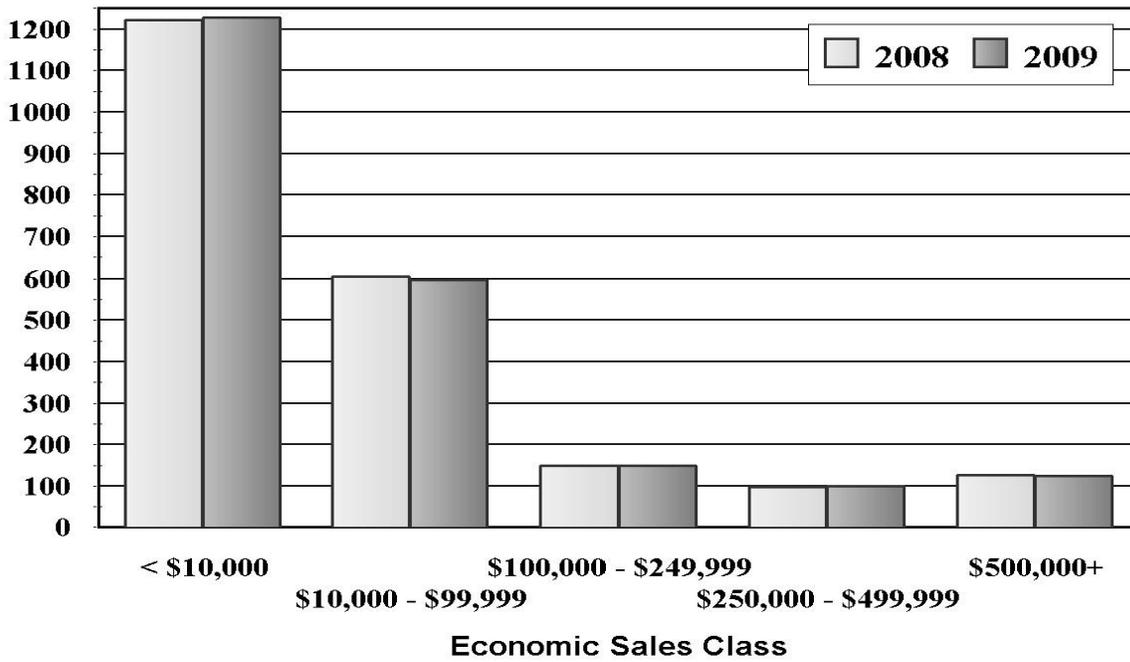
**The number of operations with goats** totaled 152,000 for 2009, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Angora goat operations totaled 5,400, down 17 percent from 2008. Milk goat operations totaled 30,000, up 3 percent from 2008. Meat goat operations totaled 130,000, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat because places which own more than one goat type count as only one operation.

### *Special Note*

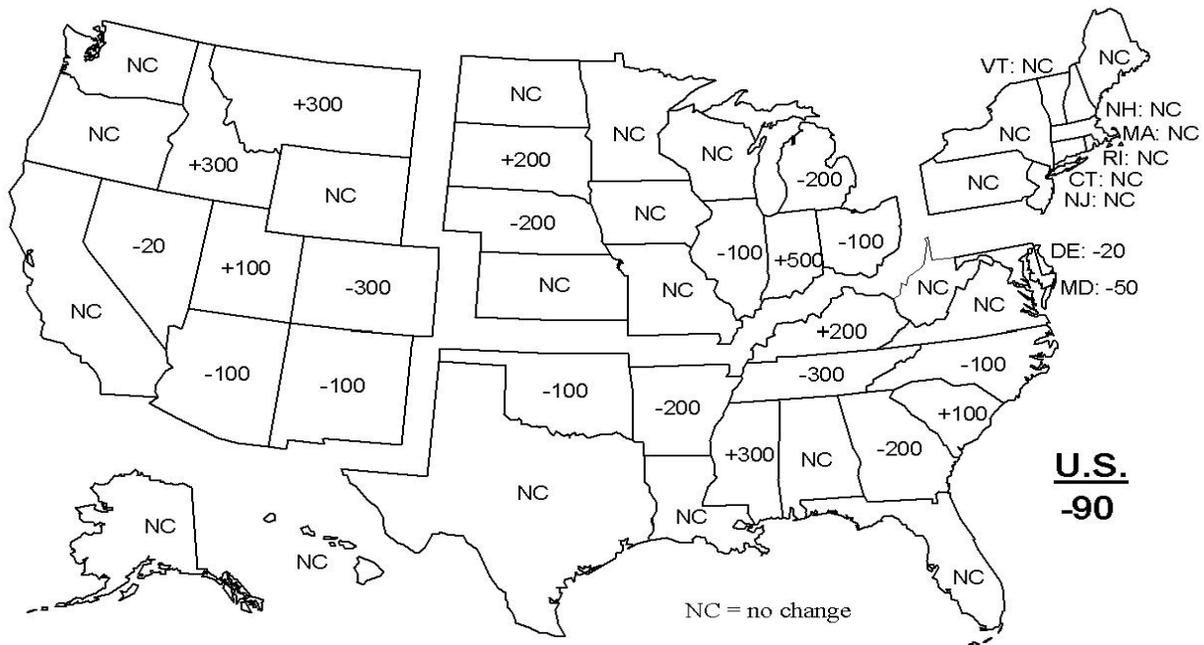
State level numbers are published in conjunction with the Census of Agriculture every five years. The number of operations at the U.S. level are published on an annual basis. The reference date for operation estimates is December 31 beginning with the 2007 estimates. This change from the previous definition of an operation as any place having one or more head of a specie on hand at any time during the year results in a break in the data series.

# U. S. Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class, 2008 - 2009

Thousands of farms

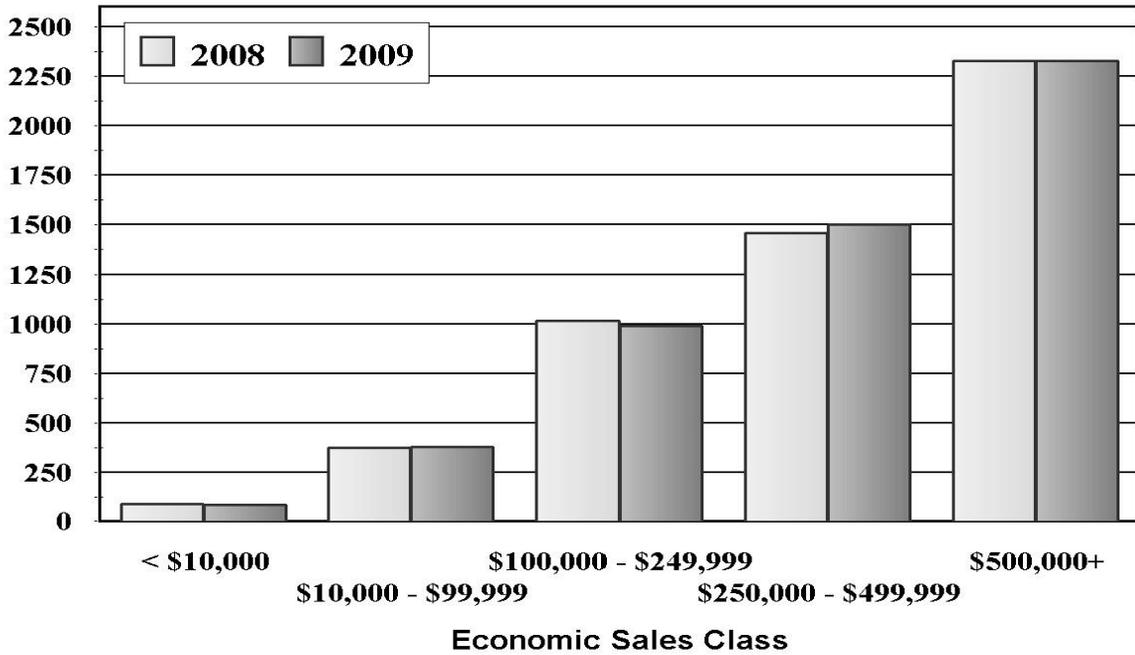


## Change in Farm Numbers Since 2008, By State

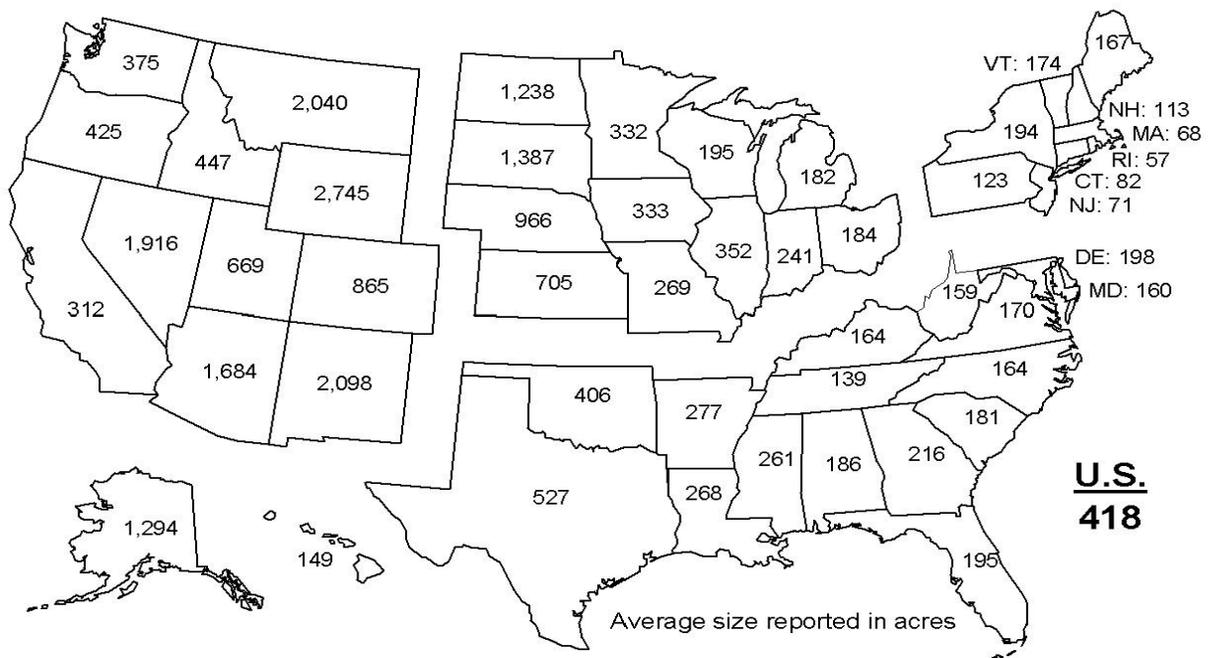


## U. S. Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class, 2008 - 2009

Acres

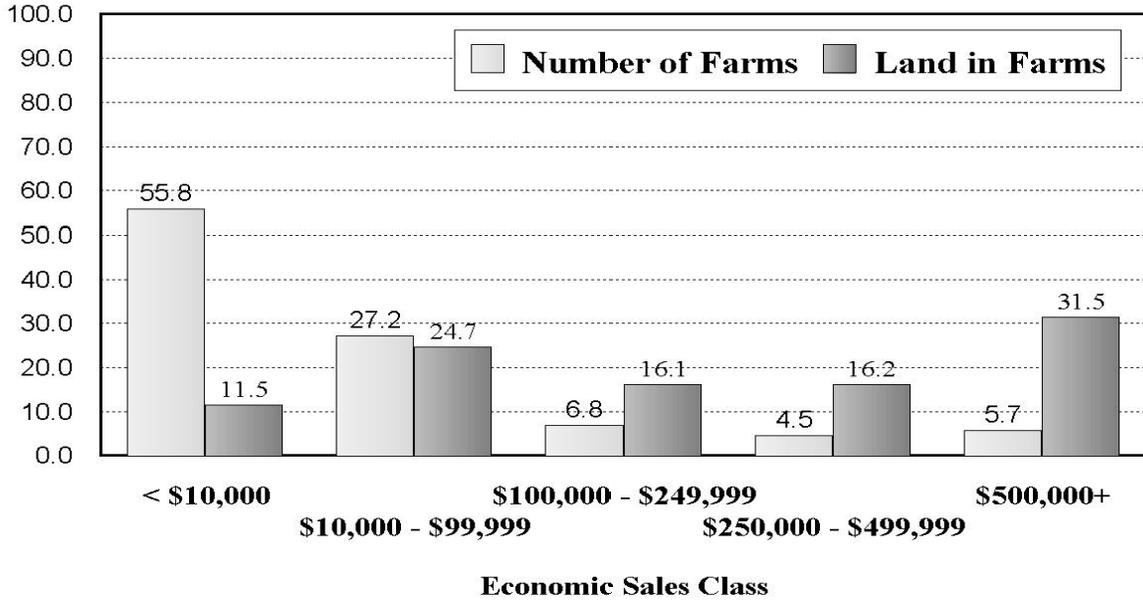


## Average Farm Size by State, 2009

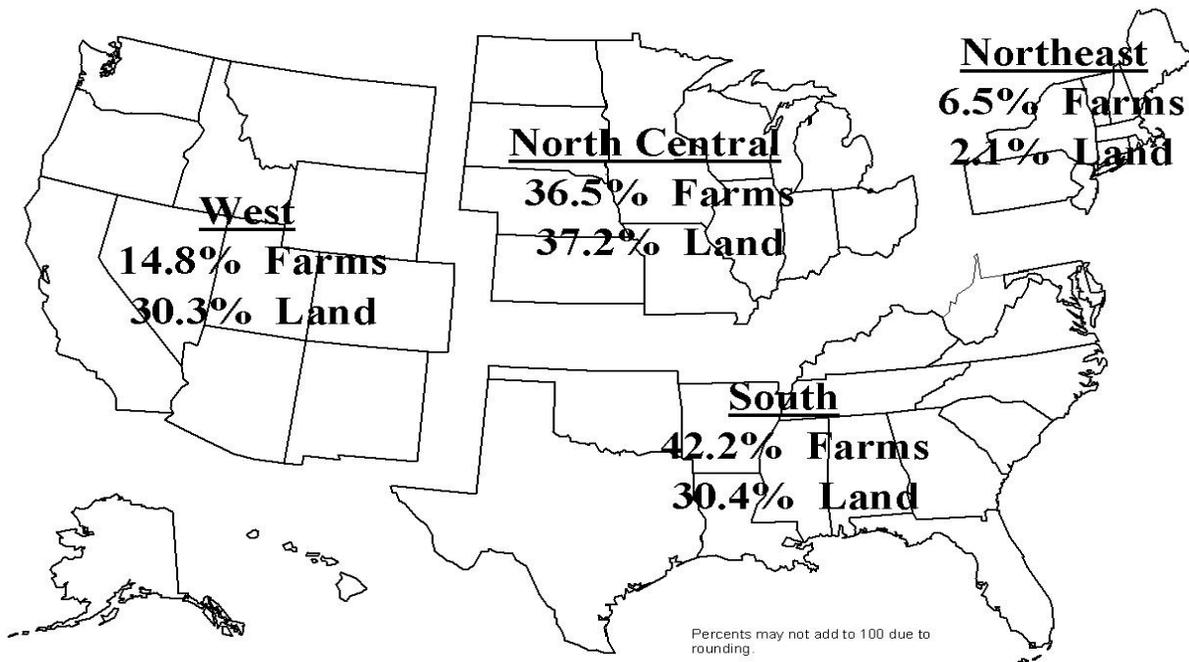


## U.S. Number of Farms and Land in Farms Percent of Total by Economic Sales Class, 2009

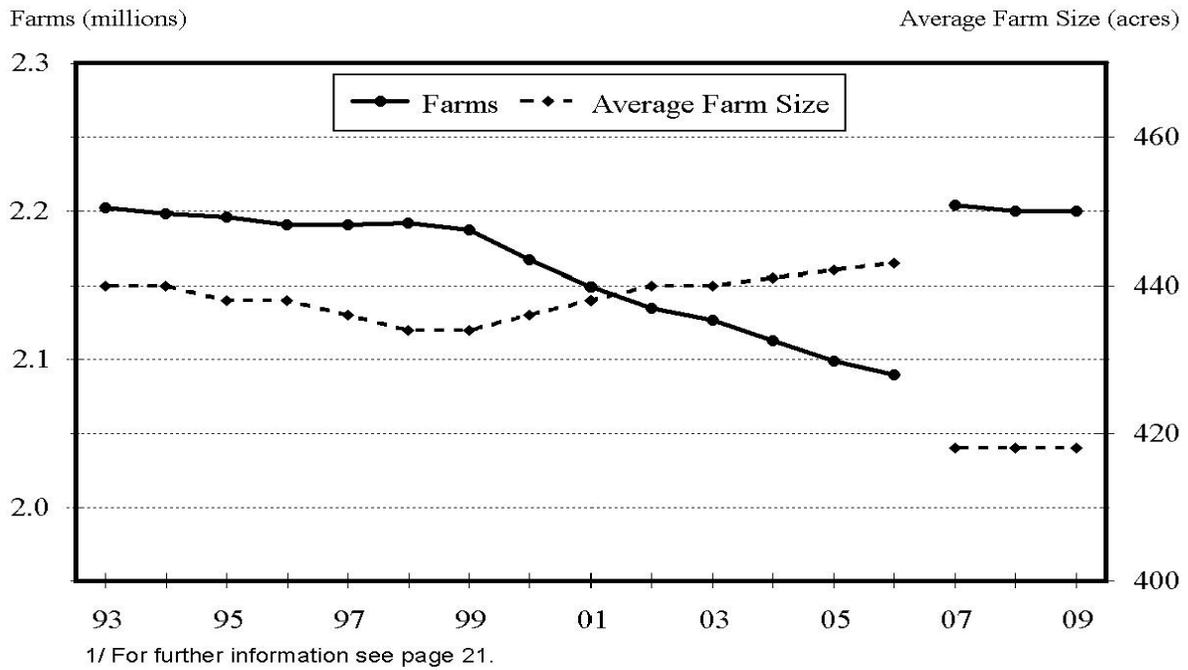
Percent of Total



## Number of Farms and Land in Farms Percent of Total by Region, 2009



## Number of Farms and Average Farm Size United States, 1993 - 2009 <sup>1</sup>



**Point Farms: United States, 2003 - 2009**

Year	Percent of Total <sup>1</sup>	
	Farms	Land
2003	18.0	3.0
2004	17.0	2.5
2005	18.0	2.5
2006	19.0	2.7
2007	22.0	3.0
2008 <sup>2</sup>	17.0	2.8
2009	18.0	2.9

<sup>1</sup> Percent of farms and land in farms for places having less than \$1,000 of reported sales, but with sufficient crops and/or livestock to normally have sales of at least \$1,000.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

**Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size:  
United States, 1999-2009**

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms		Average Farm Size
	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>
1999	2,187,280	948,460		434
2000	2,166,780	945,080		436
2001	2,148,630	942,070		438
2002	2,135,360	940,300		440
2003	2,126,860	936,750		440
2004	2,112,970	932,260		441
2005	2,098,690	927,940		442
2006	2,088,790	925,790		443
2007	2,204,950	921,460		418
2008 <sup>1</sup>	2,200,100	919,910		418
2009	2,200,010	919,800		418

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Percent of Farms and Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size: By Economic Sales  
Class, United States, 2008-2009**

Economic Sales Class	Percent of Total				Average Farm Size (Acres)	
	Farms		Land in Farms		2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009
	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009		
\$1,000 - \$2,499	27.8	28.0	4.0	3.7	60	55
\$2,500 - \$4,999	14.4	14.4	3.3	3.2	96	93
\$5,000 - \$9,999	13.3	13.4	4.3	4.6	135	143
\$10,000 - \$24,999	12.1	11.8	6.8	6.5	235	230
\$25,000 - \$49,999	8.0	8.0	7.4	7.8	387	408
\$50,000 - \$99,999	7.4	7.4	10.3	10.4	582	588
\$100,000 - \$249,999	6.8	6.8	16.4	16.1	1,010	991
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.5	4.5	15.6	16.2	1,452	1,506
\$500,000 - \$999,999	3.4	3.4	15.4	15.4	1,897	1,895
\$1,000,000 +	2.3	2.3	16.5	16.1	3,004	2,936
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	418	418

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size  
By State, United States, and Puerto Rico 2008-2009**

State	Number of Farms		Land in Farms		Average Farm Size	
	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
AL	48,500	48,500	8,950	9,000	185	186
AK	680	680	890	880	1,309	1,294
AZ	15,600	15,500	26,100	26,100	1,673	1,684
AR	49,300	49,100	13,700	13,600	278	277
CA	81,500	81,500	25,400	25,400	312	312
CO	36,500	36,200	31,300	31,300	858	865
CT	4,900	4,900	400	400	82	82
DE	2,500	2,480	500	490	200	198
FL	47,500	47,500	9,250	9,250	195	195
GA	47,800	47,600	10,400	10,300	218	216
HI	7,500	7,500	1,110	1,120	148	149
ID	25,200	25,500	11,400	11,400	452	447
IL	75,900	75,800	26,700	26,700	352	352
IN	61,000	61,500	14,800	14,800	243	241
IA	92,600	92,600	30,800	30,800	333	333
KS	65,500	65,500	46,200	46,200	705	705
KY	85,300	85,500	14,000	14,000	164	164
LA	30,000	30,000	8,050	8,050	268	268
ME	8,100	8,100	1,350	1,350	167	167
MD	12,850	12,800	2,050	2,050	160	160
MA	7,700	7,700	520	520	68	68
MI	55,000	54,800	10,000	10,000	182	182
MN	81,000	81,000	26,900	26,900	332	332
MS	42,000	42,300	11,000	11,050	262	261
MO	108,000	108,000	29,100	29,100	269	269
MT	29,500	29,800	60,800	60,800	2,061	2,040
NE	47,400	47,200	45,600	45,600	962	966
NV	3,100	3,080	5,900	5,900	1,903	1,916
NH	4,150	4,150	470	470	113	113
NJ	10,300	10,300	730	730	71	71
NM	20,600	20,500	43,000	43,000	2,087	2,098
NY	36,600	36,600	7,100	7,100	194	194
NC	52,500	52,400	8,600	8,600	164	164
ND	32,000	32,000	39,600	39,600	1,238	1,238
OH	75,000	74,900	13,900	13,800	185	184
OK	86,600	86,500	35,100	35,100	405	406
OR	38,600	38,600	16,400	16,400	425	425
PA	63,200	63,200	7,750	7,750	123	123
RI	1,220	1,220	70	70	57	57
SC	26,900	27,000	4,900	4,900	182	181
SD	31,300	31,500	43,700	43,700	1,396	1,387
TN	79,000	78,700	10,900	10,900	138	139
TX	247,500	247,500	130,400	130,400	527	527
UT	16,500	16,600	11,100	11,100	673	669
VT	7,000	7,000	1,220	1,220	174	174
VA	47,000	47,000	8,000	8,000	170	170
WA	39,500	39,500	14,800	14,800	375	375
WV	23,200	23,200	3,700	3,700	159	159
WI	78,000	78,000	15,200	15,200	195	195
WY	11,000	11,000	30,100	30,200	2,736	2,745
US	2,200,100	2,200,010	919,910	919,800	418	418
PR	11,200	10,400	470	450	42	43

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, United States, and Puerto Rico 2008-2009**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class					
	\$1,000-\$9,999		\$10,000-\$99,999		\$100,000-\$249,999	
	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
<b>Northeast</b>						
CT <sup>2</sup>	3,050	3,050				
ME <sup>2</sup>	5,300	5,300				
MA <sup>2</sup>	4,800	4,800				
NH <sup>2</sup>	2,900	2,900				
NJ <sup>2</sup>	6,700	6,700				
NY	18,700	18,900	10,800	10,900	3,100	3,200
PA	37,000	37,000	15,500	15,500	5,600	5,600
RI <sup>2</sup>	740	750				
VT <sup>2</sup>	4,000	4,000				
Oth Sts <sup>3</sup>			11,060	10,950	2,220	2,270
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,190</b>	<b>83,400</b>	<b>37,360</b>	<b>37,350</b>	<b>10,920</b>	<b>11,070</b>
<b>North Central</b>						
IL	33,500	32,400	17,400	17,600	8,100	8,500
IN	31,700	32,800	16,000	15,800	5,150	5,200
IA	30,200	30,300	28,500	28,400	14,100	14,200
KS	28,300	28,500	22,500	22,200	6,600	6,700
MI	32,300	32,100	14,500	14,400	3,600	3,500
MN	36,500	36,400	21,900	21,900	9,400	9,400
MO	57,700	58,100	38,000	37,800	5,700	5,200
NE	12,300	11,700	14,200	13,400	7,600	8,600
ND	10,600	10,700	9,400	9,300	4,300	4,400
OH	40,300	40,200	22,700	22,700	5,500	5,300
SD	9,400	9,200	9,600	9,800	5,200	5,000
WI	39,000	38,800	20,500	20,500	9,300	9,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>361,800</b>	<b>361,200</b>	<b>235,200</b>	<b>233,800</b>	<b>84,550</b>	<b>85,400</b>
<b>South</b>						
AL	31,000	31,200	12,500	12,400	1,300	1,300
AR	27,900	27,600	13,200	13,000	1,600	1,700
DE <sup>2</sup>	1,000	1,000				
FL	29,500	29,500	12,700	12,700	2,100	2,100
GA	30,200	30,100	10,000	10,000	2,500	2,500
KY	54,000	54,000	25,200	25,400	2,900	3,000
LA	18,700	18,700	7,900	7,900	1,100	1,100
MD <sup>2</sup>	7,100	7,100				
MS	27,400	27,500	9,900	10,100	1,050	950
NC	32,700	32,600	11,300	11,300	2,000	2,050
OK	51,000	51,000	28,000	28,000	3,800	3,700
SC	19,500	19,600	5,400	5,400	600	600
TN	55,900	56,100	19,100	18,400	1,650	1,600
TX	163,800	171,000	65,100	59,000	7,500	7,700
VA	30,000	29,800	13,300	13,600	1,450	1,300
WV <sup>2</sup>	18,400	18,400				
Oth Sts <sup>4</sup>			8,030	7,930	1,210	1,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>598,100</b>	<b>605,200</b>	<b>241,630</b>	<b>235,130</b>	<b>30,760</b>	<b>30,820</b>
<b>West</b>						
AK <sup>2</sup>	360	350				
AZ <sup>2</sup>	12,000	12,000				
CA	35,500	35,600	26,600	26,800	6,500	6,400
CO	20,600	19,500	10,400	11,300	2,600	2,700
HI <sup>2</sup>	4,600	4,600				
ID	13,300	13,400	7,000	7,200	1,900	1,700
MT	13,100	13,500	9,400	9,300	3,700	3,500
NV <sup>2</sup>	1,650	1,650				
NM	13,800	13,700	5,000	5,000	800	840
OR	24,400	24,400	8,900	9,300	2,300	2,100
UT	10,100	10,200	4,700	4,700	840	840
WA	24,400	24,300	8,900	9,000	2,000	2,000
WY <sup>2</sup>	5,200	5,200				
Oth Sts <sup>5</sup>			9,410	9,100	2,130	2,120
<b>Total</b>	<b>179,010</b>	<b>178,400</b>	<b>90,310</b>	<b>91,700</b>	<b>22,770</b>	<b>22,200</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>1,222,100</b>	<b>1,228,200</b>	<b>604,500</b>	<b>597,980</b>	<b>149,000</b>	<b>149,490</b>
<b>PR</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>400</b>

See footnote(s) at end of table.

--continued

**Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, United States, and Puerto Rico 2008-2009 (continued)**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class					
	\$250,000-\$499,999		\$500,000 & Over		Total	
	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
<b>Northeast</b>						
CT <sup>2</sup>					4,900	4,900
ME <sup>2</sup>					8,100	8,100
MA <sup>2</sup>					7,700	7,700
NH <sup>2</sup>					4,150	4,150
NJ <sup>2</sup>					10,300	10,300
NY	1,700	1,600	2,300	2,000	36,600	36,600
PA	2,800	2,800	2,300	2,300	63,200	63,200
RI <sup>2</sup>					1,220	1,220
VT <sup>2</sup>					7,000	7,000
Oth Sts <sup>3</sup>	1,220	1,320	1,380	1,330		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,720</b>	<b>5,720</b>	<b>5,980</b>	<b>5,630</b>	<b>143,170</b>	<b>143,170</b>
<b>North Central</b>						
IL	7,900	8,100	9,000	9,200	75,900	75,800
IN	3,600	3,200	4,550	4,500	61,000	61,500
IA	9,800	9,800	10,000	9,900	92,600	92,600
KS	3,900	3,900	4,200	4,200	65,500	65,500
MI	2,100	2,200	2,500	2,600	55,000	54,800
MN	6,400	6,500	6,800	6,800	81,000	81,000
MO	2,900	3,100	3,700	3,800	108,000	108,000
NE	6,000	6,000	7,300	7,500	47,400	47,200
ND	3,700	3,700	4,000	3,900	32,000	32,000
OH	3,300	3,400	3,200	3,300	75,000	74,900
SD	3,900	4,200	3,200	3,300	31,300	31,500
WI	5,200	5,500	4,000	3,800	78,000	78,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,700</b>	<b>59,600</b>	<b>62,450</b>	<b>62,800</b>	<b>802,700</b>	<b>802,800</b>
<b>South</b>						
AL	1,400	1,400	2,300	2,200	48,500	48,500
AR	1,700	1,900	4,900	4,900	49,300	49,100
DE <sup>2</sup>					2,500	2,480
FL	1,100	1,100	2,100	2,100	47,500	47,500
GA	1,600	1,400	3,500	3,600	47,800	47,600
KY	1,400	1,450	1,800	1,650	85,300	85,500
LA	800	800	1,500	1,500	30,000	30,000
MD <sup>2</sup>					12,850	12,800
MS	900	1,000	2,750	2,750	42,000	42,300
NC	2,500	2,450	4,000	4,000	52,500	52,400
OK	1,800	1,800	2,000	2,000	86,600	86,500
SC	300	300	1,100	1,100	26,900	27,000
TN	950	1,100	1,400	1,500	79,000	78,700
TX	4,500	4,500	6,600	5,300	247,500	247,500
VA	950	900	1,300	1,400	47,000	47,000
WV <sup>2</sup>					23,200	23,200
Oth Sts <sup>4</sup>	850	860	1,960	1,970		
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,750</b>	<b>20,960</b>	<b>37,210</b>	<b>35,970</b>	<b>928,450</b>	<b>928,080</b>
<b>West</b>						
AK <sup>2</sup>					680	680
AZ <sup>2</sup>					15,600	15,500
CA	4,000	4,000	8,900	8,700	81,500	81,500
CO	1,200	1,100	1,700	1,600	36,500	36,200
HI <sup>2</sup>					7,500	7,500
ID	1,200	1,200	1,800	2,000	25,200	25,500
MT	2,100	2,300	1,200	1,200	29,500	29,800
NV <sup>2</sup>					3,100	3,080
NM	400	400	600	560	20,600	20,500
OR	1,200	1,000	1,800	1,800	38,600	38,600
UT	410	400	450	460	16,500	16,600
WA	1,700	1,700	2,500	2,500	39,500	39,500
WY <sup>2</sup>					11,000	11,000
Oth Sts <sup>5</sup>	1,120	1,240	1,410	1,500		
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,330</b>	<b>13,340</b>	<b>20,360</b>	<b>20,320</b>	<b>325,780</b>	<b>325,960</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>98,500</b>	<b>99,620</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>124,720</b>	<b>2,200,100</b>	<b>2,200,010</b>
<b>PR</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>10,400</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

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

<sup>3</sup> CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

<sup>4</sup> DE, MD, and WV.

<sup>5</sup> AK, AZ, HI, NV, and WY.

**Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, United States, and Puerto Rico 2008-2009**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class					
	\$1,000-\$9,999		\$10,000-\$99,999		\$100,000-\$249,999	
	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Northeast						
CT <sup>2</sup>	130	130				
ME <sup>2</sup>	480	480				
MA <sup>2</sup>	210	210				
NH <sup>2</sup>	230	230				
NJ <sup>2</sup>	180	180				
NY	1,400	1,500	1,700	1,800	960	960
PA	2,400	2,400	2,050	2,050	1,150	1,150
RI <sup>2</sup>	30	30				
VT <sup>2</sup>	340	340				
Oth Sts <sup>3</sup>			1,260	1,250	490	500
Total	5,400	5,500	5,010	5,100	2,600	2,610
North Central						
IL	1,500	1,300	2,300	2,200	3,300	3,400
IN	1,300	1,300	2,100	2,200	1,900	1,900
IA	1,700	1,600	4,700	4,800	5,400	5,400
KS	3,200	3,300	9,900	9,600	8,300	8,300
MI	1,800	1,700	2,000	1,900	1,400	1,300
MN	3,200	3,100	4,800	4,800	4,200	4,200
MO	5,000	4,900	10,400	10,400	3,900	3,400
NE	1,400	1,300	6,200	6,200	8,300	8,200
ND	2,000	1,800	6,200	6,200	6,900	6,900
OH	2,000	1,950	3,200	3,200	2,200	2,200
SD	1,600	1,500	7,300	7,400	9,400	9,300
WI	2,700	2,400	3,300	3,200	2,700	2,700
Total	27,400	26,150	62,400	62,100	57,900	57,200
South						
AL	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	800	800
AR	2,300	2,100	3,150	3,200	950	1,100
DE <sup>2</sup>	30	30				
FL	1,400	1,400	1,950	1,950	900	900
GA	3,200	3,100	2,350	2,500	1,000	1,000
KY	4,400	4,400	5,010	4,900	1,320	1,400
LA	1,400	1,400	1,950	1,950	900	900
MD <sup>2</sup>	400	400				
MS	3,500	3,400	2,600	2,650	1,000	900
NC	2,000	2,000	1,650	1,600	800	800
OK	6,000	6,000	12,600	12,600	6,100	6,000
SC	1,900	1,800	1,200	1,300	400	400
TN	3,750	3,800	3,700	3,600	900	800
TX	18,800	19,500	43,500	44,000	20,800	18,400
VA	2,300	2,200	2,900	3,000	900	800
WV <sup>2</sup>	1,920	1,900				
Oth Sts <sup>4</sup>			1,840	1,800	530	540
Total	56,300	56,530	87,500	88,150	37,300	34,740
West						
AK <sup>2</sup>	270	270				
AZ <sup>2</sup>	750	750				
CA	1,800	1,800	5,000	4,900	3,600	3,700
CO	2,700	2,600	8,400	9,400	5,900	5,800
HI <sup>2</sup>	80	80				
ID	950	1,000	2,400	2,200	1,950	1,900
MT	2,500	2,500	12,000	12,000	15,400	15,400
NV <sup>2</sup>	200	200				
NM	3,000	3,000	11,300	11,300	8,400	8,500
OR	1,700	1,600	3,400	3,600	3,100	3,200
UT	850	900	2,250	2,300	1,500	1,400
WA	1,300	1,300	3,100	3,100	1,800	1,800
WY <sup>2</sup>	1,500	1,300				
Oth Sts <sup>5</sup>			22,550	22,750	11,850	11,750
Total	17,600	17,300	70,400	71,550	53,500	53,450
US	106,700	105,480	225,310	226,900	151,300	148,000
PR	120	120	160	155	70	65

See footnote(s) at end of table.

--continued

**Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,  
Region, United States, and Puerto Rico 2008-2009 (continued)**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class					
	\$250,000-\$499,999		\$500,000 & Over		Total	
	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
<b>Northeast</b>						
CT <sup>2</sup>					400	400
ME <sup>2</sup>					1,350	1,350
MA <sup>2</sup>					520	520
NH <sup>2</sup>					470	470
NJ <sup>2</sup>					730	730
NY	850	810	2,190	2,030	7,100	7,100
PA	950	950	1,200	1,200	7,750	7,750
RI <sup>2</sup>					70	70
VT <sup>2</sup>					1,220	1,220
Oth Sts <sup>3</sup>	445	455	965	955		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>4,355</b>	<b>4,185</b>	<b>19,610</b>	<b>19,610</b>
<b>North Central</b>						
IL	4,800	4,800	14,800	15,000	26,700	26,700
IN	2,500	2,500	7,000	6,900	14,800	14,800
IA	6,900	6,900	12,100	12,100	30,800	30,800
KS	8,400	8,200	16,400	16,800	46,200	46,200
MI	1,400	1,500	3,400	3,600	10,000	10,000
MN	4,800	4,800	9,900	10,000	26,900	26,900
MO	3,200	3,400	6,600	7,000	29,100	29,100
NE	9,100	9,700	20,600	20,200	45,600	45,600
ND	8,200	8,400	16,300	16,300	39,600	39,600
OH	2,400	2,350	4,100	4,100	13,900	13,800
SD	10,400	10,300	15,000	15,200	43,700	43,700
WI	2,600	2,800	3,900	4,100	15,200	15,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,700</b>	<b>65,650</b>	<b>130,100</b>	<b>131,300</b>	<b>342,500</b>	<b>342,400</b>
<b>South</b>						
AL	700	700	1,350	1,300	8,950	9,000
AR	1,400	1,300	5,900	5,900	13,700	13,600
DE <sup>2</sup>					500	490
FL	900	900	4,100	4,100	9,250	9,250
GA	950	900	2,900	2,800	10,400	10,300
KY	1,020	1,100	2,250	2,200	14,000	14,000
LA	900	900	2,900	2,900	8,050	8,050
MD <sup>2</sup>					2,050	2,050
MS	900	1,000	3,000	3,100	11,000	11,050
NC	1,150	1,200	3,000	3,000	8,600	8,600
OK	4,300	4,400	6,100	6,100	35,100	35,100
SC	300	300	1,100	1,100	4,900	4,900
TN	800	900	1,750	1,800	10,900	10,900
TX	15,300	20,500	32,000	28,000	130,400	130,400
VA	650	650	1,250	1,350	8,000	8,000
WV <sup>2</sup>					3,700	3,700
Oth Sts <sup>4</sup>	430	420	1,100	1,150		
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,700</b>	<b>35,170</b>	<b>68,700</b>	<b>64,800</b>	<b>279,500</b>	<b>279,390</b>
<b>West</b>						
AK <sup>2</sup>					890	880
AZ <sup>2</sup>					26,100	26,100
CA	2,900	2,900	12,100	12,100	25,400	25,400
CO	5,600	5,400	8,700	8,100	31,300	31,300
HI <sup>2</sup>					1,110	1,120
ID	1,300	1,200	4,800	5,100	11,400	11,400
MT	14,400	14,400	16,500	16,500	60,800	60,800
NV <sup>2</sup>					5,900	5,900
NM	7,700	7,700	12,600	12,500	43,000	43,000
OR	2,600	2,400	5,600	5,600	16,400	16,400
UT	1,200	1,100	5,300	5,400	11,100	11,100
WA	2,800	2,800	5,800	5,800	14,800	14,800
WY <sup>2</sup>					30,100	30,200
Oth Sts <sup>5</sup>	8,400	8,500	18,500	18,600		
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,900</b>	<b>46,400</b>	<b>89,900</b>	<b>89,700</b>	<b>278,300</b>	<b>278,400</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>143,545</b>	<b>149,435</b>	<b>293,055</b>	<b>289,985</b>	<b>919,910</b>	<b>919,800</b>
<b>PR</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>450</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

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

<sup>3</sup> CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

<sup>4</sup> DE, MD, and WV.

<sup>5</sup> AK, AZ, HI, NV, and WY.

**Cattle and Calves: Number of Operations and Percent of Inventory  
by Size Group, United States, 2008-2009**

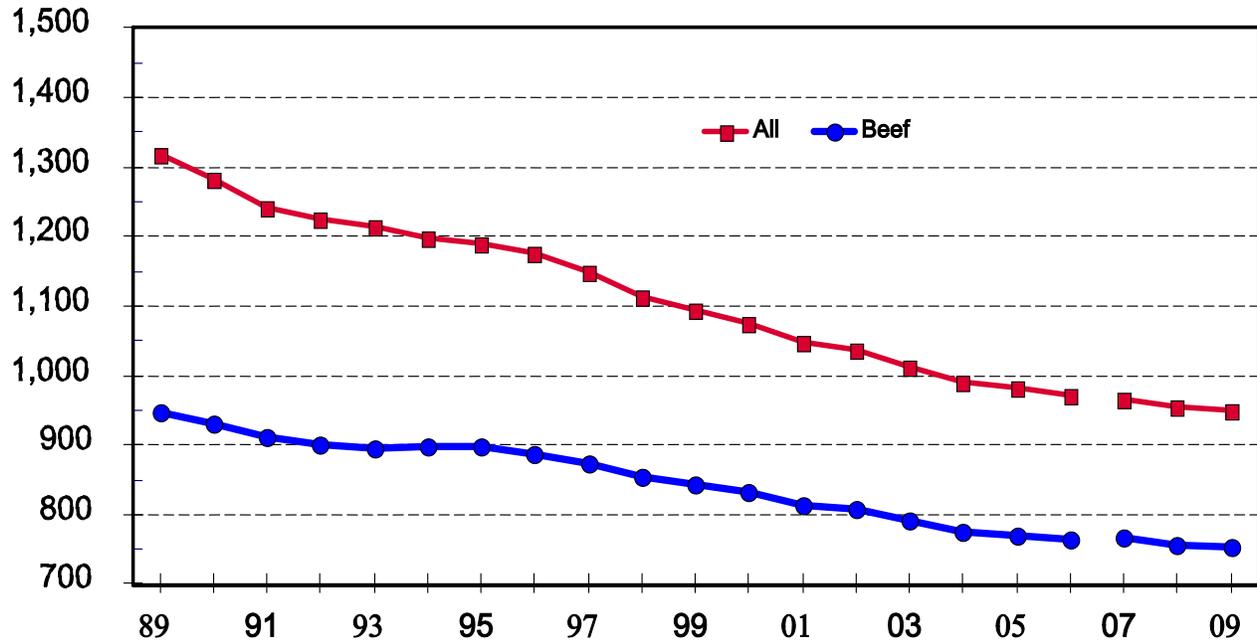
Head	Operations		Percent of Inventory	
	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Cattle and Calves</b>				
1-49	645,000	642,000	11.4	11.4
50-99	133,000	132,000	9.7	9.7
100-499	147,600	146,300	31.2	31.2
500-999	19,100	19,000	13.4	13.5
1,000-1,999	6,600	6,500	9.1	9.0
2,000-4,999	3,030	3,010	8.8	8.8
5,000-9,999	700	720	4.7	4.8
10,000-19,999	260	270	3.5	3.7
20,000+	210	200	8.2	7.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>955,500</b>	<b>950,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Beef Cows<sup>2</sup></b>				
1-49	601,000	598,000	28.5	28.3
50-99	83,000	82,000	17.1	17.1
100-499	67,200	67,200	38.0	38.0
500-999	4,340	4,350	8.7	8.8
1,000-1,999	1,125	1,110	4.5	4.5
2,000-4,999	280	280	2.1	2.1
5,000+	55	60	1.1	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>757,000</b>	<b>753,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> Included in operations with cattle.

## Number of All Cattle and Beef Cow Operations United States, 1989-2009

Operations (000)



**Milk Cows: Number of Operations, Percent of Inventory and Percent of Milk Production by Size Group, United States, 2008-2009**

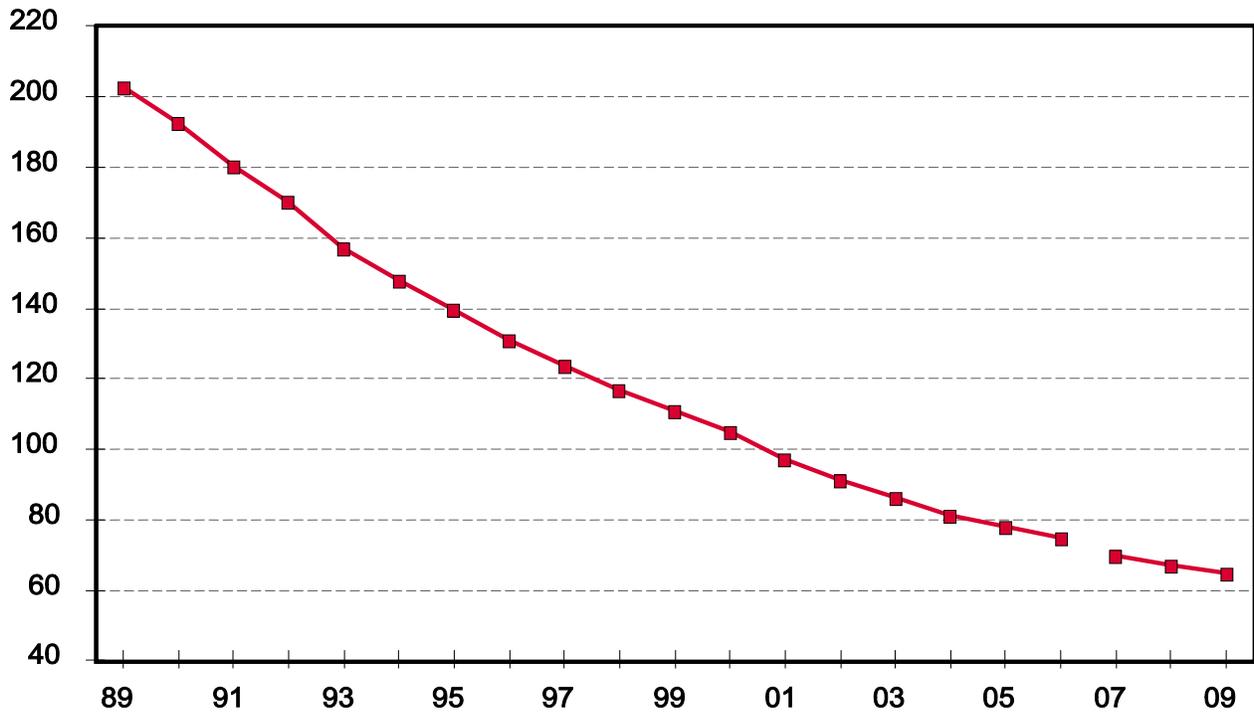
Head	Operations <sup>1</sup>		Percent of Inventory		Percent of Production <sup>2</sup>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1-29	21,300	20,400	1.8	1.8	1.2	1.2
30-49	11,900	11,500	5.1	4.9	3.9	3.8
50-99	17,800	17,300	13.1	13.0	11.5	11.4
100-199	8,700	8,600	12.5	12.4	11.8	11.6
200-499	3,950	3,850	12.6	12.3	13.1	12.5
500-999	1,720	1,700	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.6
1,000-1,999	900	910	13.1	13.3	15.5	15.7
2,000+	730	740	29.3	29.8	30.5	31.2
Total	67,000	65,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Included in operations with cattle.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates reflect the average distributions of various probability surveys conducted during the year.

## Milk Cow Operations United States, 1989-2009

Operations (000)



**Hogs and Pigs: Number of Operations and Percent of Inventory  
by Size Group, United States, 2008-2009**

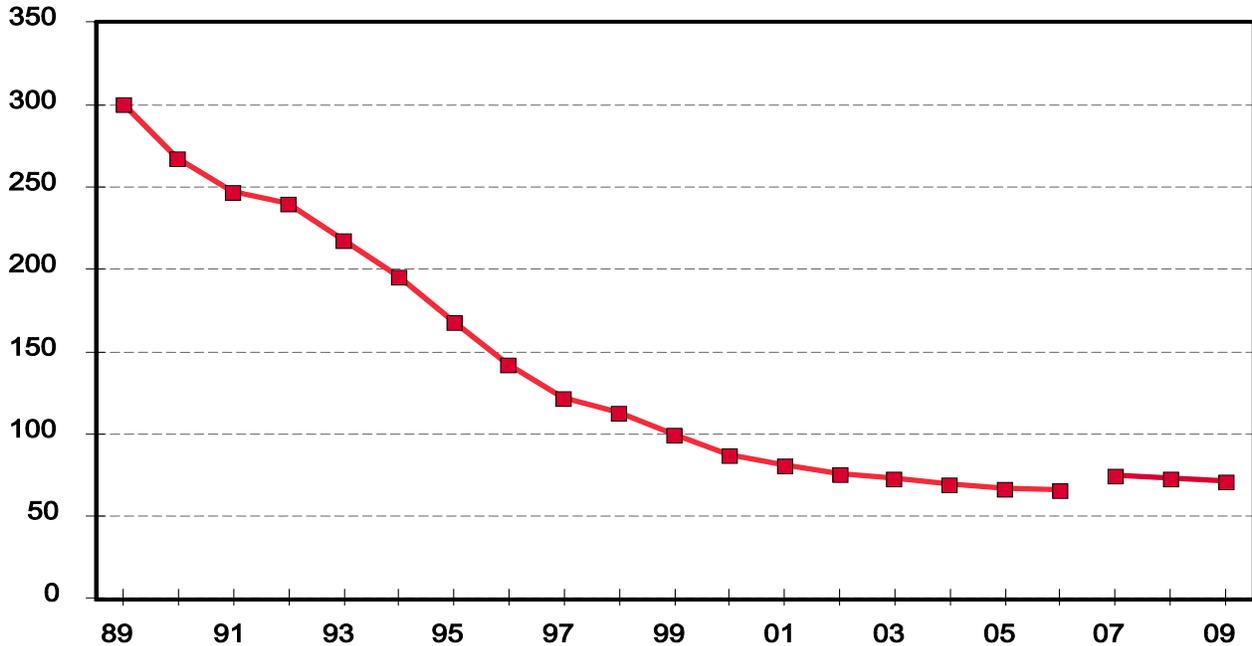
Head	Operations		Percent of Inventory	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1-99	50,680	50,400	0.9	0.9
100-499	6,740	6,100	2.5	2.3
500-999	3,490	3,200	3.5	3.3
1,000-1,999	3,950	3,550	8.0	7.5
2,000-4,999	5,370	5,250	24.0	24.0
5,000+	2,920	2,950	61.1	62.0
Total	73,150	71,450	100.0	100.0

**Hogs and Pigs: Number of Operations and Percent of Inventory by Size Group,  
Based on Ownership, United States, 2008-2009**

Head	Operations		Percent of Inventory	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1-99	50,610	50,370	1.0	0.9
100-499	5,870	5,370	2.4	2.2
500-999	2,380	2,050	2.4	2.2
1,000-1,999	2,160	1,900	4.5	4.0
2,000-4,999	2,350	2,200	10.7	9.7
5,000-9,999	705	745	7.4	8.0
10,000-19,999	365	350	7.4	7.3
20,000-49,999	185	185	8.5	9.0
50,000+	135	130	55.7	56.7
Total	64,760	63,300	100.0	100.0

**Number of Hog Operations  
United States, 1989-2009**

Operations (000)



**Sheep and Goat Operations: Number of Operations with Sheep or Goats,  
United States, 2008-2009**

Commodity	2008 <sup>1</sup>	2009
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Sheep	82,500	82,000
Angora Goats	6,500	5,400
Milk Goats	29,000	30,000
Meat and Other Goats	129,000	130,000
All Goats	150,000	152,000

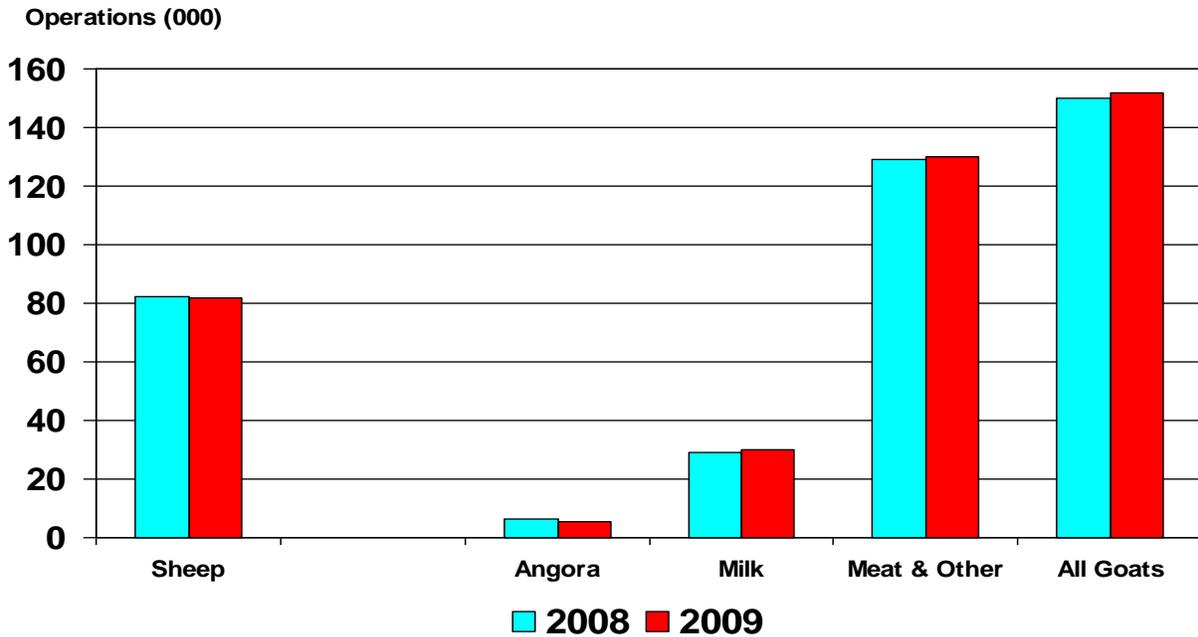
<sup>1</sup> Revised.

**Breeding Sheep: Survey Percent by Size Group, United States, 2008-2009 <sup>1</sup>**

Item	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4,999 Head		5,000+ Head	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Operations	92.5	93.7	6.2	5.2	1.2	1.0	0.1	0.1
Inventory	32.6	36.2	22.7	20.8	30.2	31.3	14.5	11.7

<sup>1</sup> Percents reflect distributions from annual survey.

## Sheep and Goat Operations United States, 2008-2009



## Reliability of Farm Numbers and Land in Farms Data in this Report

**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. A sample of segments is selected in each State 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 summary indications 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 regional and 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 regional and national estimates and ensures that state estimates are in balance with the Regional and 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 affects 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. The relative sampling error for the U.S. number of farms and land in farms is 1.3 and 1.4 percent respectively. 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 1.8 to 3.4 percent for number of farms and 2.1 to 6.8 percent for land in farms at the U.S. 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), or other government 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 the Conservation Reserve, Wetlands Reserve Programs, or other government 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.

A **cattle operation** is any place having one or more head of cattle on hand on December 31.

A **beef cow operation** is any place having one or more head of beef cows on hand on December 31.

A **milk cow operation** is any place having one or more head of milk cows on hand on December 31.

A **hogs and pigs operation** is any place having one or more hog or pig on hand on December 31.

A **sheep and lamb operation** is any place having one or more head of sheep or lambs on hand on December 31.

A **goat and kid operation** is any place having one or more head of goats or kids on hand on December 31.

### 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. 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.

## Special Note Regarding the 2007 Estimates

**Census:** The Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations publication is produced annually. The purpose of this publication is to provide annual estimates of Farms, Land in Farms, and Operations with Livestock. It also provides revisions, as necessary, to previous year estimates. The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years provides a base from which the annual surveys measure the change from that base. At the end of the next five year cycle, the annual estimates are revised based on inter-census trends.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture showed a significant increase in the number of farms, and reversed the downward trend that was shown in the annual estimates of Farm Numbers since the 2002 Census of Agriculture. NASS believes that some of the increase is due to methodological changes that allowed NASS to more accurately count small farms in the 2007 Census. This is discussed in more detail below.

**Methodological Discussion:** Each year NASS conducts the June Area Frame Survey (AFS) to provide an estimate of the number of farms and the land in farms. The exception is Alaska, which does not have an area frame and uses a list survey instead. The area frame is stratified by land use. A sample of approximately 11,000 segments of land (each approximately one square mile in size) is selected, and field enumerators visit each sampled segment to identify agricultural activity within the segment. The AFS is assumed to provide complete coverage of the universe of farm and ranch operations because the area-based frame covers all land in the U.S.

In preparation for the census of agriculture, NASS builds the Census Mail List (CML) consisting of all known farms and potential farms. In addition, NASS uses the area frame sample to measure and account for the incompleteness of the CML in a dual-frame estimation procedure. This dual-frame estimation procedure assumes complete coverage of the universe of farm and ranch operations because the undercoverage of the CML is accounted for through the area frame sample.

Results from the 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated undercoverage of farms in the lowest value of sales categories. This category includes a high concentration of disadvantaged and minority farm operators. In preparation for the 2007 Census, NASS exerted more extensive efforts than in previous censuses to build a comprehensive list. Additionally, NASS worked with several community based organizations and producer groups to enhance awareness, to increase response, and to improve coverage of these types of farms. This resulted in a 2007 CML with 3,194,373 records as compared with 2,841,788 in 2002. Additionally, NASS augmented the area frame sample with segments that were located in areas where small and minority operated farms were likely to be located.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture produced a greater number of farms in the lowest value of sales categories. The extensive list building efforts and the augmentation of the area frame sample allowed NASS to capture more of the small farms with less than \$10,000 in value of agricultural sales. Additionally, 2007 was a year of relatively high commodity prices. As the value of farm commodities increased, more very small operations are able to meet the \$1,000 value of sales threshold to qualify as a farm in the census.

After the 2007 Census of Agriculture NASS conducted a classification error research study for the census in five states. The study used data from the 2007 AFS and the 2007 census to examine whether there were farms incorrectly classified as nonfarms, and whether there were any nonfarms incorrectly classified as farms. Records in the 2007 AFS were matched to the 2007 census using probabilistic record linkage. Records whose farm status differed in the two data collections were interviewed to determine which data source was correct.

Results of the study showed that where there were discrepancies in farm status between the two reports, the census data was more often correct than the AFS data. Some AFS farms had not been correctly classified by the enumeration and processing procedures. These results challenged the NASS assumption made for its annual estimates that all farms are captured using the AFS estimation procedures. This assumption had been made on the basis of the completeness of the frame, the high quality of the personal enumeration mode utilized for the data collection, and the extensive training of field enumerators collecting the data. However, the more extensive census procedures using dual-frame estimation produced a larger farm count than the AFS estimation. This result and the results of the research study provided evidence that the AFS procedure is underestimating the number of farms. Because the AFS estimate is the major indicator for producing annual farm number estimates, it is likely these farms were also underestimated in the non census years.

The 2007- 2009 farm number estimates reflect adjustments in the number of farms based on estimates produced by the 2007 Census of Agriculture. NASS has launched a research initiative to address the methodological issues discussed above.

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