

# Farm Numbers Land In Farms



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

---

RELEASED: July 30, 1990  
3:00 P.M. ET

## Farm Numbers and Land Decline Slightly

The number of farms in the United States in 1990 is estimated at 2.14 million, down 1 percent from 1989. Total land in farms is 988 million acres, fractionally below last year. Since the number of farms has declined faster than land in farms, the average farm size increased from 457 acres in 1989 to 461.

Texas retained its position as the State with the most farms, 186,000, unchanged from a year earlier. Next is Missouri, 108,000, down 1,000, followed by Iowa, 104,000, off 1,000. The sharpest drops came in Illinois, Indiana, and North Carolina, each down 3,000.

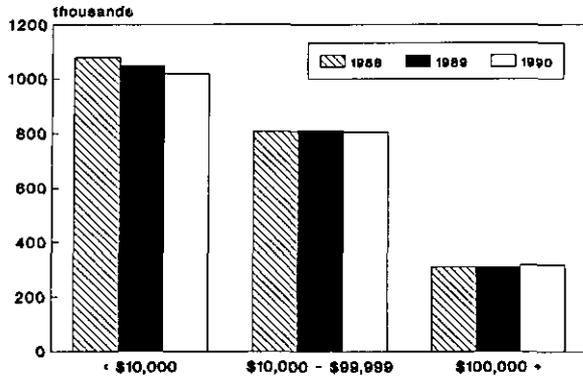
Four States showed increases in numbers of farms: California up 1,000 to 85,000; Georgia up 1,000 to 49,000; North Dakota up 500 to 34,000; and Utah increased 200 to 13,200. Fifteen States held steady with a year earlier, and the remaining 31 had decreases.

Texas also had the most land in farms, 132 million acres, unchanged from 1989.

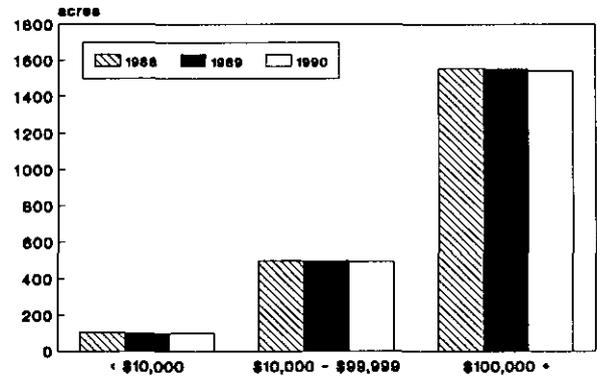
The number of farms in the economic sales class between \$1,000 and \$9,999 fell from 1.048 million in 1989 to 1.019 million in 1990. Those with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 group decreased from 812,900 to 806,200. The \$100,000 and over group increased from 309,720 to 317,700.

Estimates for the number of farms and land in farms refer to June 1. 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."

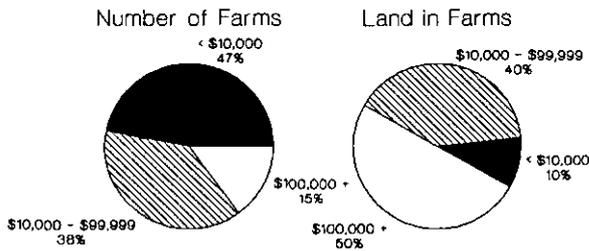
**U.S. Number of Farms by Sales Class  
Gross Value of Sales, 1988-90**



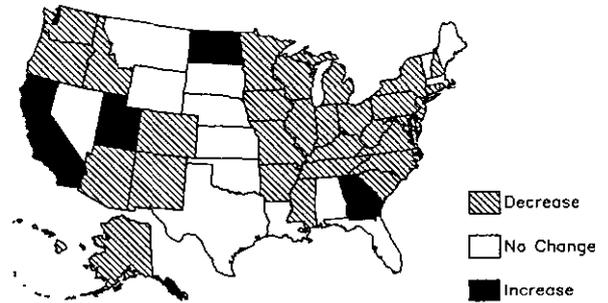
**U.S. Average Farm Size by Sales Class  
Gross Value of Sales, 1988-90**



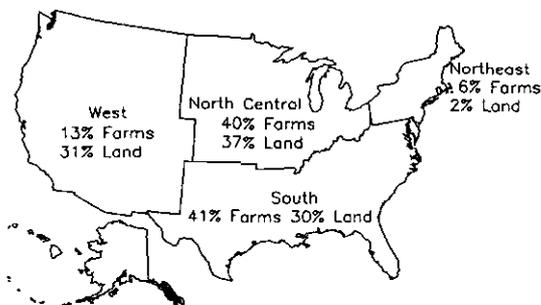
**U.S. Percentages by Sales Class - 1990**



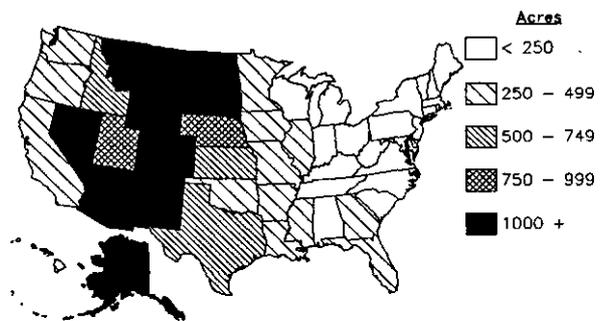
**Change in Number of Farms Since 1989**



**Distribution of Farms and Land in Farms  
By Region, 1990**



**Average Farm Size - June 1990**

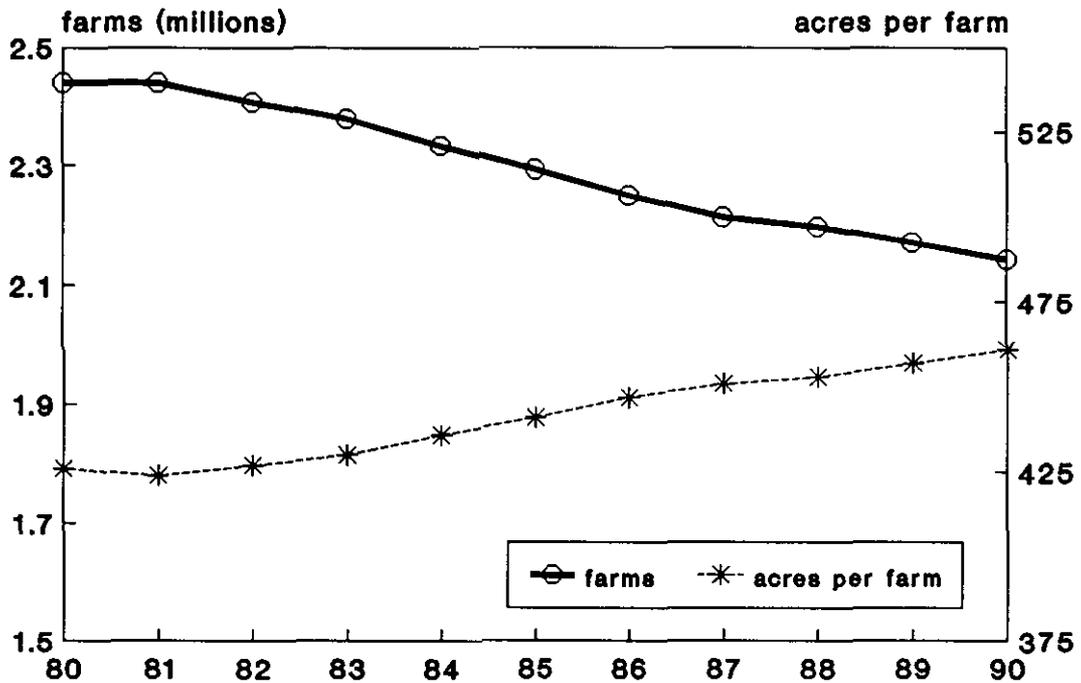


Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size,  
United States, June 1, 1980-90 <sup>1/</sup>

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Farm Size
	1,000	1,000 Acres	Acres
1980	2,440	1,038,885	426
1981	2,440	1,034,190	424
1982	2,407	1,027,795	427
1983	2,379	1,023,425	430
1984	2,334	1,017,803	436
1985	2,293	1,012,073	441
1986	2,250	1,005,333	447
1987	2,213	998,923	451
1988	2,197	994,543	453
1989	2,171	991,153	457
1990	2,143	987,721	461

<sup>1/</sup> 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, June 1, 1980 - 1990**



Number of Farms  
by States, June 1, 1988-90

State	1988	1989	1990
		Number	
AL	48,000	47,000	47,000
AK	620	600	580
AZ	8,100	8,100	7,800
AR	49,000	48,000	47,000
CA	84,000	84,000	85,000
CO	27,300	27,000	26,500
CT	4,000	4,000	3,900
DE	3,000	3,000	2,900
FL	41,000	41,000	41,000
GA	49,000	48,000	49,000
HI	4,650	4,650	4,600
ID	22,500	22,100	21,800
IL	88,000	86,000	83,000
IN	74,000	71,000	68,000
IA	107,000	105,000	104,000
KS	69,000	69,000	69,000
KY	97,000	95,000	93,000
LA	33,000	34,000	34,000
ME	7,300	7,300	7,300
MD	16,000	15,600	15,200
MA	6,900	6,900	6,900
MI	56,000	55,000	54,000
MN	92,000	90,000	89,000
MS	42,000	41,000	40,000
MO	110,000	109,000	108,000
MT	24,600	24,700	24,700
NE	58,000	57,000	57,000
NV	2,600	2,500	2,500
NH	3,200	3,100	3,000
NJ	8,300	8,300	8,100
NM	14,000	14,000	13,500
NY	41,000	39,000	38,500
NC	68,000	65,000	62,000
ND	33,500	33,500	34,000
OH	85,000	86,000	84,000
OK	70,000	70,000	70,000
OR	36,500	37,000	36,500
PA	55,000	54,000	53,000
RI	770	770	770
SC	26,000	25,500	24,500
SD	35,000	35,000	35,000
TN	91,000	91,000	89,000
TX	187,000	186,000	186,000
UT	13,300	13,000	13,200
VT	7,100	7,000	7,000
VA	48,000	47,000	46,000
WA	38,000	38,000	37,000
WV	21,000	21,000	20,500
WI	82,000	81,000	80,000
WY	8,900	8,900	8,900
U.S.	2,197,140	2,170,520	2,143,150

Land in Farms  
by States, June 1, 1988-90

State :	1988	1989	1990
	1,000 Acres		
AL	10,600	10,600	10,300
AK	1,030	1,010	1,000
AZ	36,500	36,000	36,000
AR	15,800	15,700	15,500
CA	31,600	31,300	30,800
CO	33,700	33,500	33,100
CT	440	440	420
DE	590	590	570
FL	11,500	11,200	10,900
GA	13,000	12,600	12,500
HI	1,720	1,720	1,710
ID	13,700	13,700	13,700
IL	28,600	28,500	28,500
IN	16,400	16,400	16,300
IA	33,500	33,500	33,500
KS	47,900	47,900	47,900
KY	14,300	14,200	14,100
LA	9,100	9,100	9,000
ME	1,450	1,450	1,450
MD	2,350	2,300	2,250
MA	680	680	680
MI	10,900	10,800	10,800
MN	30,000	30,000	30,000
MS	13,500	13,300	13,000
MO	30,500	30,400	30,400
MT	60,700	60,600	60,500
NE	47,100	47,100	47,100
NV	8,900	8,900	8,900
NH	510	500	490
NJ	880	880	870
NM	44,500	44,500	44,500
NY	8,600	8,400	8,400
NC	10,300	10,000	9,700
ND	40,600	40,500	40,500
OH	15,600	15,700	15,700
OK	33,000	33,000	33,000
OR	17,800	17,800	17,800
PA	8,300	8,200	8,100
RI	73	73	71
SC	5,300	5,300	5,200
SD	44,300	44,300	44,300
TN	12,600	12,600	12,400
TX	132,000	132,000	132,000
UT	11,300	11,300	11,300
VT	1,520	1,510	1,510
VA	9,100	9,000	8,900
WA	16,000	16,000	16,000
WV	3,700	3,700	3,700
WI	17,700	17,600	17,600
WY	34,800	34,800	34,800
U.S.	994,543	991,153	987,721

Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class,  
by State, Region and U.S., 1990

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	Number			
NY	17,300	12,800	8,400	38,500
PA	24,800	20,100	8,100	53,000
Other States <u>1/</u>	19,350	11,400	6,220	36,970
Northeast	61,450	44,300	22,720	128,470
IL	19,000	42,000	22,000	83,000
IN	27,000	29,000	12,000	68,000
IA	19,800	55,000	29,200	104,000
KS	26,000	33,600	9,400	69,000
MI	28,000	18,000	8,000	54,000
MN	32,000	38,500	18,500	89,000
MO	53,400	45,400	9,200	108,000
NE	9,000	33,500	14,500	57,000
OH	42,500	31,000	10,500	84,000
WI	26,300	36,700	17,000	80,000
Other States <u>2/</u>	12,500	43,500	13,000	69,000
North Central	295,500	406,200	163,300	865,000
AL <u>3/</u>	30,000			47,000
AR	24,000	12,500	10,500	47,000
FL <u>3/</u>	24,000			41,000
GA	28,800	13,300	6,900	49,000
KY <u>3/</u>	59,000			93,000
MS <u>3/</u>	27,200			40,000
NC	35,000	19,000	8,000	62,000
OK	37,000	28,000	5,000	70,000
TN <u>3/</u>	67,000			89,000
TX	111,000	59,000	16,000	186,000
VA <u>3/</u>	29,000			46,000
Other States <u>3/</u> <u>4/</u>	60,500			97,100
South	532,500	253,700	80,900	867,100
CA	36,600	29,000	19,400	85,000
Other States <u>5/</u>	93,200	73,000	31,380	197,580
West	129,800	102,000	50,780	282,580
U.S.	1,019,250	806,200	317,700	2,143,150

1/ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, VT.

2/ ND, SD

3/ Estimates not available for all sales classes.

4/ DE, LA, MD, SC, WV.

5/ AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY.

Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class,  
by State, Region and U.S., 1990

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	1,000 Acres			
NY	1,600	2,700	4,100	8,400
PA	1,800	3,500	2,800	8,100
Other States <u>1/</u>	1,291	1,600	2,600	5,491
Northeast	4,691	7,800	9,500	21,991
IL	800	8,500	19,200	28,500
IN	1,300	6,400	8,600	16,300
IA	1,200	13,400	18,900	33,500
KS	3,900	25,900	18,100	47,900
MI	1,500	3,300	6,000	10,800
MN	2,700	11,700	15,600	30,000
MO	5,500	16,400	8,500	30,400
NE	600	20,400	26,100	47,100
OH	2,500	6,500	6,700	15,700
WI	2,400	7,700	7,500	17,600
Other States <u>2/</u>	4,900	47,000	32,900	84,800
North Central	27,300	167,200	168,100	362,600
AL <u>3/</u>	2,300			10,300
AR	2,000	2,300	11,200	15,500
FL <u>3/</u>	1,600			10,900
GA	2,400	4,100	6,000	12,500
KY <u>3/</u>	3,900			14,100
MS <u>3/</u>	3,200			13,000
NC	2,200	3,400	4,100	9,700
OK	4,300	19,900	8,800	33,000
TN <u>3/</u>	5,200			12,400
TX	18,000	58,000	56,000	132,000
VA <u>3/</u>	2,400			8,900
Other States <u>3/ 4/</u>	5,220			20,720
South	52,720	120,600	119,700	293,020
CA	1,900	7,900	21,000	30,800
Other States <u>5/</u>	14,310	94,200	170,800	279,310
West	16,210	102,100	191,800	310,110
U.S.	100,921	397,700	489,100	987,721

1/ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, VT.

2/ ND, SD.

3/ Estimates not available for all sales classes.

4/ DE, LA, MD, SC, WV.

5/ AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY.

Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class  
by State, Region and U.S., 1989

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	Number			
NY	18,700	12,600	7,700	39,000
PA	26,000	19,900	8,100	54,000
Other States <u>1/</u>	19,900	11,300	6,170	37,370
Northeast	64,600	43,800	21,970	130,370
IL	20,500	45,000	20,500	86,000
IN	29,100	30,100	11,800	71,000
IA	19,400	56,700	28,900	105,000
KS	26,000	33,600	9,400	69,000
MI	30,000	18,000	7,000	55,000
MN	35,000	37,500	17,500	90,000
MO	53,900	46,000	9,100	109,000
NE	9,100	33,700	14,200	57,000
OH	44,000	32,500	9,500	86,000
WI	27,500	37,500	16,000	81,000
Other States <u>2/</u>	12,000	43,700	12,800	68,500
North Central	306,500	414,300	156,700	877,500
AL <u>3/</u>	31,000			47,000
AR	24,700	12,800	10,500	48,000
FL <u>3/</u>	24,600			41,000
GA	28,600	12,400	7,000	48,000
KY <u>3/</u>	60,500			95,000
MS <u>3/</u>	28,000			41,000
NC	39,000	17,500	8,500	65,000
OK	37,500	27,500	5,000	70,000
TN <u>3/</u>	68,000			91,000
TX	110,000	60,000	16,000	186,000
VA <u>3/</u>	30,000			47,000
Other States <u>3/</u> <u>4/</u>	63,400			99,100
South	545,300	251,800	81,000	878,100
CA	35,400	29,400	19,200	84,000
Other States <u>5/</u>	96,100	73,600	30,850	200,550
West	131,500	103,000	50,050	284,550
U.S.	1,047,900	812,900	309,720	2,170,520

1/ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ RI, VT.

2/ ND, SD.

3/ Estimates not available for all sales classes.

4/ DE, LA, MD, SC, WV.

5/ AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY.

Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class  
by State, Region and U.S., 1989

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	1,000 Acres			
NY	1,700	2,800	3,900	8,400
PA	2,000	3,500	2,700	8,200
Other States <u>1/</u>	1,433	1,600	2,500	5,533
Northeast	5,133	7,900	9,100	22,133
IL	900	10,500	17,100	28,500
IN	1,500	6,900	8,000	16,400
IA	1,200	13,400	18,900	33,500
KS	3,900	26,000	18,000	47,900
MI	1,500	4,300	5,000	10,800
MN	4,100	11,700	14,200	30,000
MO	5,600	16,500	8,300	30,400
NE	700	20,700	25,700	47,100
OH	2,800	6,500	6,400	15,700
WI	2,400	7,900	7,300	17,600
Other States <u>2/</u>	5,000	48,000	31,800	84,800
North Central	29,600	172,400	160,700	362,700
AL <u>3/</u>	2,600			10,600
AR	2,000	2,300	11,400	15,700
FL <u>3/</u>	1,700			11,200
GA	2,300	4,100	6,200	12,600
KY <u>3/</u>	4,000			14,200
MS <u>3/</u>	3,400			13,300
NC	2,500	3,400	4,100	10,000
OK	4,100	20,000	8,900	33,000
TN <u>3/</u>	5,400			12,600
TX	17,500	59,500	55,000	132,000
VA <u>3/</u>	2,500			9,000
Other States <u>3/</u> <u>4/</u>	5,690			20,990
South	53,690	121,300	120,200	295,190
CA	2,100	8,200	21,000	31,300
Other States <u>5/</u>	15,450	94,380	170,000	279,830
West	17,550	102,580	191,000	311,130
U.S.	105,973	404,180	481,000	991,153

1/ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, VT.

2/ ND, SD.

3/ Estimates not available for all sales classes.

4/ DE, LA, MD, SC, WV.

5/ AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY.

Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class  
by State, Region and U.S., 1988

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	Number			
NY	19,100	14,000	7,900	41,000
PA	27,500	19,400	8,100	55,000
Other States <u>1/</u>	21,200	10,700	5,670	37,570
Northeast	67,800	44,100	21,670	133,570
IL	22,000	45,400	20,600	88,000
IN	30,900	31,300	11,800	74,000
IA	22,600	56,600	27,800	107,000
KS	26,000	33,500	9,400	69,000
MI	32,000	18,000	6,000	56,000
MN	35,600	38,400	18,000	92,000
MO	55,400	45,500	9,100	110,000
NE	10,600	33,600	13,800	58,000
OH	40,800	34,900	9,300	85,000
WI	27,300	38,000	16,700	82,000
Other States <u>2/</u>	11,500	43,800	13,200	68,500
North Central	314,700	419,100	155,700	889,500
AL <u>3/</u>	32,500			48,000
AR	25,700	12,800	10,500	49,000
FL <u>3/</u>	25,000			41,000
GA	29,200	12,600	7,200	49,000
KY <u>3/</u>	62,000			97,000
MS <u>3/</u>	28,400			42,000
NC	39,400	20,700	7,900	68,000
OK	38,800	26,000	5,200	70,000
TN <u>3/</u>	68,000			91,000
TX	114,000	56,000	17,000	187,000
VA <u>3/</u>	31,500			48,000
Other States <u>3/ 4/</u>	66,000			99,000
South	560,500	245,300	83,200	889,000
CA	36,000	29,200	18,800	84,000
Other States <u>5/</u>	100,300	69,400	31,370	201,070
West	136,300	98,600	50,170	285,070
U.S.	1,079,300	807,100	310,740	2,197,140

1/ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, VT.

2/ ND, SD.

3/ Estimates not available for all sales classes.

4/ DE, LA, MD, SC, WV.

5/ AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY.

Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class  
by State, Region and U.S., 1988

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	1,000 Acres			
NY	1,700	3,100	3,800	8,600
PA	2,200	3,400	2,700	8,300
Other States <u>1/</u>	1,553	1,600	2,400	5,553
Northeast	5,453	8,100	8,900	22,453
IL	1,100	11,200	16,300	28,600
IN	1,600	6,600	8,200	16,400
IA	1,500	13,600	18,400	33,500
KS	3,800	26,200	17,900	47,900
MI	2,200	4,400	4,300	10,900
MN	4,100	11,700	14,200	30,000
MO	5,800	16,500	8,200	30,500
NE	1,100	20,400	25,600	47,100
OH	2,600	6,800	6,200	15,600
WI	2,300	8,000	7,400	17,700
Other States <u>2/</u>	4,800	47,700	32,400	84,900
North Central	30,900	173,100	159,100	363,100
AL <u>3/</u>	3,000			10,600
AR	2,300	2,000	11,500	15,800
FL <u>3/</u>	1,800	11,500		
GA	2,400	4,400	6,200	13,000
KY <u>3/</u>	4,100			14,300
MS <u>3/</u>	3,700			13,500
NC	2,400	4,000	3,900	10,300
OK	4,300	19,500	9,200	33,000
TN <u>3/</u>	5,400			12,600
TX	18,000	58,000	56,000	132,000
VA <u>3/</u>	2,400			9,100
Other States <u>3/ 4/</u>	6,240			21,040
South	56,040	117,900	122,800	296,740
CA	2,200	8,300	21,100	31,600
Other States <u>5/</u>	17,350	92,400	170,900	280,650
West	19,550	100,700	192,000	312,250
U.S.	111,943	399,800	482,800	994,543

1/ CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, RI, VT.

2/ ND, SD.

3/ Estimates not available for all sales classes.

4/ DE, LA, MD, SC, WV.

5/ AK, AZ, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY.

Economic Sales Class Estimates for  
Number of Farms and Land in Farms  
United States

Economic Sales Class	Economic Sales Class Estimates		
	Percent of Total		Average Size Farm (Acres)
	Farms	Land	
-----			
1988			
\$1,000 - \$2,499	23.5	3.4	65
\$2,500 - \$4,999	14.1	3.1	100
\$5,000 - \$9,999	11.6	4.8	187
\$10,000 - \$19,999	11.2	7.1	287
\$20,000 - \$39,999	11.3	12.3	493
\$40,000 - \$99,999	14.2	20.8	663
\$100,000 - \$249,999	9.9	25.5	1,166
\$250,000 +	4.2	23.0	2,479
Total	100.0	100.0	453
-----			
1989			
\$1,000 - \$2,499	22.7	3.1	62
\$2,500 - \$4,999	13.8	3.1	103
\$5,000 - \$9,999	11.8	4.5	174
\$10,000 - \$19,999	10.7	6.0	256
\$20,000 - \$39,999	12.2	11.7	438
\$40,000 - \$99,999	14.5	23.1	727
\$100,000 - \$249,999	9.6	24.5	1,165
\$250,000 +	4.7	24.0	2,332
Total	100.0	100.0	457
-----			
1990			
\$1,000 - \$2,499	22.2	3.0	62
\$2,500 - \$4,999	13.7	3.1	104
\$5,000 - \$9,999	11.7	4.1	162
\$10,000 - \$19,999	11.1	6.3	262
\$20,000 - \$39,999	12.1	10.8	411
\$40,000 - \$99,999	14.4	23.2	743
\$100,000 - \$249,999	10.0	26.0	1,198
\$250,000 +	4.8	23.5	2,256
Total	100.0	100.0	461
-----			

## Data Sources and Reliability

These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service in the first two weeks of June using a probability survey. This survey collected information from approximately 71,000 farm operators, sampled from a list of farm operators and supplemented with data from 32,000 producers operating in randomly selected geographic areas. This insured representation of all U.S. farms (and ranches).

Two types of errors - sampling and nonsampling are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both of these types of errors determine the "accuracy" of the indication.

Sampling error occurs because a complete census is not taken. The sample of respondents used to calculate this particular indication is one of a large number of samples that could have been selected in accordance with the sampling design. The sampling error measures the variation among the indications from all possible samples. An indication of 100 with a sampling error of 1 would mean that chances are 19 out of 20 that the indications of all possible samples averaged together would be between 98 and 102 (the indication, plus or minus two times the sampling error). The sampling error expressed as a percent of the indication is called the relative standard error. The relative standard errors for the U.S. indications of number of farms and land in farms were about 1 percent and 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 (or land in farms) by economic sales class. Relative standard errors for U.S. indications by economic sales class range from 1.3 to 2.5 and 1.4 to 4.6 percent for number of farms and land in farms, respectively.

Nonsampling errors can occur in complete censuses as well as sample surveys. They are due to such things as inability to obtain correct information from each person sampled, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, mistakes in coding or processing the data, etc. Careful efforts were made at each step of the survey to minimize nonsampling errors.

## Terms and Definitions

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. To be considered a farm, the place must be operating on June 1. Places with all their acreage enrolled in set aside or other government programs are considered operating.

Land in farms is all land operated by farms as of June 1. 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 (excluding pleasure horses), honey, furs, fish, nursery and greenhouse products, rabbits, etc. Government program payments from the previous year are also included.

```
*****
*                                     *
*                               NOTICE *
*                                     *
* Farm Numbers and Land in Farms is now published as a separate *
* annual report by the Agricultural Statistics Board, NASS. *
* Previously, the data appeared in the August Crop Production *
* Report. *
*                                     *
* Requests for a subscription order form covering all available *
* reports should be directed to ERS/NASS, P.O. Box 1608, *
* Rockville, MD. 20849-1608 or call 800-999-6779. *
*                                     *
*       The next issue of this report will be published *
*                               July 1991. *
*                                     *
*****
```

