



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service



Farms and Land in Farms

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USDA



Farm Numbers Continue Gradual Upward Trend

The number of farms in the United States in 1999 is estimated at 2.19 million, up fractionally from 1998. The increase in farm numbers can be attributed to the continued rise in the number of small farms. Total land in farms, at 947.3 million acres, was down 0.7 percent or 6.2 million acres from last year. This decline in land in farms continues the historical trend of less land in farms. The average farm size decreased 3 acres from 1998 to 432 acres.

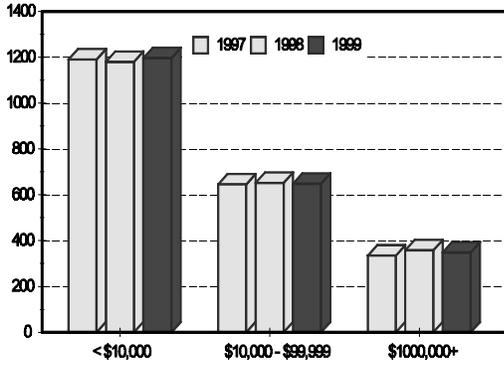
The U.S. number of farms in the \$1,000-\$9,999 economic sales class increased 15,690 to 1,196,640 in 1999. Those with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 economic sales class decreased 3,760 from 1998 to 648,550 farms. The \$100,000 and over sales class dropped 9,220 farms from 1998 to 348,880 in 1999. The drop in this class is attributed to low commodity prices during 1999.

The South Region showed the largest increase in number of farms, up 2,300 or 0.2 percent. The North Central Region was the only region to decline in farm numbers during 1999. This region was down 500 farms or less than 0.1 percent from 1998.

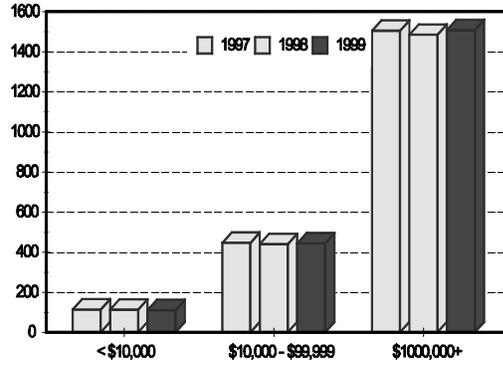
Farm numbers during 1999 increased in 13 States, declined in 13 States, and remained unchanged in 24 States. States with an increase of 1,000 farms were Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia. States with a decrease of 1,000 farms were Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, and Pennsylvania.

Farm and ranch land declined in a total of 26 States while the remaining 24 were unchanged. Texas continues to lead the Nation with 130.5 million acres of land in farms and ranches, down 1 million acres from the previous year. Other States with significant decreases in farmland were California (700,000 acres), Arizona and New Mexico (600,000 acres), and Montana (500,000 acres).

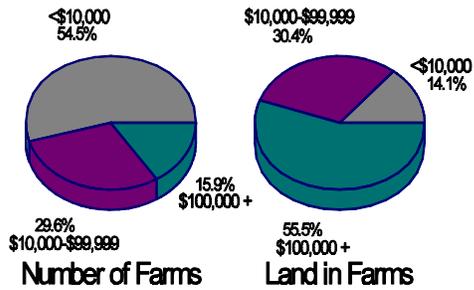
**U. S. Number of Farms by Sales Class
Gross Value of Sales, 1997-99**



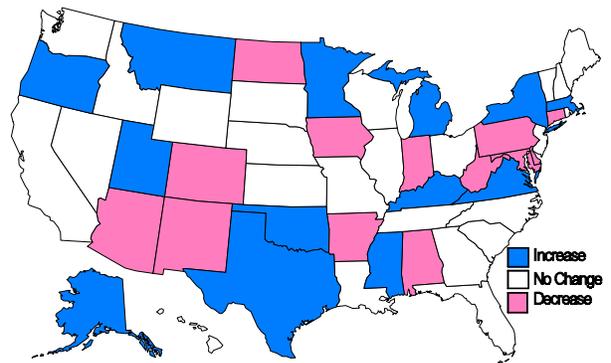
**U.S. Average Size Farm by Sales Class
Gross Value of Sales, 1997-99**



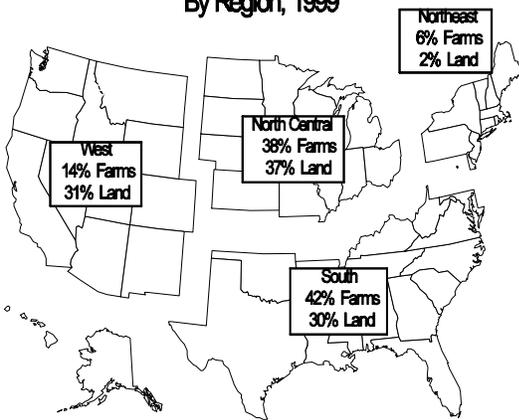
U.S. Percentages by Sales Class - 1999



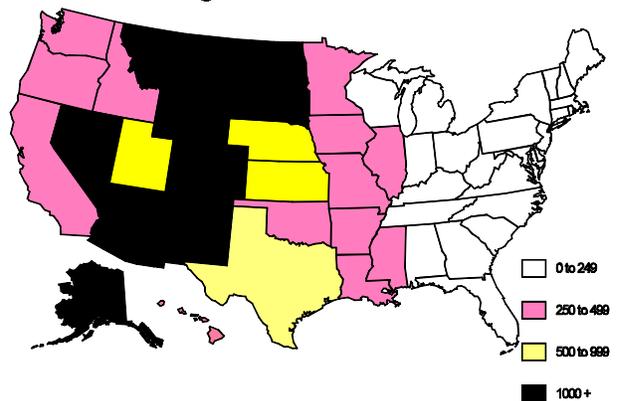
Change in Number of Farms Since 1998



**Distribution of Farms and Land in Farms
By Region, 1999**



Average Farm Size in Acres, 1999

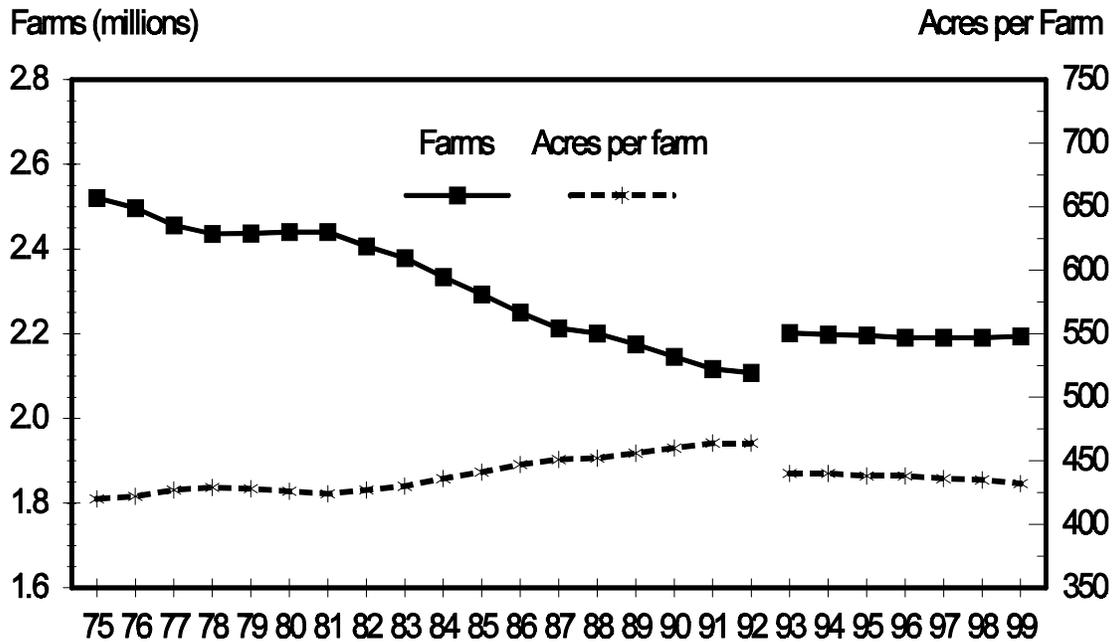


**Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Size Farm:
United States, 1989-99 ¹**

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms <i>1,000 Acres</i>	Average Farm Size <i>Acres</i>
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	2,191,360	953,500	435
1999	2,194,070	947,340	432

¹ A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

Number of Farms and Average Farm Size United States, 1975 - 1999 ^{1/}



^{1/} See the Survey Procedures, page 14, for changes in the farm definition that attributed to the level change between 1992 and 1993.

Number of Farms: By State and United States, 1997-99

State	1997 <i>Number</i>	1998 <i>Number</i>	1999 <i>Number</i>
AL	49,000	49,000	48,000
AK	560	560	570
AZ	7,900	7,800	7,700
AR	49,000	49,500	48,500
CA	87,000	89,000	89,000
CO	29,500	29,500	29,000
CT	4,100	4,100	4,000
DE	2,800	2,700	2,600
FL	45,000	45,000	45,000
GA	49,000	50,000	50,000
HI	5,500	5,500	5,500
ID	24,500	24,500	24,500
IL	79,000	79,000	79,000
IN	66,000	66,000	65,000
IA	98,000	97,000	96,000
KS	65,000	65,000	65,000
KY	91,000	90,000	91,000
LA	30,000	30,000	30,000
ME	7,000	6,900	6,900
MD	13,000	12,500	12,400
MA	6,000	6,000	6,100
MI	53,000	52,000	53,000
MN	81,000	80,000	81,000
MS	42,000	42,000	43,000
MO	110,000	110,000	110,000
MT	27,000	27,500	28,000
NE	55,000	55,000	55,000
NV	3,000	3,000	3,000
NH	3,000	3,100	3,100
NJ	9,600	9,600	9,600
NM	15,500	16,000	15,500
NY	38,000	38,000	39,000
NC	59,000	58,000	58,000
ND	31,500	31,000	30,500
OH	79,000	80,000	80,000
OK	83,000	83,000	84,000
OR	39,000	39,500	40,500
PA	60,000	60,000	59,000
RI	750	700	700
SC	25,000	25,000	25,000
SD	32,500	32,500	32,500
TN	91,000	91,000	91,000
TX	225,000	226,000	227,000
UT	15,000	15,000	15,500
VT	6,600	6,700	6,700
VA	49,000	49,000	50,000
WA	39,000	40,000	40,000
WV	21,000	21,000	20,500
WI	79,000	78,000	78,000
WY	9,200	9,200	9,200
US	2,190,510	2,191,360	2,194,070

Land in Farms: By State and United States, 1997-99

State	1997 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	1998 <i>1,000 Acres</i>	1999 <i>1,000 Acres</i>
AL	9,600	9,500	9,200
AK	910	910	910
AZ	28,300	28,100	27,500
AR	14,800	14,750	14,650
CA	28,700	28,500	27,800
CO	32,500	32,200	31,800
CT	380	380	370
DE	585	580	580
FL	10,600	10,600	10,400
GA	11,300	11,300	11,200
HI	1,440	1,440	1,440
ID	12,000	12,000	11,900
IL	27,800	27,800	27,700
IN	15,600	15,600	15,500
IA	33,000	33,000	33,000
KS	47,500	47,500	47,500
KY	13,900	13,800	13,600
LA	8,200	8,200	8,150
ME	1,280	1,270	1,270
MD	2,200	2,150	2,100
MA	570	570	570
MI	10,400	10,400	10,400
MN	29,100	28,900	28,800
MS	11,700	11,600	11,400
MO	30,100	30,100	30,100
MT	57,800	57,500	57,000
NE	46,400	46,400	46,400
NV	6,900	6,900	6,800
NH	420	420	420
NJ	830	830	830
NM	45,300	45,300	44,700
NY	7,800	7,800	7,800
NC	9,500	9,400	9,300
ND	39,700	39,500	39,400
OH	14,900	14,900	14,900
OK	34,000	34,000	34,000
OR	17,500	17,200	17,200
PA	7,700	7,700	7,700
RI	65	60	60
SC	5,000	4,900	4,850
SD	44,000	44,000	44,000
TN	12,000	11,900	11,900
TX	131,500	131,500	130,500
UT	11,600	11,600	11,600
VT	1,330	1,340	1,340
VA	8,800	8,800	8,600
WA	15,700	15,700	15,700
WV	3,700	3,700	3,600
WI	16,500	16,400	16,300
WY	34,600	34,600	34,600
US	956,010	953,500	947,340

**Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,
Region, and United States, 1999**

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000-\$9,999	\$10,000-\$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Northeast				
CT ²	2,550			4,000
ME ²	4,400			6,900
MA ²	3,300			6,100
NH ²	2,100			3,100
NJ ²	6,400			9,600
NY	19,400	10,900	8,700	39,000
PA	33,000	16,500	9,500	59,000
RI ²	350			700
VT ²	3,600			6,700
Oth Sts ¹		9,700	4,700	
Total	75,100	37,100	22,900	135,100
North Central				
IL	28,500	26,500	24,000	79,000
IN	30,200	22,000	12,800	65,000
IA	28,000	38,100	29,900	96,000
KS	24,400	27,200	13,400	65,000
MI	28,500	16,500	8,000	53,000
MN	31,000	30,000	20,000	81,000
MO	63,100	36,700	10,200	110,000
NE	14,000	22,600	18,400	55,000
ND	8,400	13,500	8,600	30,500
OH	43,000	27,000	10,000	80,000
SD	7,000	15,300	10,200	32,500
WI	35,000	25,000	18,000	78,000
Total	341,100	300,400	183,500	825,000
South				
AL	34,000	9,000	5,000	48,000
AR	26,500	11,500	10,500	48,500
DE ²	800			2,600
FL	29,500	10,500	5,000	45,000
GA	32,600	9,700	7,700	50,000
KY	52,000	33,000	6,000	91,000
LA	19,000	6,600	4,400	30,000
MD ²	6,200			12,400
MS	31,000	7,500	4,500	43,000
NC	35,800	12,200	10,000	58,000
OK	52,600	25,500	5,900	84,000
SC	18,700	4,000	2,300	25,000
TN	69,000	18,000	4,000	91,000
TX	155,000	55,500	16,500	227,000
VA	34,000	13,000	3,000	50,000
WV ²	17,000			20,500
Other States ³		7,320	4,180	
Total	613,700	223,320	88,980	926,000
West				
AK ²	340			570
AZ ²	4,700			7,700
CA	44,500	25,500	19,000	89,000
CO	13,700	10,400	4,900	29,000
HI ²	3,200			5,500
ID	12,500	7,200	4,800	24,500
MT	11,500	10,700	5,800	28,000
NV ²	1,600			3,000
NM	9,600	4,200	1,700	15,500
OR	27,000	9,000	4,500	40,500
UT	9,000	5,000	1,500	15,500
WA	25,700	7,500	6,800	40,000
WY ²	3,400			9,200
Other States ⁴		8,230	4,500	
Total	166,740	87,730	53,500	307,970
US	1,196,640	648,550	348,880	2,194,070

¹ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

² Estimates not available for all sales classes.

³ DE, MD, and WV.

⁴ AK, AZ, HI, NV, and WY.

**Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,
Region, and United States, 1999**

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				
CT ²	140			370
ME ²	450			1,270
MA ²	230			570
NH ²	200			420
NJ ²	190			830
NY	1,900	2,100	3,800	7,800
PA	2,100	2,400	3,200	7,700
RI ²	20			60
VT ²	350			1,340
Oth Sts ¹		1,300	1,980	
Total	5,580	5,800	8,980	20,360
North Central				
IL	1,700	5,800	20,200	27,700
IN	1,200	3,900	10,400	15,500
IA	1,800	9,700	21,500	33,000
KS	3,400	16,100	28,000	47,500
MI	1,900	2,800	5,700	10,400
MN	3,100	8,600	17,100	28,800
MO	7,300	11,600	11,200	30,100
NE	2,000	12,000	32,400	46,400
ND	3,500	14,000	21,900	39,400
OH	3,000	4,900	7,000	14,900
SD	2,000	14,400	27,600	44,000
WI	2,900	4,700	8,700	16,300
Total	33,800	108,500	211,700	354,000
South				
AL	3,700	2,800	2,700	9,200
AR	2,150	3,350	9,150	14,650
DE ²	33			580
FL	1,800	2,600	6,000	10,400
GA	3,000	2,400	5,800	11,200
KY	4,000	5,700	3,900	13,600
LA	1,750	1,900	4,500	8,150
MD ²	360			2,100
MS	3,700	2,600	5,100	11,400
NC	2,200	1,900	5,200	9,300
OK	6,800	14,700	12,500	34,000
SC	2,550	1,150	1,150	4,850
TN	4,800	4,000	3,100	11,900
TX	22,500	48,000	60,000	130,500
VA	2,900	3,300	2,400	8,600
WV ²	2,300			3,600
Other States ³		1,607	1,980	
Total	64,543	96,007	123,480	284,030
West				
AK ²	200			910
AZ ²	2,000			27,500
CA	2,800	7,000	18,000	27,800
CO	3,800	10,300	17,700	31,800
HI ²	105			1,440
ID	1,500	3,300	7,100	11,900
MT	4,100	17,000	35,900	57,000
NV ²	1,000			6,800
NM	5,200	12,000	27,500	44,700
OR	1,700	4,800	10,700	17,200
UT	1,100	2,800	7,700	11,600
WA	2,600	2,700	10,400	15,700
WY ²	3,100			34,600
Other States ⁴		17,985	46,860	
Total	29,205	77,885	181,860	288,950
US	133,128	288,192	526,020	947,340

¹ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

² Estimates not available for all sales classes.

³ DE, MD, and WV.

⁴ AK, AZ, HI, NV, and WY.

**Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,
Region, and United States, June 1, 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>
Northeast				
CT ²	2,650			4,100
ME ²	4,400			6,900
MA ²	3,300			6,000
NH ²	2,100			3,100
NJ ²	6,300			9,600
NY	18,400	11,000	8,600	38,000
PA	33,300	17,200	9,500	60,000
RI ²	350			700
VT ²	3,600			6,700
Oth Sts ¹		9,700	4,700	
Total	74,400	37,900	22,800	135,100
North Central				
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
South				
AL	35,000	9,000	5,000	49,000
AR	27,500	11,500	10,500	49,500
DE ²	800			2,700
FL	29,500	10,500	5,000	45,000
GA	32,500	9,700	7,800	50,000
KY	51,000	33,000	6,000	90,000
LA	19,000	6,500	4,500	30,000
MD ²	6,300			12,500
MS	30,000	7,400	4,600	42,000
NC	34,000	14,000	10,000	58,000
OK	52,000	25,000	6,000	83,000
SC	18,700	4,000	2,300	25,000
TN	69,000	18,000	4,000	91,000
TX	153,000	56,000	17,000	226,000
VA	32,000	13,000	4,000	49,000
WV ²	17,400			21,000
Other States ³		7,400	4,300	
Total	607,700	225,000	91,000	923,700
West				
AK ²	350			560
AZ ²	4,800			7,800
CA	42,600	24,400	22,000	89,000
CO	13,900	10,800	4,800	29,500
HI ²	3,200			5,500
ID	12,500	7,200	4,800	24,500
MT	12,000	10,000	5,500	27,500
NV ²	1,600			3,000
NM	10,000	4,200	1,800	16,000
OR	26,500	8,600	4,400	39,500
UT	9,000	4,500	1,500	15,000
WA	25,700	7,500	6,800	40,000
WY ²	3,400			9,200
Other States ⁴		8,210	4,500	
Total	165,550	85,410	56,100	307,060
US	1,180,950	652,310	358,100	2,191,360

¹ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

² Estimates not available for all sales classes.

³ DE, MD, and WV.

⁴ AK, AZ, HI, NV, and WY.

**Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,
Region, and United States, June 1, 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>
Northeast				
CT ²	150			380
ME ²	450			1,270
MA ²	230			570
NH ²	200			420
NJ ²	180			830
NY	1,800	2,200	3,800	7,800
PA	2,100	2,500	3,100	7,700
RI ²	20			60
VT ²	350			1,340
Oth Sts ¹		1,305	1,985	
Total	5,480	6,005	8,885	20,370
North Central				
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
South				
AL	4,000	2,800	2,700	9,500
AR	2,250	3,300	9,200	14,750
DE ²	33			580
FL	1,800	2,800	6,000	10,600
GA	3,000	2,400	5,900	11,300
KY	3,900	5,900	4,000	13,800
LA	1,800	1,900	4,500	8,200
MD ²	370			2,150
MS	3,800	2,900	4,900	11,600
NC	2,300	1,900	5,200	9,400
OK	6,900	14,100	13,000	34,000
SC	2,550	1,200	1,150	4,900
TN	4,800	4,000	3,100	11,900
TX	22,000	45,500	64,000	131,500
VA	2,800	3,200	2,800	8,800
WV ²	2,350			3,700
Other States ³		1,652	2,025	
Total	64,653	93,552	128,475	286,680
West				
AK ²	200			910
AZ ²	2,100			28,100
CA	3,000	7,300	18,200	28,500
CO	4,100	10,600	17,500	32,200
HI ²	105			1,440
ID	1,500	3,400	7,100	12,000
MT	4,000	16,900	36,600	57,500
NV ²	1,000			6,900
NM	5,350	12,000	27,950	45,300
OR	1,700	4,800	10,700	17,200
UT	1,100	2,800	7,700	11,600
WA	2,600	2,800	10,300	15,700
WY ²	3,100			34,600
Other States ⁴		18,460	46,985	
Total	29,855	79,060	183,035	291,950
US	133,788	287,017	532,695	953,500

¹ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

² Estimates not available for all sales classes.

³ DE, MD, and WV.

⁴ AK, AZ, HI, NV, and WY.

**Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,
Region, and United States, June 1, 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>
Northeast				
NY	18,700	11,000	8,300	38,000
PA	33,300	17,200	9,500	60,000
Oth Sts ¹	24,050	9,100	3,900	37,050
Total	76,050	37,300	21,700	135,050
North Central				
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
Total	334,800	306,600	187,600	829,000
South				
AL ²	35,000			49,000
AR	26,500	12,000	10,500	49,000
FL ²	29,500			45,000
GA	31,900	9,600	7,500	49,000
KY ²	53,000			91,000
LA ²	19,500			30,000
MS ²	30,000			42,000
NC	35,000	14,000	10,000	59,000
OK	52,700	24,000	6,300	83,000
TN ²	69,000			91,000
TX	154,000	54,000	17,000	225,000
VA ²	32,000			49,000
Other States ^{2 3}	49,900			61,800
Total	618,000	216,000	89,800	923,800
West				
CA	42,000	25,000	20,000	87,000
OR ²	26,000			39,000
WA	24,300	7,800	6,900	39,000
Other States ^{2 4}	69,900			137,660
Total	162,200	86,060	54,400	302,660
US	1,191,050	645,960	353,500	2,190,510

¹ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

² Estimates not available for all sales classes.

³ DE, MD, SC, and WV.

⁴ AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.

**Land in Farms: Economic Sales Class by State,
Region, and United States, June 1, 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
Oth Sts ¹	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 ²	4,000			9,600
AR	2,200	3,300	9,300	14,800
FL ²	1,800			10,600
GA	3,000	2,500	5,800	11,300
KY ²	4,000			13,900
LA ²	1,800			8,200
MS ²	3,700			11,700
NC	2,400	2,000	5,100	9,500
OK	7,000	14,000	13,000	34,000
TN ²	4,800			12,000
TX	22,000	45,500	64,000	131,500
VA ²	2,800			8,800
Other States ^{2 3}	5,400			11,485
Total	64,900	93,985	128,500	287,385
West				
CA	3,000	7,300	18,400	28,700
OR ²	1,700			17,500
WA	2,500	2,900	10,300	15,700
Other States ^{2 4}	23,300			231,350
Total	30,500	78,500	184,250	293,250
US	135,375	288,485	532,150	956,010

¹ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, and VT.

² Estimates not available for all sales classes.

³ DE, MD, SC, and WV.

⁴ AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.

Percent of Farms, Land in Farms and Average Size Farm: By Economic Sales Class, United States, 1997-99

Economic Sales Class	Percent of Total		Average Size Farm (Acres)
	Farms	Land	
	<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	26.9	4.4	71
\$2,500 - \$4,999	14.6	4.4	131
\$5,000 - \$9,999	12.4	5.2	182
\$10,000 - \$19,999	10.0	5.9	257
\$20,000 - \$39,999	9.0	7.4	358
\$40,000 - \$99,999	10.8	16.8	677
\$100,000 - \$249,999	9.0	23.8	1,151
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.2	14.6	1,513
\$500,000 +	3.1	17.5	2,456
Total	100.0	100.0	435
	<i>1999</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>1999</i>
\$1,000 - \$2,499	27.2	4.6	73
\$2,500 - \$4,999	15.0	4.4	127
\$5,000 - \$9,999	12.3	5.1	179
\$10,000 - \$19,999	10.2	6.0	254
\$20,000 - \$39,999	8.5	7.5	381
\$40,000 - \$99,999	10.9	16.9	669
\$100,000 - \$249,999	9.2	23.2	1,089
\$250,000 - \$499,999	3.7	13.3	1,552
\$500,000 +	3.0	19.0	2,735
Total	100.0	100.0	432

Average Size Farm: By State and United States, 1997-99

State	1997 <i>Number</i>	1998 <i>Number</i>	1999 <i>Number</i>
AL	196	194	192
AK	1,625	1,625	1,596
AZ	3,582	3,603	3,571
AR	302	298	302
CA	330	320	312
CO	1,102	1,092	1,097
CT	93	93	93
DE	209	215	223
FL	236	236	231
GA	231	226	224
HI	262	262	262
ID	490	490	486
IL	352	352	351
IN	236	236	238
IA	337	340	344
KS	731	731	731
KY	153	153	149
LA	273	273	272
ME	183	184	184
MD	169	172	169
MA	95	95	93
MI	196	200	196
MN	359	361	356
MS	279	276	265
MO	274	274	274
MT	2,141	2,091	2,036
NE	844	844	844
NV	2,300	2,300	2,267
NH	140	135	135
NJ	86	86	86
NM	2,923	2,831	2,884
NY	205	205	200
NC	161	162	160
ND	1,260	1,274	1,292
OH	189	186	186
OK	410	410	405
OR	449	435	425
PA	128	128	131
RI	87	86	86
SC	200	196	194
SD	1,354	1,354	1,354
TN	132	131	131
TX	584	582	575
UT	773	773	748
VT	202	200	200
VA	180	180	172
WA	403	393	393
WV	176	176	176
WI	209	210	209
WY	3,761	3,761	3,761
US	436	435	432

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.

Program changes initiated with the 2000 Farms and Land in Farms release include publishing the number of farms with less than \$10,000 in sales for all states for 1998, 1999, and future years. Estimates of number of farms with \$10,000-\$99,999 and \$100,000 plus in sales are expanded to include Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

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 1.8 to 3.8 percent for number of farms and 2.3 to 6.7 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.

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 in February, 2001.

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