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Farms and Land in Farms

2015 Summary

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2015 Farms and Land in Farms Highlights

The number of farms in the United States for 2015 is estimated at 2.07 million, down 18 thousand farms from 2014. Total land in farms, at 912 million acres, decreased 1 million acres from 2014. The average farm size for 2015 is 441 acres, up 3 acres from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are differentiated by six economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these six sales classes by summing the sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, \$500,000, and \$1,000,000. Producers were asked during the 2015 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2014 calendar year. Production or commodity price changes in 2014 resulted in the total value for most livestock and livestock products to increase while the value of most crops declined.

Point Farms are farms that did not have the required minimum \$1,000 in sales for the year to qualify as a farm, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more. Point Farms are assigned a sales class based on the sum of the agricultural point (dollar) values assigned to the quantity of commodities produced, but not sold. The 2012 Census of Agriculture showed that 428,810 farms or 20.3 percent of the 2.11 million farms were Point Farms. These Point Farms operated 63.0 million acres or 6.9 percent of the 914.5 million acres of farmland.

Farm numbers decreased by 18 thousand farms during 2015. The number of farms in Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 declined while all other sales classes increased slightly. Fifty percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales. Eighty percent of all farms had less than \$100,000 in sales. Eight percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

Changes in the number of farms by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 at 1.04 million farms, declined by 20 thousand farms.
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999 at 623 thousand farms, increased by 4 hundred farms.
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999 at 145 thousand farms, increased by 3 hundred farms.
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999 at 98 thousand farms, increased by 8 hundred farms.
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999 at 83 thousand farms, increased by 3 hundred farms.
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more at 83 thousand farms, increased by 3 hundred farms.

The percent of all farms by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999: 50.1%
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999: 30.1%
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999: 7.0%
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999: 4.7%
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999: 4.0%
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more: 4.0%

Land in farms, at 912 million acres, was down 1 million acres from 2014. The biggest changes for 2015 are that producers with sales below \$10,000 operated 2.92 million fewer acres and those in Sales Class \$10,000-\$99,999 operated 2.35 million fewer acres. Still, nearly 31 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with less than \$100,000 in sales. Forty-one percent of all farmland was operated by farms with sales of \$500,000 or more.

Farmland changes by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 at 87.9 million acres, declined by 2.92 million acres.
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999 at 191.5 million acres, declined by 2.35 million acres.
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999 at 130.8 million acres, increased by 1.85 million acres.
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999 at 125.8 million acres, increased by 520 thousand acres.
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999 at 156.4 million acres, increased by 330 thousand acres.
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more at 219.6 million acres, increased by 1.57 million acres.

Percent of all farmland by sales class are:

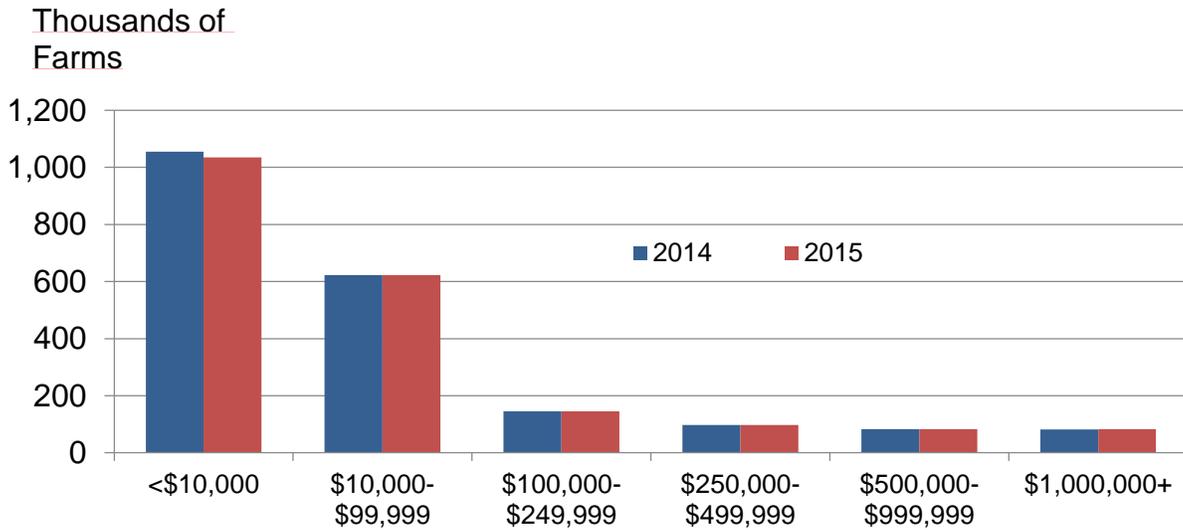
- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999: 9.6%
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999: 21.0%
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999: 14.3%
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999: 13.8%
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999: 17.1%
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more: 24.1%

The **average farm size** continued to increase in 2015 as the number of farms declined more than land in farms. The overall average size increased by 3 acres to 441 acres per farm. However, average farm sizes declined in all sales classes except \$100,000-\$249,000 and \$1,000,000 or more.

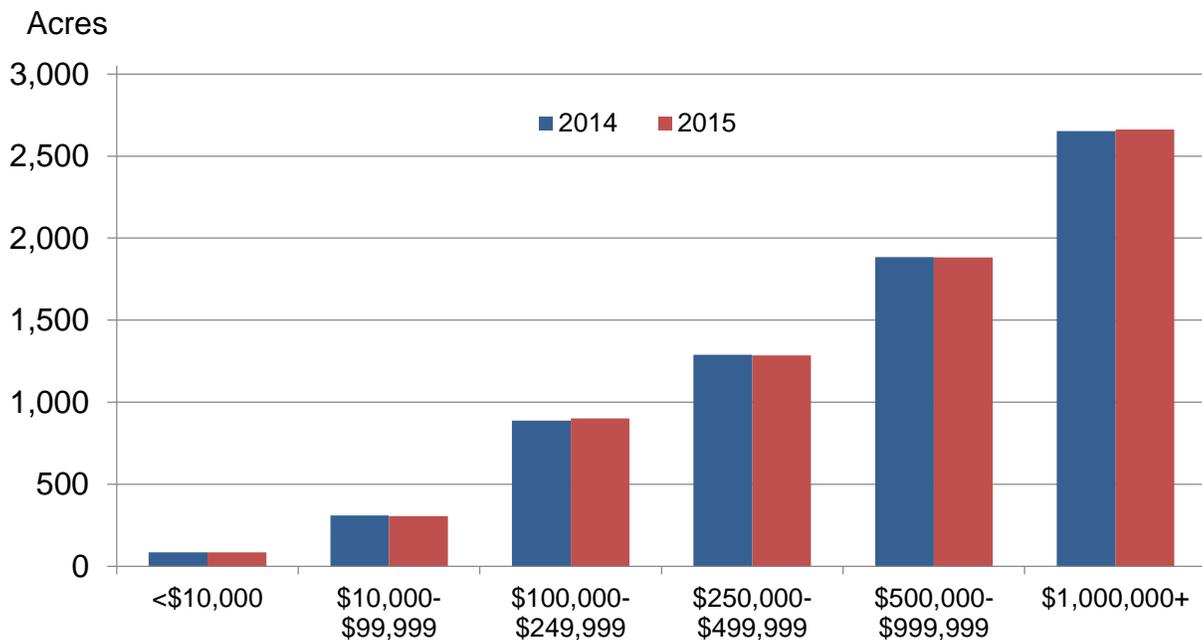
Average farm size by sales class are:

- Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999: 85 acres
- Sales Class \$10,000 - \$99,999: 307 acres
- Sales Class \$100,000 - \$249,999: 901 acres
- Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999: 1,285 acres
- Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999: 1,882 acres
- Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more: 2,662 acres

Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2014 and 2015

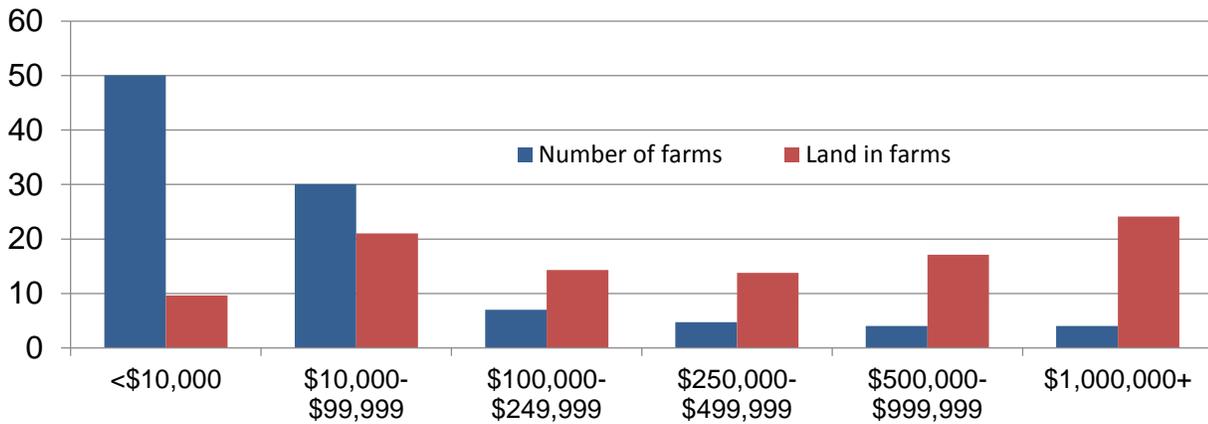


Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2014 and 2015



Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2015

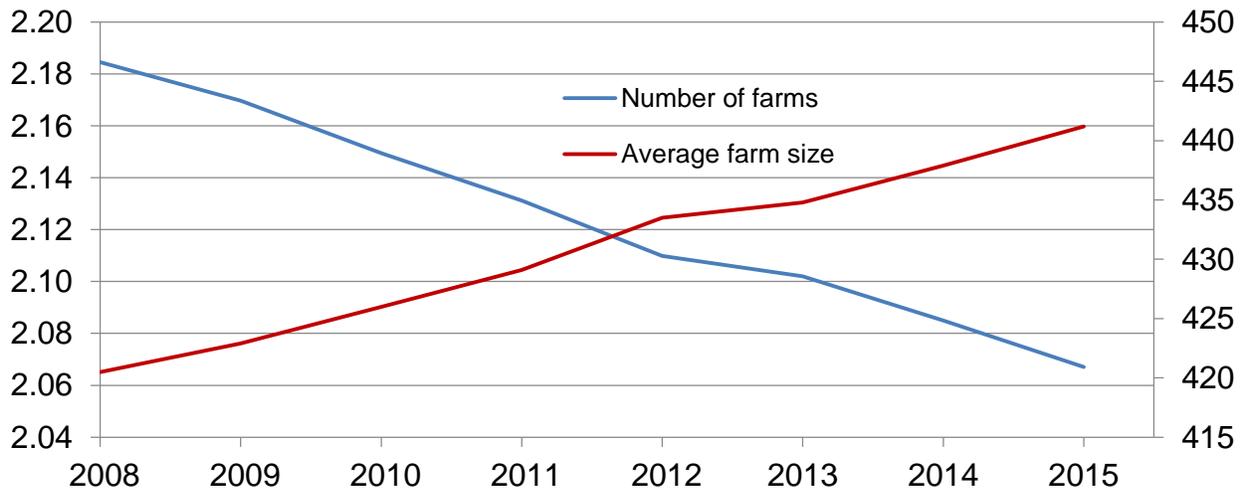
Percent of total



Number of Farms and Average Farm Size – United States: 2008-2015

Millions of farms

Average farm size



Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size – United States: 2008-2015

Year	Number of farms	Land in farms	Average farm size
	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)
2008	2,184,500	918,600	421
2009	2,169,660	917,590	423
2010	2,149,520	915,660	426
2011	2,131,240	914,420	429
2012	2,109,810	914,600	433
2013	2,102,010	914,030	435
2014	2,085,000	913,000	438
2015	2,067,000	912,000	441

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2014-2015

Economic sales class	Percent of total				Average farm size	
	Farms		Land in farms		2014	2015
	2014	2015	2014	2015		
(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	
\$ 1,000 - \$ 9,999	50.6	50.1	9.9	9.6	86	85
\$ 10,000 - \$ 99,999	29.9	30.1	21.2	21.0	311	307
\$100,000 - \$249,999	7.0	7.0	14.1	14.3	889	901
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.7	4.7	13.7	13.8	1,290	1,285
\$500,000 - \$999,999	4.0	4.0	17.1	17.1	1,884	1,882
\$1,000,000 or more	3.9	4.0	23.9	24.1	2,652	2,662
Total ¹	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	438	441

¹ May not add due to rounding.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size – States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2014 (number)	2015 (number)	2014 (1,000 acres)	2015 (1,000 acres)	2014 (acres)	2015 (acres)
Alabama	43,400	42,700	8,900	8,800	205	206
Alaska	760	750	830	830	1,092	1,107
Arizona	19,600	19,500	26,000	26,000	1,327	1,333
Arkansas	44,000	43,500	13,800	13,800	314	317
California	77,400	77,500	25,500	25,500	329	329
Colorado	35,000	34,200	31,800	31,700	909	927
Connecticut	6,000	6,000	440	440	73	73
Delaware	2,500	2,500	500	500	200	200
Florida	47,600	47,300	9,500	9,450	200	200
Georgia	41,100	40,500	9,400	9,300	229	230
Hawaii	7,000	7,000	1,120	1,120	160	160
Idaho	24,400	24,400	11,800	11,800	484	484
Illinois	74,500	73,600	26,900	26,900	361	365
Indiana	58,200	57,700	14,700	14,700	253	255
Iowa	88,000	87,500	30,500	30,500	347	349
Kansas	61,000	60,400	46,000	46,000	754	762
Kentucky	76,400	76,400	13,000	13,000	170	170
Louisiana	27,200	26,900	7,800	7,750	287	288
Maine	8,200	8,200	1,450	1,450	177	177
Maryland	12,300	12,200	2,030	2,020	165	166
Massachusetts	7,800	7,800	520	520	67	67
Michigan	51,600	51,500	9,950	9,950	193	193
Minnesota	74,000	73,600	25,900	25,900	350	352
Mississippi	37,100	36,700	10,900	10,800	294	294
Missouri	97,700	97,100	28,300	28,300	290	291
Montana	27,800	27,500	59,700	59,700	2,147	2,171
Nebraska	49,100	48,700	45,200	45,200	921	928
Nevada	4,200	4,200	5,950	5,960	1,417	1,419
New Hampshire	4,400	4,400	470	470	107	107
New Jersey	9,100	9,100	720	720	79	79
New Mexico	24,700	24,700	43,200	43,200	1,749	1,749
New York	35,500	35,500	7,180	7,200	202	203
North Carolina	49,500	48,800	8,400	8,300	170	170
North Dakota	30,300	30,000	39,300	39,200	1,297	1,307
Ohio	74,500	74,400	14,000	14,000	188	188
Oklahoma	79,600	78,000	34,300	34,200	431	438
Oregon	34,600	34,600	16,400	16,400	474	474
Pennsylvania	58,800	57,900	7,720	7,700	131	133
Rhode Island	1,240	1,250	70	70	56	56
South Carolina	24,400	24,400	5,000	5,000	205	205
South Dakota	31,700	31,300	43,300	43,300	1,366	1,383
Tennessee	67,300	67,300	10,900	10,900	162	162
Texas	245,500	242,000	130,000	130,000	530	537
Utah	18,100	18,100	11,000	11,000	608	608
Vermont	7,300	7,300	1,250	1,250	171	171
Virginia	45,900	44,700	8,200	8,100	179	181
Washington	36,700	36,000	14,700	14,700	401	408
West Virginia	21,300	20,900	3,600	3,600	169	172
Wisconsin	69,000	68,900	14,500	14,400	210	209
Wyoming	11,700	11,600	30,400	30,400	2,598	2,621
United States	2,085,000	2,067,000	913,000	912,000	438	441

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Economic sales class: \$1,000-\$9,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	25,600	24,700	2,750	2,650	107	107
Alaska	380	380	270	270	711	711
Arizona	14,900	14,700	800	700	54	48
Arkansas	22,000	21,700	1,650	1,650	75	76
California	30,300	30,500	1,400	1,500	46	49
Colorado	19,100	18,500	2,400	2,300	126	124
Connecticut	4,000	4,000	150	150	38	38
Delaware	870	870	20	20	23	23
Florida	27,400	27,100	1,260	1,240	46	46
Georgia	23,000	21,700	2,150	2,000	93	92
Hawaii	3,850	3,850	100	100	26	26
Idaho	12,200	12,200	800	800	66	66
Illinois	30,000	29,500	1,400	1,400	47	47
Indiana	27,900	27,500	1,000	960	36	35
Iowa	27,100	26,600	1,200	1,100	44	41
Kansas	22,800	22,000	2,500	2,400	110	109
Kentucky	42,700	42,000	3,000	2,800	70	67
Louisiana	16,600	16,200	1,300	1,180	78	73
Maine	5,000	5,000	480	480	96	96
Maryland	6,600	6,500	300	290	45	45
Massachusetts	5,000	5,000	210	210	42	42
Michigan	25,800	25,600	1,100	1,050	43	41
Minnesota	26,600	26,500	2,100	2,100	79	79
Mississippi	21,700	21,100	2,800	2,700	129	128
Missouri	45,500	44,200	3,900	3,700	86	84
Montana	11,900	11,600	2,900	2,800	244	241
Nebraska	13,000	12,500	900	800	69	64
Nevada	2,300	2,300	150	150	65	65
New Hampshire	3,100	3,100	240	240	77	77
New Jersey	5,600	5,600	160	160	29	29
New Mexico	16,200	16,200	4,200	4,200	259	259
New York	16,700	16,700	1,400	1,450	84	87
North Carolina	28,000	27,500	1,500	1,400	54	51
North Dakota	9,300	9,000	1,600	1,500	172	167
Ohio	33,200	33,300	1,650	1,600	50	48
Oklahoma	42,500	41,100	5,150	5,100	121	124
Oregon	21,000	21,000	1,500	1,500	71	71
Pennsylvania	26,700	26,100	1,800	1,800	67	69
Rhode Island	710	720	20	20	28	28
South Carolina	16,700	16,800	1,700	1,800	102	107
South Dakota	8,300	8,500	1,200	1,200	145	141
Tennessee	43,400	42,400	3,050	2,950	70	70
Texas	156,000	151,000	18,200	17,200	117	114
Utah	10,600	10,600	650	650	61	61
Vermont	4,050	4,050	340	340	84	84
Virginia	26,300	25,600	1,850	1,800	70	70
Washington	22,200	21,500	1,000	1,020	45	47
West Virginia	15,100	14,600	1,600	1,600	106	110
Wisconsin	30,500	30,500	2,000	1,950	66	64
Wyoming	4,900	5,000	1,000	900	204	180
United States	1,055,160	1,035,170	90,800	87,880	86	85

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Economic sales class: \$10,000-\$99,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	12,700	13,100	3,300	3,300	260	252
Alaska	290	280	450	450	1,552	1,607
Arizona	3,200	3,350	8,200	8,200	2,563	2,448
Arkansas	14,000	14,100	3,600	3,600	257	255
California	26,500	26,400	4,300	4,200	162	159
Colorado	10,200	10,000	7,200	7,000	706	700
Connecticut	1,550	1,550	110	110	71	71
Delaware	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	14,700	14,600	1,900	1,900	129	130
Georgia	10,500	11,000	2,200	2,200	210	200
Hawaii	2,600	2,600	260	260	100	100
Idaho	7,000	7,000	2,050	2,050	293	293
Illinois	18,700	18,300	2,700	2,700	144	148
Indiana	15,300	15,500	1,800	1,830	118	118
Iowa	23,600	23,600	3,100	3,100	131	131
Kansas	21,500	21,500	8,000	8,000	372	372
Kentucky	26,900	27,400	4,700	4,700	175	172
Louisiana	7,300	7,300	1,800	1,800	247	247
Maine	2,400	2,400	400	400	167	167
Maryland	3,500	3,500	400	400	114	114
Massachusetts	2,000	2,000	140	140	70	70
Michigan	14,800	14,700	1,700	1,650	115	112
Minnesota	21,900	21,900	3,700	3,700	169	169
Mississippi	10,600	10,800	2,950	2,900	278	269
Missouri	38,200	38,300	9,000	8,700	236	227
Montana	8,000	7,800	9,100	8,800	1,138	1,128
Nebraska	13,900	13,900	5,000	4,800	360	345
Nevada	900	850	330	280	367	329
New Hampshire	1,050	1,050	150	150	143	143
New Jersey	2,350	2,350	160	160	68	68
New Mexico	6,200	6,200	11,500	11,300	1,855	1,823
New York	11,600	11,600	1,780	1,800	153	155
North Carolina	12,800	12,800	1,500	1,500	117	117
North Dakota	6,600	6,200	3,000	2,600	455	419
Ohio	25,300	25,300	2,650	2,650	105	105
Oklahoma	28,300	28,000	11,500	11,300	406	404
Oregon	9,100	9,100	2,860	2,860	314	314
Pennsylvania	19,900	19,400	2,300	2,300	116	119
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	5,600	5,500	1,350	1,300	241	236
South Dakota	9,700	9,400	5,100	4,900	526	521
Tennessee	19,500	20,200	3,700	3,700	190	183
Texas	70,000	71,000	41,700	41,700	596	587
Utah	5,500	5,500	1,900	1,900	345	345
Vermont	2,100	2,100	320	320	152	152
Virginia	14,700	14,100	2,900	2,800	197	199
Washington	8,400	8,400	1,900	1,900	226	226
West Virginia	5,300	5,400	1,400	1,400	264	259
Wisconsin	21,000	21,000	2,900	2,900	138	138
Wyoming	3,900	3,700	4,800	4,800	1,231	1,297
Other States ¹	1,010	1,010	60	60	(NA)	(NA)
United States	622,650	623,040	193,820	191,470	311	307

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Economic sales class: \$100,000-\$249,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	1,050	1,100	700	750	667	682
Alaska	50	50	70	70	1,400	1,400
Arizona	610	590	11,200	11,200	18,361	18,983
Arkansas	1,700	1,600	1,050	1,000	618	625
California	6,300	6,100	3,800	3,700	603	607
Colorado	2,500	2,600	5,100	5,400	2,040	2,077
Connecticut	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	2,200	2,300	940	940	427	409
Georgia	1,400	1,300	630	600	450	462
Hawaii	280	280	160	160	571	571
Idaho	1,900	1,900	1,650	1,650	868	868
Illinois	8,700	8,500	3,000	2,900	345	341
Indiana	5,400	5,300	1,560	1,580	289	298
Iowa	10,400	10,400	3,000	3,000	288	288
Kansas	6,600	6,500	7,300	7,200	1,106	1,108
Kentucky	3,100	3,300	1,200	1,200	387	364
Louisiana	710	850	450	520	634	612
Maine	340	340	100	100	294	294
Maryland	600	600	230	230	383	383
Massachusetts	380	380	50	50	132	132
Michigan	4,200	4,100	1,050	1,050	250	256
Minnesota	8,600	8,500	2,500	2,500	291	294
Mississippi	900	1,000	550	600	611	600
Missouri	6,700	7,400	4,100	4,400	612	595
Montana	3,100	3,100	9,800	9,700	3,161	3,129
Nebraska	7,400	7,300	5,900	5,900	797	808
Nevada	270	270	610	600	2,259	2,222
New Hampshire	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Jersey	450	450	80	80	178	178
New Mexico	1,100	1,050	7,400	7,600	6,727	7,238
New York	3,500	3,300	900	850	257	258
North Carolina	2,000	1,800	600	600	300	333
North Dakota	3,500	3,600	3,900	3,800	1,114	1,056
Ohio	7,200	7,100	1,900	1,950	264	275
Oklahoma	4,400	4,450	5,700	5,750	1,295	1,292
Oregon	1,700	1,700	2,900	2,900	1,706	1,706
Pennsylvania	5,500	5,600	1,050	1,050	191	188
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	600	600	270	270	450	450
South Dakota	4,400	4,200	5,500	5,300	1,250	1,262
Tennessee	1,750	2,000	750	800	429	400
Texas	8,400	8,700	20,200	21,600	2,405	2,483
Utah	900	900	1,400	1,400	1,556	1,556
Vermont	490	490	140	140	286	286
Virginia	1,850	1,950	950	1,000	514	513
Washington	2,200	2,150	1,600	1,550	727	721
West Virginia	400	400	240	240	600	600
Wisconsin	7,400	7,300	1,950	1,900	264	260
Wyoming	1,300	1,300	4,700	4,900	3,615	3,769
Other States ¹	530	530	100	100	(NA)	(NA)
United States	144,960	145,230	128,930	130,780	889	901

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Economic sales class: \$250,000-\$499,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	950	900	500	450	526	500
Alaska	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arizona	240	230	2,500	2,600	10,417	11,304
Arkansas	1,100	1,200	600	650	545	542
California	4,500	4,600	2,500	2,500	556	543
Colorado	1,400	1,300	5,500	5,800	3,929	4,462
Connecticut	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	1,250	1,250	950	970	760	776
Georgia	900	1,200	470	500	522	417
Hawaii	120	120	60	60	500	500
Idaho	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,077	1,077
Illinois	7,100	7,300	4,400	4,500	620	616
Indiana	4,000	3,900	2,100	2,100	525	538
Iowa	9,600	9,700	5,000	5,100	521	526
Kansas	4,300	4,200	7,600	7,400	1,767	1,762
Kentucky	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000	667	667
Louisiana	540	550	450	450	833	818
Maine	220	220	110	110	500	500
Maryland	650	650	250	250	385	385
Massachusetts	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Michigan	2,700	2,900	1,200	1,250	444	431
Minnesota	6,400	6,300	3,300	3,300	516	524
Mississippi	800	800	500	500	625	625
Missouri	3,200	3,000	3,500	3,400	1,094	1,133
Montana	2,400	2,500	12,200	12,200	5,083	4,880
Nebraska	5,100	5,300	7,300	7,500	1,431	1,415
Nevada	420	440	960	980	2,286	2,227
New Hampshire	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Jersey	270	270	90	90	333	333
New Mexico	550	550	6,300	6,300	11,455	11,455
New York	1,700	1,800	800	800	471	444
North Carolina	1,500	1,500	700	700	467	467
North Dakota	2,900	3,000	5,000	5,100	1,724	1,700
Ohio	3,850	3,800	1,900	1,900	494	500
Oklahoma	2,050	2,050	4,550	4,550	2,220	2,220
Oregon	1,000	1,000	2,290	2,290	2,290	2,290
Pennsylvania	3,550	3,600	950	950	268	264
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	300	300	230	230	767	767
South Dakota	3,500	3,300	7,200	7,200	2,057	2,182
Tennessee	950	950	700	700	737	737
Texas	4,500	4,600	16,700	16,700	3,711	3,630
Utah	600	600	1,550	1,550	2,583	2,583
Vermont	350	350	150	150	429	429
Virginia	1,200	1,200	700	700	583	583
Washington	1,250	1,250	2,250	2,250	1,800	1,800
West Virginia	150	150	110	110	733	733
Wisconsin	4,900	4,900	2,050	2,050	418	418
Wyoming	850	850	6,600	6,400	7,765	7,529
Other States ¹	560	560	150	150	(NA)	(NA)
United States	97,170	97,940	125,320	125,840	1,290	1,285

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Economic sales class: \$500,000-\$999,999					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	1,650	1,500	500	500	303	333
Alaska	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arizona	300	300	400	400	1,333	1,333
Arkansas	1,500	1,500	1,200	1,300	800	867
California	3,300	3,200	2,600	2,600	788	813
Colorado	850	900	5,600	5,400	6,588	6,000
Connecticut	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware	370	370	100	100	270	270
Florida	820	820	650	650	793	793
Georgia	2,900	3,000	1,630	1,680	562	560
Hawaii	70	70	240	240	3,429	3,429
Idaho	800	800	1,900	1,900	2,375	2,375
Illinois	5,500	5,500	6,300	6,300	1,145	1,145
Indiana	3,000	3,000	2,840	2,880	947	960
Iowa	10,000	9,900	8,700	8,700	870	879
Kansas	3,000	3,000	9,600	9,600	3,200	3,200
Kentucky	1,100	1,100	1,240	1,340	1,127	1,218
Louisiana	950	900	1,000	1,000	1,053	1,111
Maine	110	110	90	90	818	818
Maryland	400	400	270	250	675	625
Massachusetts	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Michigan	2,250	2,350	1,800	1,800	800	766
Minnesota	5,300	5,100	4,800	4,800	906	941
Mississippi	1,200	1,100	1,000	950	833	864
Missouri	2,200	2,300	3,700	4,000	1,682	1,739
Montana	1,450	1,500	13,500	13,600	9,310	9,067
Nebraska	4,900	4,900	9,800	9,800	2,000	2,000
Nevada	170	180	1,000	1,050	5,882	5,833
New Hampshire	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Jersey	210	210	80	80	381	381
New Mexico	320	370	8,100	8,100	25,313	21,892
New York	1,000	1,000	650	650	650	650
North Carolina	1,600	1,600	950	950	594	594
North Dakota	4,600	4,700	10,600	10,800	2,304	2,298
Ohio	2,850	2,850	2,400	2,400	842	842
Oklahoma	1,350	1,350	4,000	4,000	2,963	2,963
Oregon	850	850	2,650	2,650	3,118	3,118
Pennsylvania	1,900	1,950	770	750	405	385
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	400	400	450	450	1,125	1,125
South Dakota	3,300	3,500	11,200	11,300	3,394	3,229
Tennessee	800	850	850	850	1,063	1,000
Texas	3,250	3,400	15,500	15,100	4,769	4,441
Utah	220	240	4,500	4,500	20,455	18,750
Vermont	150	160	90	90	600	563
Virginia	1,050	1,050	830	830	790	790
Washington	1,050	1,050	2,950	2,930	2,810	2,790
West Virginia	170	170	110	110	647	647
Wisconsin	2,900	2,850	2,050	2,050	707	719
Wyoming	500	500	6,800	6,800	13,600	13,600
Other States ¹	260	260	80	80	(NA)	(NA)
United States	82,820	83,110	156,070	156,400	1,884	1,882

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Economic sales class: \$1,000,000 or more					
	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average farm size	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(number)	(number)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	1,450	1,400	1,150	1,150	793	821
Alaska	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arizona	350	330	2,900	2,900	8,286	8,788
Arkansas	3,700	3,400	5,700	5,600	1,541	1,647
California	6,500	6,700	10,900	11,000	1,677	1,642
Colorado	950	900	6,000	5,800	6,316	6,444
Connecticut	90	90	100	100	1,111	1,111
Delaware	380	380	270	270	711	711
Florida	1,230	1,230	3,800	3,750	3,089	3,049
Georgia	2,400	2,300	2,320	2,320	967	1,009
Hawaii	80	80	300	300	3,750	3,750
Idaho	1,200	1,200	4,000	4,000	3,333	3,333
Illinois	4,500	4,500	9,100	9,100	2,022	2,022
Indiana	2,600	2,500	5,400	5,350	2,077	2,140
Iowa	7,300	7,300	9,500	9,500	1,301	1,301
Kansas	2,800	3,200	11,000	11,400	3,929	3,563
Kentucky	1,100	1,100	1,860	1,960	1,691	1,782
Louisiana	1,100	1,100	2,800	2,800	2,545	2,545
Maine	130	130	270	270	2,077	2,077
Maryland	550	550	580	600	1,055	1,091
Massachusetts	80	80	50	50	625	625
Michigan	1,850	1,850	3,100	3,150	1,676	1,703
Minnesota	5,200	5,300	9,500	9,500	1,827	1,792
Mississippi	1,900	1,900	3,100	3,150	1,632	1,658
Missouri	1,900	1,900	4,100	4,100	2,158	2,158
Montana	950	1,000	12,200	12,600	12,842	12,600
Nebraska	4,800	4,800	16,300	16,400	3,396	3,417
Nevada	140	160	2,900	2,900	20,714	18,125
New Hampshire	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Jersey	220	220	150	150	682	682
New Mexico	330	330	5,700	5,700	17,273	17,273
New York	1,000	1,100	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,500
North Carolina	3,600	3,600	3,150	3,150	875	875
North Dakota	3,400	3,500	15,200	15,400	4,471	4,400
Ohio	2,100	2,050	3,500	3,500	1,667	1,707
Oklahoma	1,000	1,050	3,400	3,500	3,400	3,333
Oregon	950	950	4,200	4,200	4,421	4,421
Pennsylvania	1,250	1,250	850	850	680	680
Rhode Island	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Carolina	800	800	1,000	950	1,250	1,188
South Dakota	2,500	2,400	13,100	13,400	5,240	5,583
Tennessee	900	900	1,850	1,900	2,056	2,111
Texas	3,350	3,300	17,700	17,700	5,284	5,364
Utah	280	260	1,000	1,000	3,571	3,846
Vermont	160	150	210	210	1,313	1,400
Virginia	800	800	970	970	1,213	1,213
Washington	1,600	1,650	5,000	5,050	3,125	3,061
West Virginia	180	180	140	140	778	778
Wisconsin	2,300	2,350	3,550	3,550	1,543	1,511
Wyoming	250	250	6,500	6,600	26,000	26,400
Other States ¹	40	40	40	40	(NA)	(NA)
United States	82,240	82,510	218,060	219,630	2,652	2,662

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes data withheld above.

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 except Alaska. A sample of segments is selected in each State except Alaska and Hawaii 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 summaries 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. In 2015, the relative sampling error for the United States number of farms is 1.6 percent and land in farms is 3.0 percent. The sampling error for total number of farms and total land in farms is less than the sampling error for each component of the total, such as number of farms by economic sales class. Relative sampling errors by economic sales class generally ranged from 2.1 to 3.9 percent for number of farms and 3.0 to 10.1 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), and other government conservation 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 CRP, WRP, and other government conservation 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.

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.1030 for 2008-2012, 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.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in 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.

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Daryl Brinkman – Prices Received, Prices Received Indexes, Parity Prices	(202) 720-8844
Courtney Charles – Prices Paid, Prices Paid Indexes	(202) 690-3229
Kuan Chen – Prices, Prices Research.....	(202) 690-3347
Liana Cuffman – Farm Expenditures Processing	(202) 720-2250
Greg Gholson – Prices Paid, Prices Paid Indexes Indexes	(202) 690-1348
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Joe Hagedorn – Cash Rents, Grazing Fees.....	(202) 690-3231
Ben Johnson –Economics and Demographics Processing.....	(202) 690-3225
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