

# Farm Numbers Land in Farms



National  
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Statistics  
Service

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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## Farm Numbers and Land In Farms Decline Slows

The number of farms in the United States in 1992 is estimated at 2.096 million, down less than 1 percent from 1991. Total land in farms is 980 million acres, down 2.7 million acres from last year. The rate of decline in number of farms and land in farm acreage slowed while the average farm size increased from 467 acres in 1991 to 468 in 1992.

Texas remains the State with the most farms, 183,000, down 2,000 from a year earlier. Missouri is second with 107,000 farms, the same as last year, followed by Iowa with 102,000 farms, also unchanged from 1991. In addition to Texas, Ohio and Kansas experienced the largest decrease in farm numbers with each down 2,000 farms from a year earlier.

Seven States showed increases in numbers of farms: Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Washington up 1,000 each to 71,000, 88,000, and 38,000, respectively; Oregon up 500 to 37,500; and New Jersey, Maryland, and Wyoming up 200 each to 8,500, 15,600, and 9,200, respectively. Twenty-eight States remained the same as a year ago, and the other fifteen States showed a decline from last year.

Texas continued to lead the nation in land in farms, 130 million acres, down 1 million from 1991.

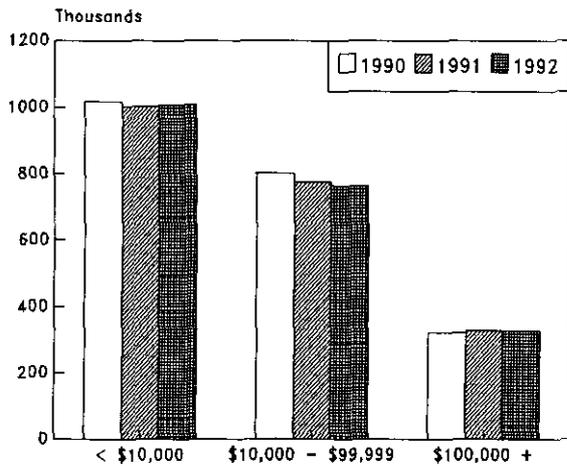
The number of farms in the economic sales class between \$1,000 and \$9,999 increased from 1.003 million in 1991 to 1.006 million in 1992. Those with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 group decreased from 775,100 to 763,200. The \$100,000 and over group declined from 327,060 to 326,340 farms.

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."

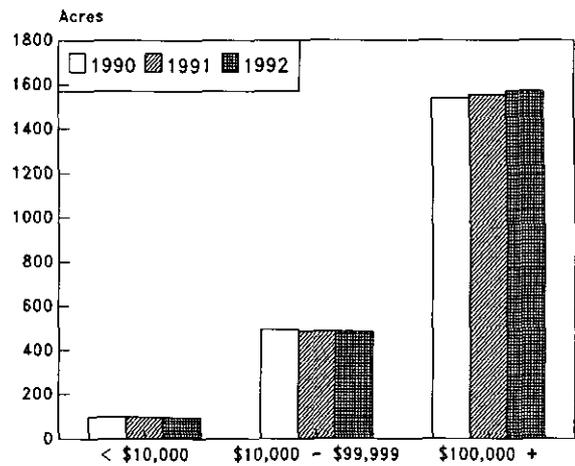
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For information call Dan Ledbury (202) 720-3570. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

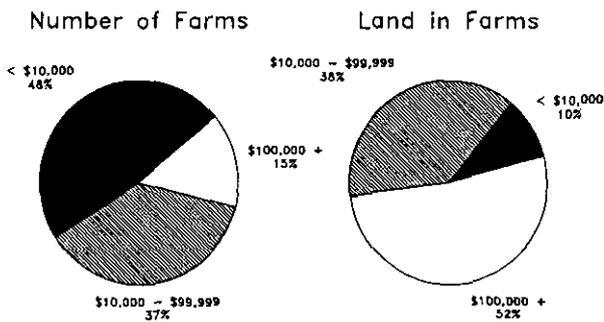
U.S. Number of Farms by Sales Class  
Gross Value of Sales, 1990-92



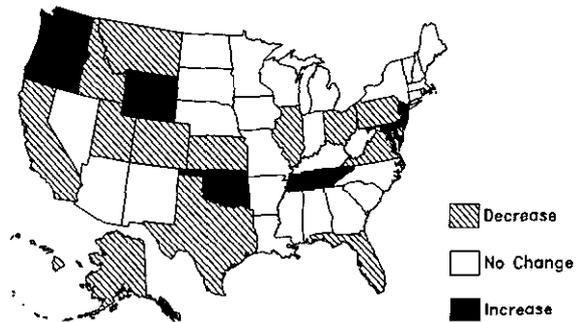
U.S. Average Farm Size by Sales Class  
Gross Value of Sales, 1990-92



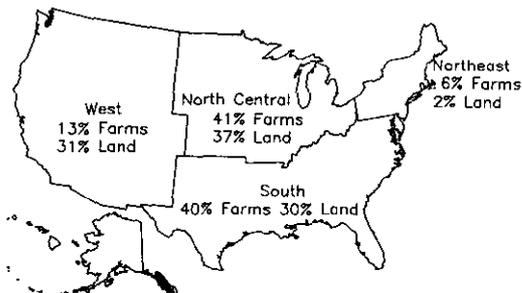
U.S. Percentages by Sales Class-1992



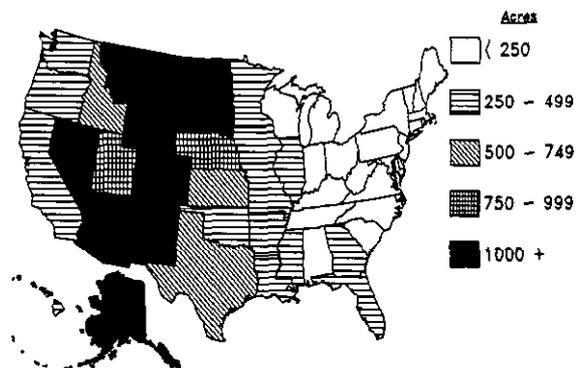
Change in Number of Farms Since 1991



Distribution of Farms and Land in Farms  
By Region, 1992



Average Farm Size - June 1992

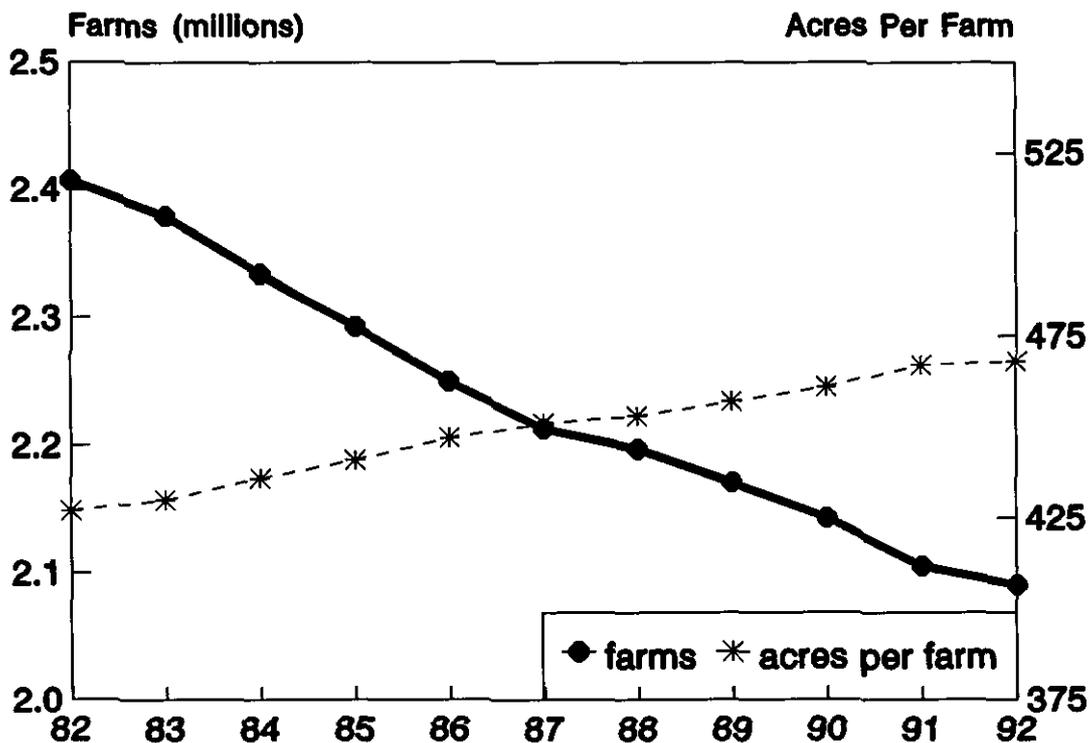


**Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size:  
United States, June 1, 1982-92 1/**

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Farm Size
	1,000	1,000 Acres	Acres
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	2,140	987,420	461
1991	2,105	982,766	467
1992	2,096	980,063	468

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, June 1, 1982 - 1992**



Number of Farms: By State and United States, June 1, 1990-92

State :	1990	:	1991	:	1992
	Number				
AL	47,000		46,000		46,000
AK	580		560		540
AZ	7,800		8,000		8,000
AR	47,000		46,000		46,000
CA	85,000		83,000		81,000
CO	26,500		26,000		25,500
CT	3,900		3,900		3,900
DE	2,900		2,900		2,700
FL	41,000		40,000		39,000
GA	48,000		46,000		46,000
HI	4,600		4,600		4,500
ID	21,800		21,400		21,000
IL	83,000		82,000		81,000
IN	68,000		65,000		65,000
IA	104,000		102,000		102,000
KS	69,000		69,000		67,000
KY	93,000		91,000		91,000
LA	32,000		30,000		30,000
ME	7,200		7,100		7,100
MD	15,200		15,400		15,600
MA	6,900		6,900		6,900
MI	54,000		54,000		54,000
MN	89,000		88,000		88,000
MS	40,000		38,000		38,000
MO	108,000		107,000		107,000
MT	24,700		24,700		24,600
NE	57,000		56,000		56,000
NV	2,500		2,500		2,500
NH	2,900		2,900		2,900
NJ	8,100		8,300		8,500
NM	13,500		13,500		13,500
NY	38,500		38,000		38,000
NC	62,000		60,000		60,000
ND	34,000		33,000		33,000
OH	84,000		80,000		78,000
OK	70,000		70,000		71,000
OR	36,500		37,000		37,500
PA	53,000		53,000		52,000
RI	740		700		700
SC	25,000		24,500		24,500
SD	35,000		35,000		35,000
TN	89,000		87,000		88,000
TX	186,000		185,000		183,000
UT	13,200		13,300		13,200
VT	7,000		6,900		6,900
VA	46,000		45,000		44,000
WA	37,000		37,000		38,000
WV	20,500		20,000		20,000
WI	80,000		79,000		79,000
WY	8,900		9,000		9,200
US	2,140,420		2,105,060		2,095,740

Land in Farms: By State and United States, June 1, 1990-92

State :	1990	:	1991	:	1992
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1,000 Acres					
AL :	10,100		9,900		9,800
AK :	1,000		980		960
AZ :	36,000		36,000		36,000
AR :	15,500		15,500		15,500
CA :	30,800		30,300		29,800
CO :	33,100		32,800		32,800
CT :	420		420		410
DE :	570		570		560
FL :	10,900		10,500		10,500
GA :	12,500		12,100		12,100
HI :	1,710		1,710		1,710
ID :	13,700		13,500		13,500
IL :	28,500		28,500		28,500
IN :	16,300		16,000		16,000
IA :	33,500		33,500		33,400
KS :	47,900		47,900		47,800
KY :	14,100		14,100		14,100
LA :	8,900		8,800		8,700
ME :	1,450		1,420		1,420
MD :	2,250		2,250		2,200
MA :	680		680		680
MI :	10,800		10,800		10,800
MN :	30,000		30,000		29,800
MS :	13,000		12,800		12,800
MO :	30,400		30,400		30,300
MT :	60,500		60,300		60,000
NE :	47,100		47,100		47,100
NV :	8,900		8,900		8,900
NH :	490		480		470
NJ :	870		880		880
NM :	44,500		44,300		44,200
NY :	8,400		8,300		8,200
NC :	9,700		9,600		9,500
ND :	40,500		40,400		40,400
OH :	15,700		15,700		15,400
OK :	33,000		33,000		34,000
OR :	17,800		17,800		17,500
PA :	8,100		8,100		8,000
RI :	70		66		63
SC :	5,200		5,200		5,200
SD :	44,300		44,200		44,200
TN :	12,400		12,400		12,600
TX :	132,000		131,000		130,000
UT :	11,300		11,300		11,300
VT :	1,510		1,510		1,510
VA :	8,900		8,800		8,700
WA :	16,000		16,000		16,000
WV :	3,700		3,700		3,700
WI :	17,600		17,500		17,300
WY :	34,800		34,800		34,800
US :	987,420		982,766		980,063

Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class, by State,  
Region, and United States, June 1, 1992

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	Number			
<b>Northeast</b>				
NY	17,500	12,000	8,500	38,000
PA	24,700	19,300	8,000	52,000
Other States <u>1/</u>	21,800	10,700	4,400	36,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>20,900</b>	<b>126,900</b>
<b>North Central</b>				
IL	21,500	37,000	22,500	81,000
IN	28,500	24,500	12,000	65,000
IA	22,900	48,000	31,100	102,000
KS	26,000	31,400	9,600	67,000
MI	28,000	18,000	8,000	54,000
MN	31,000	33,500	23,500	88,000
MO	53,600	45,000	8,400	107,000
NE	8,500	31,300	16,200	56,000
ND	5,500	18,500	9,000	33,000
OH	40,000	29,500	8,500	78,000
SD	6,500	19,500	9,000	35,000
WI	28,200	33,000	17,800	79,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,200</b>	<b>369,200</b>	<b>175,600</b>	<b>845,000</b>
<b>South</b>				
AL <u>2/</u>	29,000			46,000
AR	23,500	12,500	10,000	46,000
FL <u>2/</u>	23,000			39,000
GA	26,300	12,900	6,800	46,000
KY <u>2/</u>	56,000			91,000
LA <u>2/</u>	18,000			30,000
MS <u>2/</u>	25,000			38,000
NC	34,000	18,200	7,800	60,000
OK	38,500	27,200	5,300	71,000
TN <u>2/</u>	65,000			88,000
TX	107,000	60,000	16,000	183,000
VA <u>2/</u>	26,500			44,000
Other States <u>2/ 3/</u>	38,200			62,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>510,000</b>	<b>253,000</b>	<b>81,800</b>	<b>844,800</b>
<b>West</b>				
CA	33,000	29,000	19,000	81,000
OR <u>2/</u>	26,500			37,500
WA	20,800	9,100	8,100	38,000
Other States <u>2/ 4/</u>	51,700			122,540
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,000</b>	<b>99,000</b>	<b>48,040</b>	<b>279,040</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>1,006,200</b>	<b>763,200</b>	<b>326,340</b>	<b>2,095,740</b>

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, 1992

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
1,000 Acres				
Northeast				
NY	1,400	2,600	4,200	8,200
PA	1,900	3,400	2,700	8,000
Other States <u>1/</u>	1,333	1,600	2,500	5,433
Total	4,633	7,600	9,400	21,633
North Central				
IL	800	7,800	19,900	28,500
IN	1,600	5,100	9,300	16,000
IA	1,600	12,100	19,700	33,400
KS	3,400	23,500	20,900	47,800
MI	1,500	3,300	6,000	10,800
MN	2,800	9,700	17,300	29,800
MO	5,500	16,300	8,500	30,300
NE	700	17,400	29,000	47,100
ND	1,000	18,000	21,400	40,400
OH	2,700	6,500	6,200	15,400
SD	1,400	19,800	23,000	44,200
WI	2,600	6,800	7,900	17,300
Total	25,600	146,300	189,100	361,000
South				
AL <u>2/</u>	2,900			9,800
AR	2,100	2,500	10,900	15,500
FL <u>2/</u>	1,500			10,500
GA	2,400	3,700	6,000	12,100
KY <u>2/</u>	3,700			14,100
LA <u>2/</u>	1,900			8,700
MS <u>2/</u>	2,800			12,800
NC	1,950	2,750	4,800	9,500
OK	4,900	19,000	10,100	34,000
TN <u>2/</u>	4,700			12,600
TX	15,000	56,000	59,000	130,000
VA <u>2/</u>	2,200			8,700
Other States <u>2/ 3/</u>	4,910			11,660
Total	50,960	117,000	122,000	289,960
West				
CA	1,700	7,500	20,600	29,800
OR <u>2/</u>	1,700			17,500
WA	700	4,500	10,800	16,000
Other States <u>2/ 4/</u>	11,570			244,170
Total	15,670	99,800	192,000	307,470
US	96,863	370,700	512,500	980,063

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.

Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class, by State,  
Region, and United States, June 1, 1991

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	Number			
<b>Northeast</b>				
NY	17,200	12,600	8,200	38,000
PA	25,000	19,800	8,200	53,000
Other States <u>1/</u>	20,400	10,700	5,600	36,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,600</b>	<b>43,100</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>127,700</b>
<b>North Central</b>				
IL	20,500	38,000	23,500	82,000
IN	25,800	26,200	13,000	65,000
IA	21,100	50,300	30,600	102,000
KS	26,000	33,600	9,400	69,000
MI	28,000	18,000	8,000	54,000
MN	32,000	36,000	20,000	88,000
MO	53,100	45,500	8,400	107,000
NE	8,300	32,700	15,000	56,000
ND	6,100	18,400	8,500	33,000
OH	41,000	30,000	9,000	80,000
SD	6,000	18,500	10,500	35,000
WI	27,400	33,600	18,000	79,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>295,300</b>	<b>380,800</b>	<b>173,900</b>	<b>850,000</b>
<b>South</b>				
AL <u>2/</u>	28,000			46,000
AR	23,500	12,500	10,000	46,000
FL <u>2/</u>	24,000			40,000
GA	26,200	13,000	6,800	46,000
KY <u>2/</u>	57,000			91,000
LA <u>2/</u>	19,000			30,000
MS <u>2/</u>	25,100			38,000
NC	34,000	18,200	7,800	60,000
OK	38,000	27,000	5,000	70,000
TN <u>2/</u>	64,000			87,000
TX	110,000	58,000	17,000	185,000
VA <u>2/</u>	28,000			45,000
Other States <u>2/ 3/</u>	37,200			62,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>514,000</b>	<b>251,300</b>	<b>81,500</b>	<b>846,800</b>
<b>West</b>				
CA	35,100	28,500	19,400	83,000
OR <u>2/</u>	25,000			37,000
WA	20,600	9,000	7,400	37,000
Other States <u>2/ 4/</u>	50,300			123,560
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,000</b>	<b>99,900</b>	<b>49,660</b>	<b>280,560</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>1,002,900</b>	<b>775,100</b>	<b>327,060</b>	<b>2,105,060</b>

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, 1991

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
1,000 Acres				
Northeast				
NY	1,500	2,700	4,100	8,300
PA	1,900	3,400	2,800	8,100
Other States <u>1/</u>	1,296	1,580	2,580	5,456
Total	4,696	7,680	9,480	21,856
North Central				
IL	800	7,800	19,900	28,500
IN	1,200	5,600	9,200	16,000
IA	1,400	12,600	19,500	33,500
KS	3,900	25,900	18,100	47,900
MI	1,500	3,300	6,000	10,800
MN	3,200	11,100	15,700	30,000
MO	5,500	16,400	8,500	30,400
NE	600	19,500	27,000	47,100
ND	1,500	17,900	21,000	40,400
OH	2,700	6,400	6,600	15,700
SD	1,200	17,600	25,400	44,200
WI	2,600	6,900	8,000	17,500
Total	26,100	151,000	184,900	362,000
South				
AL <u>2/</u>	2,600			9,900
AR	2,100	2,500	10,900	15,500
FL <u>2/</u>	1,600			10,500
GA	2,400	3,700	6,000	12,100
KY <u>2/</u>	3,800			14,100
LA <u>2/</u>	2,300			8,800
MS <u>2/</u>	3,000			12,800
NC	2,179	2,721	4,700	9,600
OK	4,800	19,000	9,200	33,000
TN <u>2/</u>	4,900			12,400
TX	17,000	56,000	58,000	131,000
VA <u>2/</u>	2,400			8,800
Other States <u>2/ 3/</u>	2,921			11,720
Total	52,000	116,620	121,600	290,220
West				
CA	1,800	7,700	20,800	30,300
OR <u>2/</u>	1,600			17,800
WA	900	4,700	10,400	16,000
Other States <u>2/ 4/</u>	11,400			244,590
Total	15,700	101,000	191,990	308,690
US	98,496	376,300	507,970	982,766

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

2/ Estimates not available for all sales classes.

3/ DE, LA, MD, SC, and WV.

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

Number of Farms: Economic Sales Class, by State,  
Region, and United States, June 1, 1990

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	Number			
Northeast				
NY	17,300	12,800	8,400	38,500
PA	24,800	20,100	8,100	53,000
Other States <u>1/</u>	20,350	10,170	6,220	36,740
Total	62,450	43,070	22,720	128,240
North Central				
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	53,500	46,000	8,500	108,000
NE	9,000	33,500	14,500	57,000
ND	4,900	21,000	8,100	34,000
OH	42,500	31,000	10,500	84,000
SD	7,000	19,000	9,000	35,000
WI	26,000	36,300	17,700	80,000
Total	294,700	402,900	167,400	865,000
South				
AL <u>2/</u>	30,000			47,000
AR	24,000	12,500	10,500	47,000
FL <u>2/</u>	24,000			41,000
GA	28,100	13,000	6,900	48,000
KY <u>2/</u>	59,000			93,000
LA <u>2/</u>	21,000			32,000
MS <u>2/</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>2/</u>	67,000			89,000
TX	111,000	59,000	16,000	186,000
VA <u>2/</u>	29,000			46,000
Other States <u>2/ 3/</u>	37,800			63,600
Total	530,100	253,600	80,900	864,600
West				
CA	36,600	29,000	19,400	85,000
OR <u>2/</u>	24,500			36,500
WA	20,500	9,200	7,300	37,000
Other States <u>2/ 4/</u>	48,200			124,080
Total	129,800	102,000	50,780	282,580
US	1,017,050	801,570	321,800	2,140,420

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, 1990

State and Region	Economic Sales Class			Total
	\$1,000 - \$9,999	\$10,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000 & Over	
	1,000 Acres			
Northeast				
NY	1,600	2,700	4,100	8,400
PA	1,800	3,500	2,800	8,100
Other States <u>1/</u>	1,290	1,600	2,600	5,490
Total	4,690	7,800	9,500	21,990
North Central				
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
ND	1,200	21,300	18,000	40,500
OH	2,500	6,500	6,700	15,700
SD	2,000	19,200	23,100	44,300
WI	2,200	7,400	8,000	17,600
Total	25,400	160,400	176,800	362,600
South				
AL <u>2/</u>	2,200			10,100
AR	2,000	2,300	11,200	15,500
FL <u>2/</u>	1,600			10,900
GA	2,500	4,000	6,000	12,500
KY <u>2/</u>	3,900			14,100
LA <u>2/</u>	2,400			8,900
MS <u>2/</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>2/</u>	5,200			12,400
TX	18,000	58,000	56,000	132,000
VA <u>2/</u>	2,400			8,900
Other States <u>2/ 3/</u>	2,620			11,720
Total	52,520	120,500	119,700	292,720
West				
CA	1,900	7,900	21,000	30,800
OR <u>2/</u>	1,500			17,800
WA	950	4,750	10,300	16,000
Other States <u>2/ 4/</u>	11,860			245,510
Total	16,210	102,100	191,800	310,110
US	98,820	390,800	497,800	987,420

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 and Land in Farms: By Economic Sales  
Class, United States, June 1, 1990-92

Economic Sales Class	Economic Sales Class Estimates		
	Percent of Total		Average Size Farm (Acres)
	Farms	Land	
	1990		
\$1,000 - \$2,499	22.1	2.9	61
\$2,500 - \$4,999	13.7	3.0	101
\$5,000 - \$9,999	11.7	4.1	162
\$10,000 - \$19,999	11.1	6.2	258
\$20,000 - \$39,999	12.1	10.4	397
\$40,000 - \$99,999	14.3	23.0	742
\$100,000 - \$249,999	10.0	25.0	1,153
\$250,000 - \$499,999	3.0	12.3	1,891
\$500,000 +	2.0	13.1	3,022
Total	100.0	100.0	461
	1991		
\$1,000 - \$2,499	20.9	3.0	67
\$2,500 - \$4,999	13.9	3.0	101
\$5,000 - \$9,999	12.9	4.0	145
\$10,000 - \$19,999	10.8	6.0	259
\$20,000 - \$39,999	11.3	10.3	426
\$40,000 - \$99,999	14.7	22.0	699
\$100,000 - \$249,999	10.2	25.0	1,144
\$250,000 - \$499,999	3.3	13.2	1,867
\$500,000 +	2.0	13.5	3,151
Total	100.0	100.0	467
	1992		
\$1,000 - \$2,499	21.0	2.8	62
\$2,500 - \$4,999	14.1	3.1	103
\$5,000 - \$9,999	12.6	4.0	148
\$10,000 - \$19,999	11.0	5.8	247
\$20,000 - \$39,999	11.3	10.0	414
\$40,000 - \$99,999	14.5	22.0	710
\$100,000 - \$249,999	10.5	25.6	1,140
\$250,000 - \$499,999	3.2	12.8	1,871
\$500,000 +	1.8	13.9	3,611
Total	100.0	100.0	468

## Reliability of Data in this Report

**Survey Procedures:** These data were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service during the first two weeks of June using sampling procedures to ensure every farm operator had a chance of being selected.

Two samples of farm operators are selected. 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 consists of segments of land scientifically selected from aerial photography. Each June, highly trained interviewers locate each selected land segment and identify every farm operating land within the sample segment's boundaries. The names of farms found in these 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.

**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 June 1 based 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 number information is subject to revision the following year and following review of the Department of Commerce's five-year Census of Agriculture. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate.

**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 about 1 percent and 2 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 2 to 7 for number of farms and 2 to 8 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.

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## 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.

The next "Farm Numbers and Land in Farms" report will be released in July 1993.

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