

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

United States 1959-68  
By States 1959-68

January 10, 1968

TREND CONTINUES TOWARD FEWER AND LARGER FARMS

Farms operating in the Nation during 1967 are estimated at 3,146 thousand, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is a 3 percent decline from the previous year. Total land in farms, at about 1,132 million acres, continued to decrease, but at a much slower pace than the number of farms.

The number of farms expected to be in operation during 1968 is estimated at 3,059 thousand. The reduction in total land in farms also continues at about the same rate with a preliminary estimate of about 1,129 million acres for 1968. Preliminary estimates by States of number of farms and land in farms for 1968 are shown on pages 5 and 7, respectively.

Since 1959, the number of farms has declined a fourth. During the same period, the land in farms has decreased only 5 percent. These changes are associated with an increase in the average size of farms from 288 acres in 1959 to 369 acres in 1968 -- a 28 percent increase. Discontinuance of small farming enterprises and merging of larger units with existing farms continue as the important influences in the change in farm numbers.

This report includes data for Alaska and Hawaii in national totals for all years presented. State data for farm numbers for 48 States, 1910-1959 and land in farms, 1950-1959, are published in Statistical Bulletin No. 316, June 1962.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms, U. S. 1959-68

Year	Farms (Thousands)	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	Average size of Farm (Acres)
1959	4,105	1,182,563	288
1960 <u>1/</u>	3,962	1,176,946	297
1961 <u>1/</u>	3,821	1,169,899	306
1962 <u>1/</u>	3,685	1,161,383	315
1963 <u>1/</u>	3,561	1,153,072	324
1964 <u>1/</u>	3,442	1,146,806	333
1965 <u>1/</u>	3,340	1,141,536	342
1966 <u>1/</u>	3,239	1,137,161	351
1967 <u>1/</u>	3,146	<del>1,132,082</del> <sup>1,131,982</sup>	360
1968 <u>2/</u>	3,059	1,128,567	369

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary.

## Basis for Estimates of Number of Farms

The estimates of the number of farms by years published by the Crop Reporting Board are benchmarked on the quinquennial Census of Agriculture with adjustments for incompleteness. The annual estimates between Census years are based upon expansions and projections from the Statistical Reporting Service enumerative and mailed surveys, data from State farm censuses in a limited number of States, indications derived from other inquiries, and extension of trends.

Post-Census analysis by the Bureau of the Census indicated that the count of the number of farms was short by about 8 percent in 1959. No publication of under-enumeration has yet been made for the 1964 Census, but the SRS estimates assume incompleteness to be less than for the previous Census.

Annual State farm censuses supply data on numbers of farms in 12 States, 10 of which are in the North Central Region. Changes shown by these surveys are the principal basis for the annual estimates in these States. Some of these annual censuses may be less inclusive than the U. S. Census with respect to farms that are marginal either in size or in sales of farm products. Annual appraisals of the data are made for each State.

The annual enumerative surveys provide indications of the number of farms in operation at the time the surveys are conducted. Beginning with small samples in 1957, these surveys have been expanded to the 48 State operational level of 1967. In 1963 the number of area segments enumerated in 28 States was about 10,500 with a national total of 12,350. In 1965 the sample represented 48 States with a total of 15,785 segments, 14,485 in 39 States. The national total of 16,430 segments in 1967 represents 48 States on an operational basis. Variability in the enumerative data is, of course, greater for individual States than for all States combined; and the data are necessarily interpreted with regard to sample size, consistency, procedural changes, and trends in individual States, as well as geographic regions.

In addition to data from the Census and enumerative surveys, various collateral data aid in estimating the direction and extent of change in number of farms. The regular mail surveys conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in estimating crop and livestock numbers provide comparisons of size of reporting farms. In some States, data are available on the number of farms selling milk, or the number of producers of other commodities produced commercially.

Estimates of land in farms represent the places defined as farms in the number of farms estimate. As in the Census of Agriculture, these estimates of farm land exclude Government owned land grazed on a permit or fee basis but include land leased from the Government for grazing purposes. In Alaska, only about 70,000 of the total acreage is actual farm land under private ownership, averaging about 200 acres per farm.

Estimates of number of farms and land in farms for 1968 are to a large extent based on extension of previous trends. They are published by States on a preliminary basis and are subject to revision as results of enumerative surveys, State farm censuses, and the U. S. Federal Census of 1969 become available. With each Federal Census, the annual estimates published by the Crop Reporting Board are revised to bring the series in line with the results of the Census, with adjustments for under-enumeration.

Number of Farms, by States, 1959-68

State and division	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Maine	20,000	18,900	17,900	16,700	15,600
N. H.	7,500	7,000	6,500	6,000	5,600
Vt.	14,000	13,200	12,300	11,600	10,900
Mass.	14,000	13,000	12,000	11,100	10,200
R. I.	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,300
Conn.	10,000	9,400	8,800	8,200	7,600
N. Eng.	67,200	63,100	59,000	55,000	51,200
N. Y.	92,000	88,000	84,000	80,000	77,000
N. J.	17,000	15,800	15,200	14,600	13,300
Pa.	110,000	106,000	101,000	96,000	92,000
M. Atl.	219,000	209,800	200,200	190,500	182,300
Ohio	154,000	149,000	144,000	139,000	135,000
Ind.	138,000	134,000	130,000	126,000	121,000
Ill.	164,000	159,000	155,000	151,000	148,000
Mich.	123,000	118,000	114,000	110,000	106,000
Wis.	142,000	138,000	136,000	133,000	130,000
E. N. Cent.	721,000	698,000	679,000	659,000	640,000
Minn.	160,000	156,000	154,000	152,000	149,000
Iowa	187,000	183,000	178,000	172,000	167,000
Mo.	184,000	180,000	175,000	170,000	165,000
N. Dak.	57,000	56,000	55,000	53,000	51,500
S. Dak.	59,600	58,400	57,300	56,200	55,100
Nebr.	94,000	93,000	90,000	88,000	86,000
Kans.	113,000	110,000	107,000	105,000	103,000
W. N. Cent.	854,500	836,400	816,300	796,200	776,500
Del.	5,700	5,500	5,400	5,200	5,000
Md.	28,000	27,100	26,100	25,100	24,100
Va.	109,000	105,000	100,000	96,000	92,000
W. Va.	50,000	47,000	44,000	42,000	40,000
N. C.	220,000	212,000	205,000	197,000	189,000
S. C.	91,000	86,000	81,000	77,000	72,000
Ga.	121,000	112,000	105,000	98,000	92,000
Fla.	51,000	50,000	48,000	47,000	45,000
S. Atl.	675,700	644,700	614,500	587,300	559,100
Ky.	167,000	161,000	155,000	150,000	147,000
Tenn.	175,000	169,000	163,000	157,000	152,000
Ala.	129,000	122,000	115,000	109,000	105,000
Miss.	154,000	144,000	134,000	125,000	119,000
E. S. Cent.	625,000	596,000	567,000	541,000	523,000
Ark.	107,000	103,000	99,000	96,000	93,000
La.	83,000	80,000	77,000	74,000	71,000
Okla.	107,000	103,000	101,000	99,000	97,000
Texas	252,000	246,000	238,000	230,000	222,000
W. S. Cent.	549,000	532,000	515,000	499,000	483,000
Mont.	32,400	31,700	30,800	30,100	29,500
Idaho	37,500	36,300	35,000	34,000	33,000
Wyo.	10,800	10,500	10,200	9,900	9,700
Colo.	38,000	37,000	36,000	35,000	34,000
N. Mex.	19,000	18,200	17,400	16,700	16,100
Ariz.	8,500	8,200	7,900	7,600	7,300
Utah	19,800	19,000	18,500	18,000	17,500
Nev.	2,700	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,300
Mount.	168,800	163,500	158,300	153,700	149,400
Wash.	57,000	56,000	55,000	54,000	53,000
Oreg.	48,000	47,000	46,500	45,500	45,000
Calif.	112,000	108,000	104,000	98,000	93,000
Pac.	217,000	211,000	205,500	197,500	191,000
48 States	4,097,300	3,954,500	3,814,800	3,679,300	3,555,600
Alaska	420	420	410	410	400
Hawaii	6,800	6,600	6,200	5,700	5,200
U. S.	4,104,520	3,961,520	3,821,410	3,685,410	3,561,200

Number of Farms, by States, 1959-68—Continued

State and division	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968 <sup>1/</sup>
Maine	14,600	13,600	12,700	11,800	11,000
N. H.	5,200	4,800	4,500	4,200	3,900
Vt.	10,300	9,700	9,100	8,600	8,100
Mass.	9,400	8,700	8,100	7,500	7,000
R. I.	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,000
Conn.	7,100	6,600	6,100	5,700	5,300
N. Eng.	47,900	44,500	41,500	38,900	36,300
N. Y.	74,000	71,000	68,000	64,000	61,000
N. J.	12,000	11,000	10,000	9,500	9,100
Pa.	88,000	85,000	82,000	80,000	77,000
M. Atl.	174,000	167,000	160,000	153,500	147,100
Ohio	131,000	127,000	122,000	118,000	114,000
Ind.	117,000	113,000	109,000	105,000	101,000
Ill.	144,000	140,000	136,000	133,000	131,000
Mich.	102,000	98,000	95,000	92,000	89,000
Wis.	127,000	124,000	121,000	118,000	116,000
E. N. Cent.	621,000	602,000	583,000	568,000	551,000
Minn.	146,000	143,000	139,000	135,000	131,000
Iowa	162,000	157,000	153,000	150,000	147,000
Mo.	162,000	158,000	155,000	152,000	150,000
N. Dak.	50,500	49,000	48,000	47,000	45,000
S. Dak.	53,500	52,000	51,000	50,000	48,500
Nebr.	84,000	82,000	80,000	78,000	76,000
Kans.	100,000	98,000	95,000	93,000	91,000
W. N. Cent.	758,000	739,000	721,000	705,000	688,500
Del.	4,800	4,600	4,400	4,100	3,900
Md.	23,000	22,100	21,300	20,400	19,500
Va.	88,000	85,000	81,000	78,000	75,000
W. Va.	38,000	37,000	35,000	33,000	31,000
N. C.	180,000	175,000	170,000	168,000	165,000
S. C.	67,000	65,000	62,000	58,000	55,000
Ga.	88,000	86,000	84,000	82,000	80,000
Fla.	43,000	41,000	39,000	37,000	35,000
S. Atl.	531,800	515,700	496,700	480,500	464,400
Ky.	144,000	142,000	140,000	138,000	136,000
Tenn.	147,000	142,000	138,000	135,000	132,000
Ala.	102,000	100,000	98,000	96,000	94,000
Miss.	114,000	109,000	104,000	101,000	99,000
E. S. Cent.	507,000	493,000	480,000	470,000	461,000
Ark.	89,000	86,000	83,000	80,000	77,000
La.	68,000	65,000	62,000	59,000	56,000
Okla.	96,000	95,000	94,000	93,000	92,000
Texas	215,000	210,000	205,000	200,000	195,000
W. S. Cent.	468,000	456,000	444,000	432,000	420,000
Mont.	28,900	28,400	28,000	27,600	27,100
Idaho	32,100	31,200	30,700	30,000	29,400
Wyo.	9,400	9,200	9,100	9,000	8,900
Colo.	33,000	32,500	32,000	31,500	31,000
N. Mex.	15,400	14,900	14,600	14,300	14,200
Ariz.	7,000	6,800	6,500	6,300	6,100
Utah	16,900	16,500	16,000	15,500	15,000
Nev.	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,100
Mount.	145,000	141,700	139,100	136,400	133,800
Wash.	51,000	50,000	49,000	47,000	46,000
Oreg.	44,500	43,500	43,000	42,000	41,500
Calif.	88,000	82,000	76,000	70,000	64,000
Pac.	183,500	175,500	168,000	159,000	151,500
48 States	3,436,200	3,334,500	3,233,400	3,141,300	3,053,600
Alaska	390	370	340	320	310
Hawaii	5,100	5,000	4,900	4,800	4,700
U. S.	3,441,690	3,339,870	3,238,640	3,146,420	3,058,610

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary

Estimates of Land in Farms, by States, 1959-68

State and division	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
	1,000 acres				
Maine	9,500	3,350	3,200	3,100	3,000
N. H.	1,300	1,240	1,180	1,120	1,060
Vt.	3,270	3,150	3,050	2,950	2,850
Mass.	1,300	1,240	1,180	1,120	1,060
R. I.	148	141	134	128	122
Conn.	1,140	1,080	1,020	960	900
M. Eng.	10,658	10,201	9,764	9,378	8,992
N. Y.	14,500	14,300	14,000	13,700	13,400
N. J.	1,500	1,460	1,440	1,410	1,370
Pa.	12,500	12,300	12,100	11,900	11,700
M. Atl.	28,500	28,060	27,540	27,010	26,470
Ohio	19,400	19,200	19,000	18,800	18,600
Ind.	19,400	19,400	19,200	19,000	18,700
Ill.	30,900	30,700	30,600	30,500	30,400
Mich.	15,700	15,400	15,100	14,800	14,600
Wis.	22,400	22,200	22,100	22,000	21,800
E. N. Cent.	107,800	106,900	106,000	105,100	104,100
Minn.	32,500	32,400	32,400	32,400	32,400
Iowa	34,700	34,700	34,700	34,700	34,600
Mo.	34,800	34,700	34,600	34,500	34,400
N. Dak.	42,200	42,100	42,100	42,100	42,100
S. Dak.	45,400	45,600	45,600	45,600	45,600
Nebr.	48,300	48,200	48,200	48,200	48,100
Kans.	50,200	50,200	50,200	50,200	50,200
W. N. Cent.	288,100	287,900	287,800	287,700	287,400
Del.	800	800	790	780	770
Md.	3,800	3,750	3,700	3,630	3,560
Va.	13,700	13,500	13,100	12,900	12,700
W. Va.	6,800	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,400
N. C.	18,000	17,800	17,600	17,100	16,800
S. C.	10,200	10,000	9,800	9,700	9,300
Ga.	22,600	22,000	21,400	20,500	19,800
Fla.	17,500	17,400	17,000	16,800	16,200
S. Atl.	93,400	91,950	89,990	87,910	85,530
Ky.	18,200	18,000	17,800	17,700	17,700
Tenn.	17,000	16,800	16,600	16,400	16,200
Ala.	17,600	17,200	16,900	16,600	16,400
Miss.	20,100	19,800	19,500	19,200	18,900
E. S. Cent.	72,900	71,800	70,800	69,900	69,200
Ark.	17,900	17,900	17,900	17,900	17,900
La.	11,200	11,000	10,800	10,800	11,000
Okla.	37,500	37,400	37,400	37,400	37,400
Texas	154,000	154,000	153,000	151,000	149,000
W. S. Cent.	220,600	220,300	219,100	217,100	215,300
Mont.	66,600	66,700	66,800	66,800	66,800
Idaho	15,300	15,300	15,300	15,300	15,300
Wyo.	36,200	36,200	36,300	36,400	36,600
Colo.	40,500	40,300	40,100	39,900	39,700
N. Mex.	51,900	51,500	51,000	50,500	49,500
Ariz.	44,800	44,600	44,400	44,200	44,000
Utah	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,600
Nev.	9,200	9,200	9,200	8,700	8,900
Mount.	278,100	277,400	276,700	275,400	274,400
Wash.	18,200	18,200	18,200	18,200	18,200
Oreg.	21,200	21,200	21,200	21,100	21,100
Calif.	39,000	38,800	38,600	38,400	38,200
Pac.	78,400	78,200	78,000	77,700	77,500
48 States	1,178,458	1,172,711	1,165,694	1,157,198	1,148,892
Alaska 1/	1,505	1,635	1,655	1,685	1,730
Hawaii	2,600	2,600	2,550	2,500	2,450
U. S.	1,182,563	1,176,946	1,169,899	1,161,383	1,153,072

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

Estimates of Land in Farms, by States, 1959-68 -- Continued

State and division	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968 2/
	1,000 acres				
Maine	2,900	2,800	2,700	2,600	2,500
N. H.	1,000	940	880	830	780
Vt.	2,750	2,650	2,570	2,490	2,410
Mass.	1,000	940	890	840	800
R. I.	116	111	106	102	97
Conn.	840	790	740	700	660
N. Eng.	8,606	8,231	7,888	7,562	7,247
N. Y.	13,200	13,000	12,800	12,400	12,100
N. J.	1,300	1,210	1,130	1,080	1,050
Pa.	11,500	11,300	11,100	11,000	10,800
M. Atl.	26,000	25,510	25,030	24,480	23,950
Ohio	18,400	18,200	18,000	17,800	17,600
Ind.	18,500	18,300	18,100	17,900	17,800
Ill.	30,300	30,200	30,100	30,000	29,900
Mich.	14,400	14,100	13,900	13,700	13,500
Wis.	21,600	21,400	21,200	21,000	20,800
E. N. Cent.	103,200	102,200	101,300	100,400	99,600
Minn.	32,400	32,400	32,400	32,400	32,400
Iowa	34,600	34,600	34,600	34,500	34,500
Mo.	34,300	34,100	33,900	33,700	33,500
N. Dak.	42,100	42,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
S. Dak.	45,600	45,600	45,600	45,600	45,500
Nebr.	48,230	48,200	48,200	48,200	48,200
Kans.	50,200	50,200	50,100	50,100	50,100
W. N. Cent.	287,430	287,100	286,800	286,500	286,200
Del.	760	750	740	730	720
Md.	3,500	3,450	3,400	3,350	3,300
Va.	12,500	12,300	12,100	12,000	11,800
W. Va.	6,200	6,100	5,700	5,500	5,400
N. C.	16,400	16,300	16,200	16,200	16,100
S. C.	9,200	9,100	9,000	8,800	8,600
Ga.	19,200	18,900	18,700	18,400	18,200
Fla.	16,200	16,200	16,200	16,200	16,200
S. Atl.	83,960	83,100	82,040	81,180	80,320
Ky.	17,600	17,500	17,300	17,100	17,000
Tenn.	16,100	15,900	15,800	15,700	15,600
Ala.	16,200	16,000	15,700	15,400	15,200
Miss.	18,600	18,300	18,000	17,800	17,700
E. S. Cent.	68,500	67,700	66,800	66,000	65,500
Ark.	17,900	17,900	17,900	17,900	17,900
La.	11,200	11,400	11,600	11,800	12,000
Okla.	37,300	37,300	37,300	37,300	37,200
Texas	147,000	146,000	146,000	145,000	145,000
W. S. Cent.	213,400	212,600	212,800	212,000	212,100
Mont.	67,200	67,150	67,100	67,100	67,100
Idaho	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400	15,400
Kyo.	36,900	36,900	37,000	37,000	37,000
Colo.	39,500	39,500	39,500	39,500	39,500
N. Mex.	49,000	48,800	48,700	48,600	48,600
Ariz.	43,800	43,700	43,600	43,500	43,500
Utah	13,500	13,500	13,400	13,300	13,300
Nev.	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800
Mount.	274,100	273,750	273,500	273,200	273,200
Wash.	18,200	18,200	18,200	18,100	18,100
Oreg.	21,000	21,000	20,900	20,900	20,900
Calif.	38,000	37,800	37,600	37,400	37,200
Pac.	77,200	77,000	76,700	76,400	76,200
48 States	1,142,396	1,137,191	1,132,856	1,127,722	1,124,317
Alaska 1/	1,960	1,945	1,905	1,900	1,900
Hawaii	2,450	2,400	2,400	2,360	2,350
U. S.	1,146,806	1,141,536	1,137,161	1,131,982	1,128,567

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

2/ Preliminary.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

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