

# NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS



United States, 1961-72  
By States, 1970-72

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## Trend to Fewer and Larger Farms Continues

The Nation had an estimated 2,876,000 operating farms during 1971, 2 percent less than in 1970. The preliminary estimate for 1972 indicates 2,831,000 farms will be in operation. This reduction would be similar to the percentage declines of the past few years.

Total land in farms, estimated at about 1,117 million acres for 1971, continues a steady decline but at a much slower rate than for farm numbers. For 1972, the preliminary estimate of land in farms is 1,114 million acres.

The past decade saw a 25-percent decline in number of farms while only a 4-percent drop was recorded in land in farms. These changes are associated with a 27-percent increase in the average size of farms. The continued disappearance of small farms along with mergers into larger, more efficient operations contributed most to the change in farm numbers. Urbanization and highway construction were the major causes of decline in land in farms.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms, U. S. 1961-72

Year	Farms	Land in farms	Average size of farms
	Thousands	Thousand acres	Acres
1961	3,821	1,169,899	306
1962	3,685	1,161,383	315
1963	3,561	1,153,072	324
1964	3,442	1,146,806	333
1965	3,340	1,141,536	342
1966	3,239	1,137,161	351
1967	3,146	1,131,982	360
1968	3,054	1,127,567	369
1969	2,971	1,123,984	378
1970	2,924	1,120,725	383
1971	2,876	1,117,401	389
1972 1/	2,831	1,114,198	394

1/ Preliminary.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms, by States, 1970-72

State	Farms			Land in Farms		
	1970	1971	1972 1/	1970	1971	1972 1/
	Number			1,000 acres		
Maine	10,000	9,700	9,400	2,350	2,300	2,250
N. H.	3,600	3,500	3,400	730	720	710
Vt.	7,200	7,000	6,800	2,220	2,200	2,150
Mass.	6,300	6,100	5,900	730	710	690
R. I.	900	900	800	90	86	83
Conn.	4,700	4,500	4,300	600	580	560
N. Y.	58,000	57,000	56,000	11,700	11,500	11,400
N. J.	8,600	8,500	8,400	1,010	1,000	990
Pa.	74,000	73,000	71,000	10,600	10,550	10,450
Ohio	112,000	111,000	110,000	17,400	17,300	17,300
Ind.	98,000	98,000	98,000	17,600	17,600	17,600
Ill.	126,000	124,000	123,000	29,500	29,300	29,200
Mich.	86,000	84,000	83,000	13,100	13,000	12,900
Wis.	112,000	110,000	108,000	20,400	20,200	20,000
Minn.	125,000	122,000	119,000	32,100	32,000	31,800
Iowa	141,000	139,000	137,000	34,400	34,400	34,400
Mo.	143,000	141,000	139,000	33,200	33,000	32,900
N. Dak.	42,000	41,500	41,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
S. Dak.	46,500	45,500	44,500	45,500	45,500	45,500
Nebr.	73,000	72,000	71,000	48,100	48,100	48,100
Kans.	87,000	86,000	85,000	50,000	49,900	49,900
Del.	3,700	3,600	3,600	700	690	690
Md.	18,300	18,000	17,500	3,220	3,190	3,150
Va.	72,000	70,000	69,000	11,500	11,400	11,300
W. Va.	29,000	28,000	27,000	5,100	5,000	4,900
N. C.	158,000	154,000	151,000	16,000	15,900	15,800
S. C.	52,000	51,000	49,000	8,300	8,200	7,900
Ga.	77,000	76,000	75,000	17,300	17,000	16,800
Fla.	34,000	34,000	34,000	16,200	16,200	16,200
Ky.	123,000	122,000	121,000	16,800	16,800	16,700
Tenn.	127,000	125,000	123,000	15,500	15,400	15,300
Ala.	86,000	83,000	81,000	14,700	14,500	14,300
Miss.	95,000	93,000	91,000	17,500	17,400	17,300
Ark.	74,000	74,000	74,000	17,900	17,900	18,100
La.	53,000	53,000	51,000	12,200	12,200	12,200
Okla.	91,000	90,000	89,000	37,100	37,100	37,100
Texas	188,000	185,000	184,000	145,000	145,000	144,800
Mont.	26,400	25,800	25,400	67,100	67,000	66,900
Idaho	28,500	28,200	27,900	15,500	15,500	15,500
Wyo.	8,400	8,200	8,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
Colo.	30,500	30,000	29,500	39,000	39,000	39,000
N. Mex.	13,600	13,200	12,900	48,200	48,000	47,900
Ariz.	5,900	5,800	5,700	43,300	43,200	43,100
Utah	14,500	14,000	13,500	13,300	13,200	13,000
Nev.	2,100	2,000	2,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Wash.	45,500	45,000	44,000	18,100	18,000	17,900
Oreg.	40,000	38,500	37,500	20,900	20,900	20,900
Calif.	58,000	57,000	56,000	36,800	36,600	36,400
48 States:	2,919,200	2,871,500	2,827,000	1,116,550	1,113,226	1,110,023
Alaska 2/ :	310	310	310	1,835	1,835	1,835
Hawaii :	4,500	4,300	4,100	2,340	2,340	2,340
U. S. :	2,924,010	2,876,110	2,831,410	1,120,725	1,117,401	1,114,198

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Exclusive of grazing land leased from U. S. Government, Alaska farmland totals about 70,000 acres.