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Service



# Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations 2012 Summary

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## 2012 Number of Farms and Land in Farms Highlights

**The number of farms in the United States** in 2012 is estimated at 2.2 million, down 11,630 farms from 2011. Total land in farms, at 914 million acres, decreased 3 million acres from 2011. The average farm size is 421 acres, up 1 acre from the previous year.

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

**Farm numbers** in the \$500,000 and over sales class increased by 8.6 percent, to 145,190 farms. Higher commodity prices and larger value of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class decreased by 2.5 percent to 1,172,200. Farm numbers increased slightly in the \$10,000 - \$99,999 sales class to slightly over 600,000 farms. The number of farms in the \$100,000 - \$249,999 and \$250,000 - \$499,999 sales classes increased 1.9 and 1.1 percent, respectively.

**Land in farms** increased in the largest sales class while decreasing in all other sales classes. Land operated by farms in the \$500,000 & over sales class increased 3.7 percent, to 317.1 million acres. Land operated by farms in the \$1,000-\$9,999 sales class decreased by 3.9 percent, to slightly less than 97 million acres. Land in farms in the \$10,000 - \$99,999, \$100,000 - \$249,999 and \$250,000 - \$499,999 sales classes decreased by 1.4, 2.6 and 2.4 percent respectively.

The **average farm size** increased 1 acre in 2012 to 421 acres per farm. However, average farm sizes declined in all sales classes partially due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

## 2012 Livestock Operations Highlights

**The number of operations with cattle** totaled 915,000 for 2012, down 1 percent from 2011. Beef cow operations in 2012, at 729,000, were also down 1 percent from last year. The number of milk cow operations for 2012 totaled 58,000, down 3 percent from 2011.

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.

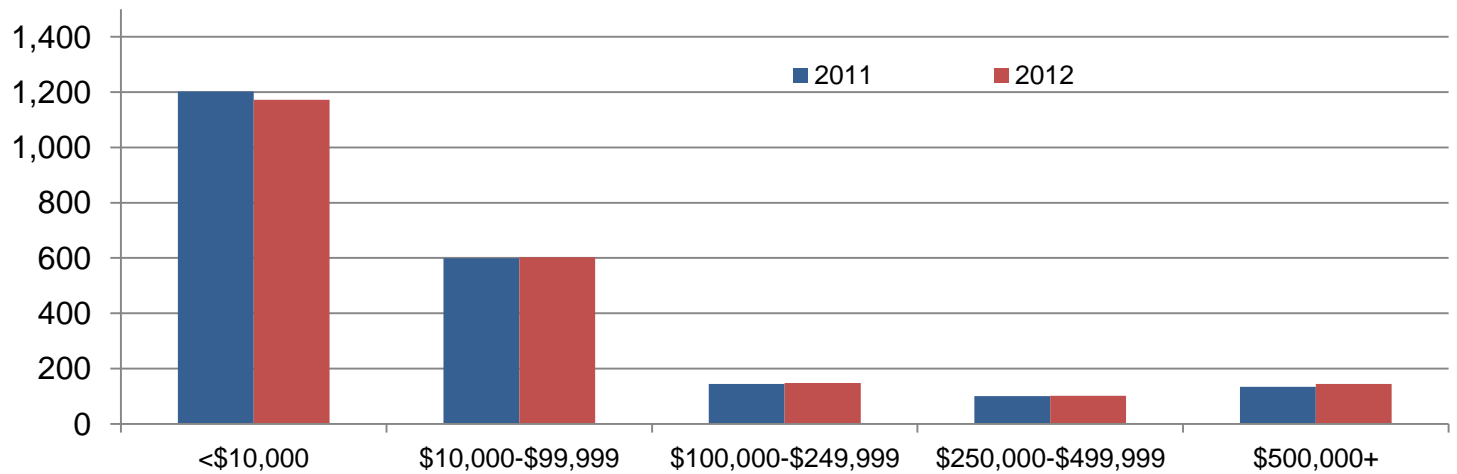
**The number of operations with hogs** totaled 68,300 for 2012, down 1 percent from 2011. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 87 percent of the inventory.

**The number of operations with sheep** totaled 79,500 for 2012, down 1 percent from 2011. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 93.9 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 5.0 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 35.5 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 21.1 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 43.4 percent of the inventory.

**The number of operations with goats** totaled 149,000 for 2012, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Angora goat operations totaled 5,300, down 4 percent from 2011. Milk goat operations totaled 30,500, down 2 percent from 2011. Meat goat operations totaled 123,000, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat goat operations since places which own more than one goat type count as only one operation.

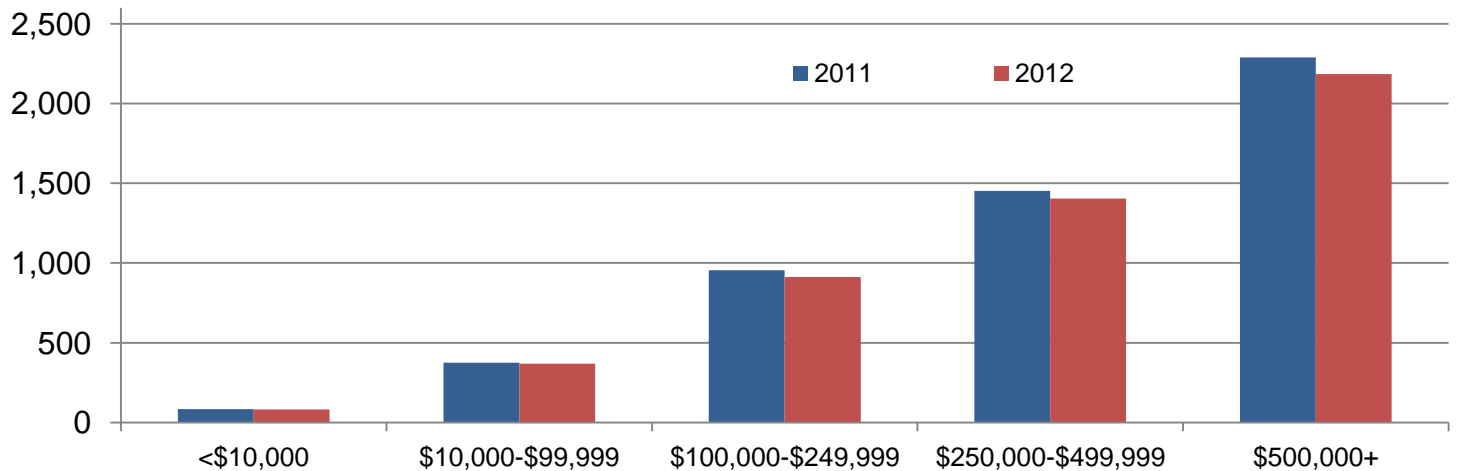
## Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2011 and 2012

Thousands of farms



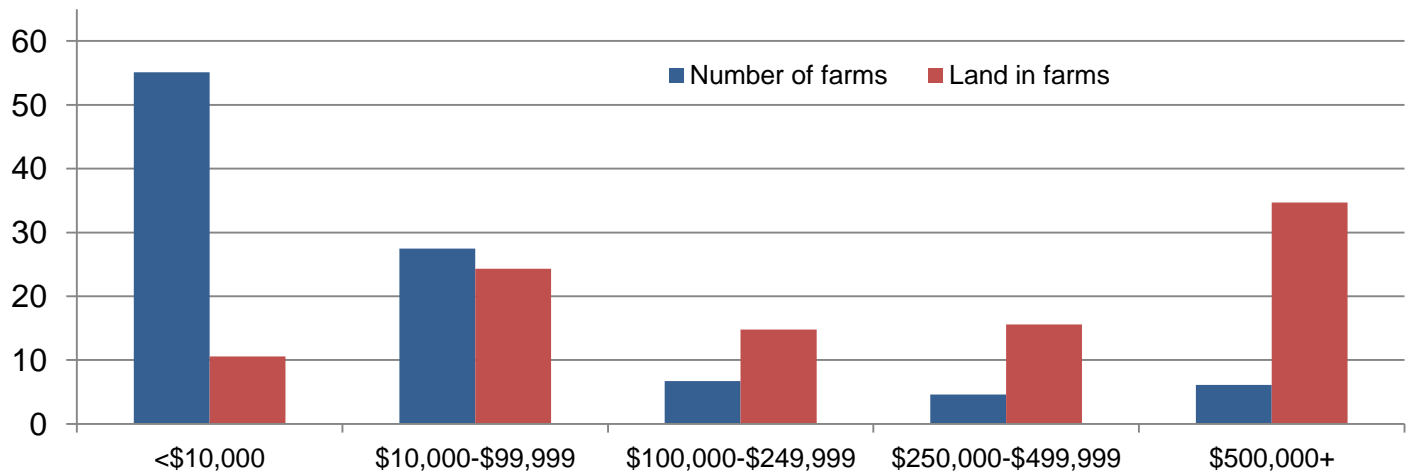
## Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2011 and 2012

Acres



# Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2012

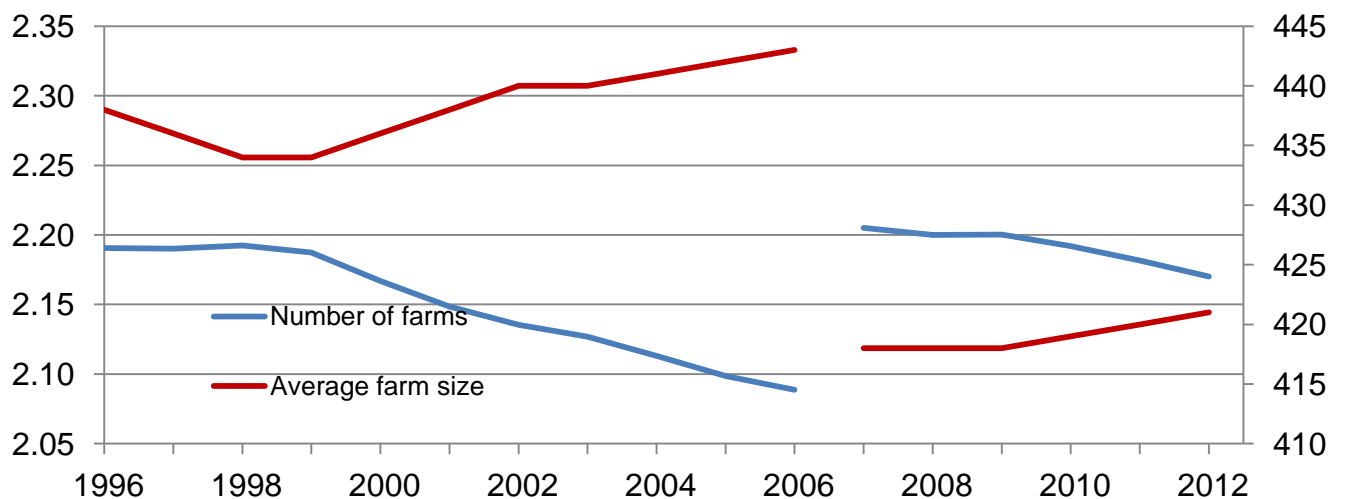
Percent of total



# Number of Farms and Average Farm Size – United States: 1996-2012

Millions of farms

Average farm size



**Point Farms, Percent of Total – United States: 2003-2012**

Year	Farms	Land
	(percent)	(percent)
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	17.0	2.8
2009	18.0	2.9
2010	19.0	3.0
2011	19.0	3.0
2012	18.5	2.9

**Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size – United States: 2003-2012**

Year	Number of farms	Land in farms	Average farm size
	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)
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	2,200,100	919,910	418
2009	2,200,210	919,890	418
2010	2,192,000	918,840	419
2011	2,181,630	917,000	420
2012	2,170,000	914,000	421

**Percent of Farms and Land in Farms and the Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2011 and 2012**

Economic sales class	Percent of total				Average farm size	
	Farms		Land in farms		2011	2012
	2011	2012	2011	2012		
(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	
\$1,000 - \$2,499	27.0	25.5	3.5	3.4	54	55
\$2,500 - \$4,999	14.5	14.8	3.5	3.4	101	95
\$5,000 - \$9,999	13.5	13.7	4.0	4.0	124	121
\$10,000 - \$24,999	12.0	13.2	6.8	6.8	238	220
\$25,000 - \$49,999	8.3	7.5	7.3	7.1	370	404
\$50,000 - \$99,999	7.2	7.1	10.4	10.1	608	607
\$100,000 - \$249,999	6.7	7.2	15.1	15.2	951	888
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.6	4.8	16.0	16.0	1,468	1,401
\$500,000 - \$999,999	3.7	3.2	16.4	16.3	1,871	2,142
\$1,000,000 +	2.5	3.0	17.0	17.7	2,870	2,481
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	420	421



## Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama .....	47,500	46,500	8,900	8,850	187	190
Alaska .....	680	680	880	880	1,294	1,294
Arizona .....	15,500	15,500	26,100	26,100	1,684	1,684
Arkansas .....	48,300	47,800	13,500	13,500	280	282
California .....	81,500	80,500	25,400	25,400	312	316
Colorado .....	36,700	36,300	31,300	31,300	853	862
Connecticut .....	4,900	4,900	400	400	82	82
Delaware .....	2,500	2,500	490	490	196	196
Florida .....	47,500	47,500	9,250	9,250	195	195
Georgia .....	47,000	47,000	10,300	10,400	219	221
Hawaii .....	7,500	7,500	1,110	1,110	148	148
Idaho .....	24,700	24,500	11,400	11,400	462	465
Illinois .....	74,600	74,300	26,600	26,600	357	358
Indiana .....	62,000	60,000	14,700	14,700	237	245
Iowa .....	92,300	92,200	30,700	30,700	333	333
Kansas .....	65,500	65,500	46,000	46,000	702	702
Kentucky .....	85,500	85,500	14,000	14,000	164	164
Louisiana .....	29,000	29,000	7,950	7,950	274	274
Maine .....	8,100	8,100	1,350	1,350	167	167
Maryland .....	12,800	12,800	2,050	2,050	160	160
Massachusetts .....	7,700	7,700	520	520	68	68
Michigan .....	54,900	54,700	10,000	9,900	182	181
Minnesota .....	79,800	79,400	26,850	26,800	336	338
Mississippi .....	42,400	42,300	11,150	11,150	263	264
Missouri .....	106,500	106,000	29,000	29,000	272	274
Montana .....	29,300	28,600	60,500	58,800	2,065	2,056
Nebraska .....	46,800	46,700	45,500	45,500	972	974
Nevada .....	2,980	2,950	5,860	5,840	1,966	1,980
New Hampshire .....	4,150	4,150	470	470	113	113
New Jersey .....	10,300	10,200	730	730	71	72
New Mexico .....	23,000	23,800	43,400	43,900	1,887	1,845
New York .....	36,000	36,000	7,000	7,000	194	194
North Carolina .....	50,400	50,000	8,500	8,500	169	170
North Dakota .....	31,800	31,600	39,600	39,600	1,245	1,253
Ohio .....	73,700	73,400	13,600	13,550	185	185
Oklahoma .....	85,500	85,500	34,700	34,800	406	407
Oregon .....	38,300	38,100	16,300	16,500	426	433
Pennsylvania .....	62,200	62,100	7,600	7,700	122	124
Rhode Island .....	1,220	1,220	70	70	57	57
South Carolina .....	27,000	26,700	4,900	4,800	181	180
South Dakota .....	31,300	31,000	43,650	43,650	1,395	1,408
Tennessee .....	77,300	76,000	10,800	10,800	140	142
Texas .....	245,000	244,700	130,000	128,000	531	523
Utah .....	16,600	16,400	11,100	11,100	669	677
Vermont .....	7,000	7,000	1,220	1,220	174	174
Virginia .....	46,400	46,200	7,950	8,050	171	174
Washington .....	39,500	39,300	14,800	14,800	375	377
West Virginia .....	22,500	22,100	3,650	3,620	162	164
Wisconsin .....	77,000	76,800	15,000	15,000	195	195
Wyoming .....	11,000	10,800	30,200	30,200	2,745	2,796
United States .....	2,181,630	2,170,000	917,000	914,000	420	421

**Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012**

Region and state	Economic sales class					
	\$1,000-\$9,999		\$10,000-\$99,999		\$100,000-\$249,999	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
<b>Northeast</b>						
Connecticut .....	3,050	3,050	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Maine .....	5,300	5,300	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Massachusetts .....	4,800	4,800	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New Hampshire .....	2,900	2,900	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New Jersey .....	6,700	6,600	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New York .....	18,900	18,000	10,800	11,300	3,200	3,500
Pennsylvania .....	35,800	35,000	15,700	16,400	5,200	5,300
Rhode Island .....	750	750	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Vermont .....	4,000	4,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	(X)	(X)	11,050	10,950	2,220	2,220
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>82,200</b>	<b>80,400</b>	<b>37,550</b>	<b>38,650</b>	<b>10,620</b>	<b>11,020</b>
<b>North Central</b>						
Illinois .....	31,300	30,500	16,600	15,800	8,200	8,700
Indiana .....	33,000	30,500	15,500	14,900	5,000	4,900
Iowa .....	30,000	29,500	28,400	27,200	14,400	14,000
Kansas .....	28,000	27,300	22,300	22,400	6,700	6,700
Michigan .....	32,300	31,600	14,000	14,000	3,700	3,500
Minnesota .....	35,500	33,000	21,300	21,400	8,900	10,300
Missouri .....	56,300	53,000	37,900	39,500	5,300	5,700
Nebraska .....	11,000	10,200	12,600	12,200	8,200	8,200
North Dakota .....	10,200	10,000	9,400	9,000	3,800	4,000
Ohio .....	38,700	38,000	22,700	22,700	5,000	5,000
South Dakota .....	9,000	8,800	9,800	9,600	4,800	4,900
Wisconsin .....	37,500	36,800	20,400	20,600	9,300	9,200
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>352,800</b>	<b>339,200</b>	<b>230,900</b>	<b>229,300</b>	<b>83,300</b>	<b>85,100</b>

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States:  
2011 and 2012 (continued)**

Region and state	Economic sales class					
	\$1,000-\$9,999		\$10,000-\$99,999		\$100,000-\$249,999	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
<b>South</b>						
Alabama .....	28,400	27,600	14,300	14,100	1,100	1,100
Arkansas .....	26,600	25,400	13,300	13,300	1,500	1,600
Delaware .....	1,000	1,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Florida .....	29,600	29,600	12,400	12,400	2,300	2,400
Georgia .....	28,700	28,700	10,300	10,100	2,400	2,300
Kentucky .....	54,800	54,700	24,400	24,400	2,900	2,900
Louisiana .....	18,100	18,200	7,600	7,100	1,000	1,100
Maryland .....	7,100	7,200	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi .....	27,700	26,300	10,000	11,000	1,000	1,000
North Carolina .....	30,800	29,200	11,600	12,900	1,800	2,000
Oklahoma .....	50,000	50,000	28,400	28,400	3,300	3,300
South Carolina .....	18,600	18,100	6,200	6,100	700	800
Tennessee .....	54,600	52,400	18,200	18,800	1,800	1,700
Texas .....	165,200	164,800	62,000	62,000	6,800	7,000
Virginia .....	29,500	29,000	12,800	13,000	1,400	1,500
West Virginia .....	17,700	17,200	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	(X)	(X)	7,830	7,430	1,280	1,230
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>588,400</b>	<b>579,400</b>	<b>239,330</b>	<b>241,030</b>	<b>29,280</b>	<b>29,930</b>
<b>West</b>						
Alaska .....	350	350	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Arizona .....	12,000	12,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
California .....	35,600	33,200	26,300	28,200	6,600	6,100
Colorado .....	19,800	19,400	11,400	11,200	2,700	2,700
Hawaii .....	4,600	4,600	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Idaho .....	11,400	10,900	8,200	7,800	2,000	2,300
Montana .....	13,400	11,500	9,000	9,700	3,200	3,100
Nevada .....	1,600	1,550	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New Mexico .....	15,300	16,000	5,800	5,900	900	900
Oregon .....	24,600	24,600	8,700	8,400	2,000	2,100
Utah .....	10,200	10,000	4,700	4,700	850	900
Washington .....	25,000	24,000	8,400	8,800	1,800	1,900
Wyoming .....	5,200	5,100	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	(X)	(X)	9,080	8,900	2,100	2,100
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>179,050</b>	<b>173,200</b>	<b>91,580</b>	<b>93,600</b>	<b>22,150</b>	<b>22,100</b>
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>1,202,450</b>	<b>1,172,200</b>	<b>599,360</b>	<b>602,580</b>	<b>145,350</b>	<b>148,150</b>

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012**  
(continued)

Region and state	Economic sales class					
	\$250,000-\$499,999		\$500,000 and over		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
<b>Northeast</b>						
Connecticut .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,900	4,900
Maine .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	8,100	8,100
Massachusetts .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	7,700	7,700
New Hampshire .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	4,150	4,150
New Jersey .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	10,300	10,200
New York .....	1,300	1,300	1,800	1,900	36,000	36,000
Pennsylvania .....	2,900	2,700	2,600	2,700	62,200	62,100
Rhode Island .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,220	1,220
Vermont .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	7,000	7,000
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,220	1,320	1,380	1,380	(X)	(X)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>5,420</b>	<b>5,320</b>	<b>5,780</b>	<b>5,980</b>	<b>141,570</b>	<b>141,370</b>
<b>North Central</b>						
Illinois .....	8,300	8,100	10,200	11,200	74,600	74,300
Indiana .....	3,600	3,500	4,900	6,200	62,000	60,000
Iowa .....	9,500	10,000	10,000	11,500	92,300	92,200
Kansas .....	3,900	3,700	4,600	5,400	65,500	65,500
Michigan .....	2,200	2,500	2,700	3,100	54,900	54,700
Minnesota .....	7,000	6,700	7,100	8,000	79,800	79,400
Missouri .....	2,900	2,900	4,100	4,900	106,500	106,000
Nebraska .....	6,000	6,300	9,000	9,800	46,800	46,700
North Dakota .....	3,800	3,400	4,600	5,200	31,800	31,600
Ohio .....	3,900	3,900	3,400	3,800	73,700	73,400
South Dakota .....	4,100	4,100	3,600	3,600	31,300	31,000
Wisconsin .....	5,500	5,900	4,300	4,300	77,000	76,800
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>60,700</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>68,500</b>	<b>77,000</b>	<b>796,200</b>	<b>791,600</b>

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012**  
(continued)

Region and state	Economic sales class					
	\$250,000-\$499,999		\$500,000 and over		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)
<b>South</b>						
Alabama .....	1,300	1,300	2,400	2,400	47,500	46,500
Arkansas .....	2,000	2,100	4,900	5,400	48,300	47,800
Delaware .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,500	2,500
Florida .....	1,100	1,000	2,100	2,100	47,500	47,500
Georgia .....	1,500	1,700	4,100	4,200	47,000	47,000
Kentucky .....	1,500	1,500	1,900	2,000	85,500	85,500
Louisiana .....	900	1,200	1,400	1,400	29,000	29,000
Maryland .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	12,800	12,800
Mississippi .....	900	800	2,800	3,200	42,400	42,300
North Carolina .....	2,300	2,100	3,900	3,800	50,400	50,000
Oklahoma .....	1,800	1,700	2,000	2,100	85,500	85,500
South Carolina .....	400	400	1,100	1,300	27,000	26,700
Tennessee .....	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,600	77,300	76,000
Texas .....	4,200	4,100	6,800	6,800	245,000	244,700
Virginia .....	1,200	1,100	1,500	1,600	46,400	46,200
West Virginia .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	22,500	22,100
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	890	820	2,000	2,520	(X)	(X)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>21,190</b>	<b>21,320</b>	<b>38,400</b>	<b>40,420</b>	<b>916,600</b>	<b>912,100</b>
<b>West</b>						
Alaska .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	680	680
Arizona .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	15,500	15,500
California .....	3,900	4,300	9,100	8,700	81,500	80,500
Colorado .....	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,600	36,700	36,300
Hawaii .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	7,500	7,500
Idaho .....	1,200	1,400	1,900	2,100	24,700	24,500
Montana .....	2,400	2,500	1,300	1,800	29,300	28,600
Nevada .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,980	2,950
New Mexico .....	450	400	550	600	23,000	23,800
Oregon .....	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	38,300	38,100
Utah .....	400	400	450	400	16,600	16,400
Washington .....	1,700	1,600	2,600	3,000	39,500	39,300
Wyoming .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	11,000	10,800
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	1,240	1,240	1,490	1,590	(X)	(X)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>13,490</b>	<b>14,240</b>	<b>20,990</b>	<b>21,790</b>	<b>327,260</b>	<b>324,930</b>
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>100,800</b>	<b>101,880</b>	<b>133,670</b>	<b>145,190</b>	<b>2,181,630</b>	<b>2,170,000</b>

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other States includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>2</sup> Other States includes Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.

<sup>3</sup> Other States includes Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, and Wyoming.

**Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012**

Region and state	Economic sales class					
	\$1,000-\$9,999		\$10,000-\$99,999		\$100,000-\$249,999	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
<b>Northeast</b> .....						
Connecticut .....	130	130	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Maine .....	480	480	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Massachusetts .....	210	210	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New Hampshire .....	230	230	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New Jersey .....	180	190	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New York .....	1,600	1,350	1,800	1,900	1,100	1,200
Pennsylvania .....	2,300	2,330	2,100	2,060	1,100	1,020
Rhode Island .....	30	30	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Vermont .....	340	340	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	(X)	(X)	1,250	1,240	500	500
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>5,500</b>	<b>5,290</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,720</b>
<b>North Central</b> .....						
Illinois .....	1,300	1,200	2,200	2,000	3,100	2,900
Indiana .....	1,200	1,100	1,900	1,600	1,800	1,600
Iowa .....	1,400	1,400	4,900	4,900	5,400	5,300
Kansas .....	3,000	2,800	9,100	8,800	8,300	8,400
Michigan .....	1,650	1,650	1,800	1,700	1,350	1,200
Minnesota .....	2,900	2,800	4,650	4,600	3,900	3,800
Missouri .....	4,600	4,400	10,300	10,300	3,400	3,300
Nebraska .....	1,200	1,100	5,300	4,800	7,800	7,600
North Dakota .....	1,600	1,500	6,000	5,600	5,400	5,350
Ohio .....	1,850	1,750	3,150	3,050	2,000	2,000
South Dakota .....	1,450	1,450	7,300	7,200	9,100	9,300
Wisconsin .....	2,300	2,200	3,000	3,000	2,600	2,500
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>24,450</b>	<b>23,350</b>	<b>59,600</b>	<b>57,550</b>	<b>54,150</b>	<b>53,250</b>

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012**  
(continued)

Region and state	Economic sales class					
	\$1,000-\$9,999		\$10,000-\$99,999		\$100,000-\$249,999	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
South .....						
Alabama .....	2,650	2,550	3,550	3,500	650	650
Arkansas .....	2,000	1,500	3,200	3,400	1,000	1,100
Delaware .....	30	30	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Florida .....	1,400	1,400	1,800	1,800	850	850
Georgia .....	2,750	2,600	2,550	2,700	950	900
Kentucky .....	4,400	4,350	4,800	4,800	1,350	1,350
Louisiana .....	1,400	1,400	1,900	1,900	850	800
Maryland .....	400	400	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi .....	3,450	3,430	2,700	2,720	950	950
North Carolina .....	1,900	1,700	1,700	1,800	750	750
Oklahoma .....	6,000	6,000	12,800	12,850	5,350	5,350
South Carolina .....	1,550	1,500	1,450	1,200	400	400
Tennessee .....	3,700	3,500	3,450	3,500	900	800
Texas .....	18,200	18,000	44,500	45,000	15,500	15,000
Virginia .....	2,100	2,050	2,750	2,800	850	900
West Virginia .....	1,800	1,700	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	(X)	(X)	1,770	1,770	600	550
Total .....	53,730	52,110	88,920	89,740	30,950	30,350
West .....						
Alaska .....	270	270	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Arizona .....	750	750	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
California .....	1,800	1,700	4,700	5,000	3,700	3,700
Colorado .....	2,700	2,600	9,500	9,400	5,300	5,300
Hawaii .....	80	80	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Idaho .....	800	800	2,500	2,300	1,900	2,000
Montana .....	2,400	1,500	11,500	10,500	14,300	12,000
Nevada .....	200	190	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
New Mexico .....	3,100	3,100	11,700	11,500	8,000	8,100
Oregon .....	1,600	1,700	3,300	3,100	3,000	3,000
Utah .....	850	850	2,280	2,280	1,410	1,410
Washington .....	1,300	1,300	3,000	3,000	1,700	1,700
Wyoming .....	1,300	1,300	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	(X)	(X)	22,760	22,250	11,770	11,770
Total .....	17,150	16,140	71,240	69,330	51,080	48,980
United States .....	100,830	96,890	224,910	221,820	138,880	135,300

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012**  
(continued)

Region and state	Economic sales class					
	\$250,000-\$499,999		\$500,000 and over		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
<b>Northeast</b>						
Connecticut .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	400	400
Maine .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,350	1,350
Massachusetts .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	520	520
New Hampshire .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	470	470
New Jersey .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	730	730
New York .....	700	650	1,800	1,900	7,000	7,000
Pennsylvania .....	900	970	1,200	1,320	7,600	7,700
Rhode Island .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	70	70
Vermont .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,220	1,220
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	445	455	965	955	(X)	(X)
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>4,175</b>	<b>19,360</b>	<b>19,460</b>
<b>North Central</b>						
Illinois .....	4,900	4,600	15,100	15,900	26,600	26,600
Indiana .....	2,500	2,600	7,300	7,800	14,700	14,700
Iowa .....	6,700	6,700	12,300	12,400	30,700	30,700
Kansas .....	8,000	8,000	17,600	18,000	46,000	46,000
Michigan .....	1,500	1,550	3,700	3,800	10,000	9,900
Minnesota .....	4,900	4,500	10,500	11,100	26,850	26,800
Missouri .....	3,200	2,800	7,500	8,200	29,000	29,000
Nebraska .....	9,300	8,900	21,900	23,100	45,500	45,500
North Dakota .....	8,600	8,050	18,000	19,100	39,600	39,600
Ohio .....	2,450	2,450	4,150	4,300	13,600	13,550
South Dakota .....	9,800	9,800	16,000	15,900	43,650	43,650
Wisconsin .....	2,600	2,700	4,500	4,600	15,000	15,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>64,450</b>	<b>62,650</b>	<b>138,550</b>	<b>144,200</b>	<b>341,200</b>	<b>341,000</b>

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012**  
(continued)

Region and state	Economic sales class					
	\$250,000-\$499,999		\$500,000 and over		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
<b>South</b>						
Alabama .....	650	650	1,400	1,500	8,900	8,850
Arkansas .....	1,400	1,200	5,900	6,300	13,500	13,500
Delaware .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	490	490
Florida .....	900	900	4,300	4,300	9,250	9,250
Georgia .....	950	1,000	3,100	3,200	10,300	10,400
Kentucky .....	1,000	1,050	2,450	2,450	14,000	14,000
Louisiana .....	1,050	1,050	2,750	2,800	7,950	7,950
Maryland .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,050	2,050
Mississippi .....	950	800	3,100	3,250	11,150	11,150
North Carolina .....	1,150	950	3,000	3,300	8,500	8,500
Oklahoma .....	4,400	4,150	6,150	6,450	34,700	34,800
South Carolina .....	400	400	1,100	1,300	4,900	4,800
Tennessee .....	950	1,100	1,800	1,900	10,800	10,800
Texas .....	17,300	16,500	34,500	33,500	130,000	128,000
Virginia .....	850	800	1,400	1,500	7,950	8,050
West Virginia .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,650	3,620
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	410	410	1,180	1,300	(X)	(X)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>32,360</b>	<b>30,960</b>	<b>72,130</b>	<b>73,050</b>	<b>278,090</b>	<b>276,210</b>
<b>West</b>						
Alaska .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	880	880
Arizona .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	26,100	26,100
California .....	2,800	3,000	12,400	12,000	25,400	25,400
Colorado .....	5,800	6,100	8,000	7,900	31,300	31,300
Hawaii .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	1,110	1,110
Idaho .....	1,100	1,200	5,100	5,100	11,400	11,400
Montana .....	14,500	13,800	17,800	21,000	60,500	58,800
Nevada .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	5,860	5,840
New Mexico .....	8,500	8,400	12,100	12,800	43,400	43,900
Oregon .....	2,400	2,600	6,000	6,100	16,300	16,500
Utah .....	1,100	1,100	5,460	5,460	11,100	11,100
Washington .....	2,900	2,700	5,900	6,100	14,800	14,800
Wyoming .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	30,200	30,200
Other States <sup>3</sup> .....	8,550	8,350	18,470	19,170	(X)	(X)
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>47,650</b>	<b>47,250</b>	<b>91,230</b>	<b>95,630</b>	<b>278,350</b>	<b>277,330</b>
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>146,505</b>	<b>142,935</b>	<b>305,875</b>	<b>317,055</b>	<b>917,000</b>	<b>914,000</b>

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other States includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>2</sup> Other States includes Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.

<sup>3</sup> Other States includes Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, and Wyoming.

**Number of Cattle and Calves Operations and Percent of Inventory by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012**

Head	Operations		Percent of inventory	
	2011 (number)	2012 (number)	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)
<b>Cattle and calves</b> .....				
1-49 .....	627,000	624,000	11.6	11.5
50-99 .....	127,000	125,000	9.5	9.5
100-499 .....	138,700	137,000	30.4	30.2
500-999 .....	18,600	18,400	13.5	13.6
1,000-1,999 .....	6,500	6,440	9.0	9.0
2,000-4,999 .....	3,020	3,000	8.9	9.0
5,000-9,999 .....	710	700	5.0	5.0
10,000-19,999 .....	270	260	3.8	3.7
20,000+ .....	200	200	8.3	8.5
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>922,000</b>	<b>915,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Beef cows</b> <sup>1</sup> .....				
1-49 .....	583,000	581,000	27.7	27.7
50-99 .....	81,000	79,000	17.4	17.2
100-499 .....	64,200	63,400	38.2	38.4
500-999 .....	4,390	4,230	9.1	9.0
1,000-1,999 .....	1,080	1,050	4.3	4.4
2,000-4,999 .....	280	270	2.1	2.1
5,000+ .....	50	50	1.2	1.2
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>734,000</b>	<b>729,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

**Number of Milk Cow Operations, Percent of Inventory, and Percent of Milk Production by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012**

[Included in operations with cattle]

Head	Operations		Percent of inventory		Percent of production <sup>1</sup>	
	2011 (number)	2012 (number)	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2012 (percent)
1-29 .....	19,400	18,800	1.6	1.6	1.0	1.0
30-49 .....	10,100	9,700	4.3	4.3	3.2	3.2
50-99 .....	14,800	14,500	11.2	11.3	9.4	9.5
100-199 .....	8,300	7,900	11.9	11.8	10.9	10.7
200-499 .....	4,000	3,800	12.5	12.5	12.6	12.6
500-999 .....	1,650	1,570	12.3	11.9	12.6	12.4
1,000-1,999 .....	950	950	13.7	14.0	15.7	15.9
2,000+ .....	800	780	32.5	32.6	34.6	34.7
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>60,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Estimates reflect the average distributions of various probability surveys conducted during the year.

**Number of Hog and Pig Operations and Percent of Inventory by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012**

Head	Operations		Percent of inventory	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(percent)
1-99 .....	49,400	48,700	0.8	0.8
100-499 .....	5,100	5,000	2.0	1.9
500-999 .....	2,400	2,300	2.7	2.6
1,000-1,999 .....	3,400	3,300	7.5	7.3
2,000-4,999 .....	5,500	5,700	24.9	25.5
5,000+ .....	3,300	3,300	62.1	61.9
Total .....	69,100	68,300	100.0	100.0

**Number of Hog and Pig Operations and Percent of Inventory by Size Group, Based on Ownership – United States: 2011 and 2012**

Head	Operations		Percent of inventory	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(percent)
1-99 .....	49,250	48,900	0.9	0.9
100-499 .....	4,450	4,400	2.0	1.8
500-999 .....	1,750	1,700	1.9	1.8
1,000-1,999 .....	1,900	1,800	3.8	3.7
2,000-4,999 .....	2,250	2,100	9.8	9.1
5,000-9,999 .....	660	630	7.2	7.0
10,000-19,999 .....	360	345	7.5	7.2
20,000-49,999 .....	185	180	8.8	8.5
50,000+ .....	135	145	58.1	60.0
Total .....	60,940	60,200	100.0	100.0

**Number of Sheep and Goat Operations – United States: 2011 and 2012**

Commodity	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)
Sheep .....	80,000	79,500
Angora goats .....	5,500	5,300
Milk goats .....	31,000	30,500
Meat and other goats .....	124,000	123,000
All goats .....	151,000	149,000

**Breeding Sheep, Survey Percent by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012**

[Percents reflect distributions from the January annual survey]

Item	1-99 head		100-499 head		500-4,999 head		5,000+ head	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Operations .....	93.5	93.9	5.4	5.0	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.1
Inventory .....	35.9	35.5	21.1	21.1	31.1	31.2	11.9	12.2

## 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. 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 United States number of farms and land in farms is 1.3 and 1.2 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 1.3 to 2.7 percent for number of farms and 1.2 to 4.1 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), 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 **hog and pig 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. 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.

## 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.

Since 2007, 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.



## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Economics Section of the Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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