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Farm Production Expenditures 1999 Summary

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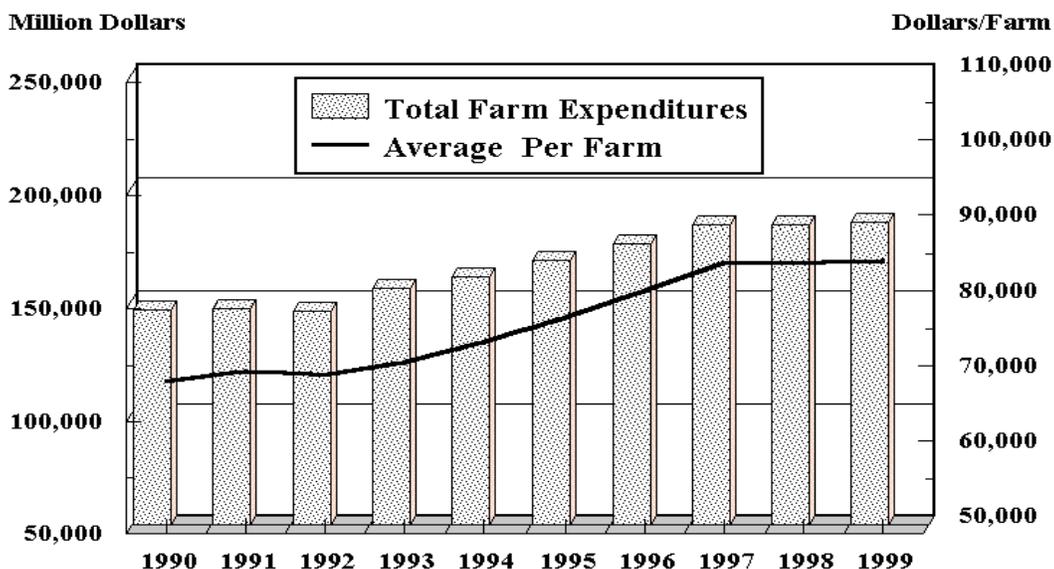
Production Expenditures Up Slightly in 1999

U.S. farm production expenditures totaled \$184.3 billion in 1999, up 0.6 percent from the revised 1998 total of \$183.2 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were; livestock and poultry purchases, up 15.9 percent; farm improvements and construction, up 10.1 percent; labor, up 3.7 percent; and farm supplies and repairs, up 3.3 percent. These increases were partially offset by decreases in; tractors and self-propelled machinery, down 10.0 percent; rent, down 8.1 percent; and fertilizer, down 6.6 percent. The largest two expenditure categories were farm services which accounted for 13.9 percent of the U.S. total production expenses, and feed which accounted for 13.3 percent of the U.S. total production expenses. The farm services category includes expense items such as custom work, utilities, marketing charges, veterinary services, transportation costs, and miscellaneous business expenses.

The average expenditures per U.S. farm in 1999 were \$84,209 compared to \$83,810, as revised for 1998. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 1999 spent \$11,746 on farm services; \$11,197 on feed; \$9,004 on labor; \$7,678 for livestock and poultry purchases; and \$7,267 on rent. Revised estimates for 1998 indicated that U.S. farms spent an average of \$11,440 on farm services; \$11,440 on feed; \$8,694 on labor; \$6,635 for livestock and poultry purchases; and \$7,917 on rent.

The Farm Production Region (as defined on page 24) contributing most to the total 1999 U.S. farm production expenditures was the Corn Belt with expenses of \$34.4 billion, 18.6 percent of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the Corn Belt were down 1.2 percent from the 1998 level of \$34.8 billion. In total expenditures, the Corn Belt was followed by the Pacific Region at \$30.9 billion (1998 - \$29.0 billion); Northern Plains \$23.2 billion (1998 - \$22.6 billion); Lake States \$18.3 billion (1998 - \$19.0 billion); and the Southern Plains at \$15.9 billion (1998 - \$15.6 billion).

U.S. Farm Production Expenditures Total and Average Per Farm, 1990-99



**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Total and Percent of Total,
United States, 1998-99 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	1998		1999	
	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	183,150	100.0	184,250	100.0
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	14,500	7.9	16,800	9.1
Feed	25,000	13.7	24,500	13.3
Farm Services ⁵	25,000	13.7	25,700	13.9
Rent ⁶	17,300	9.4	15,900	8.6
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	9,000	4.9	8,600	4.7
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	10,600	5.8	9,900	5.4
Interest	10,800	5.9	10,700	5.8
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	6,800	3.7	6,800	3.7
Labor	19,000	10.4	19,700	10.7
Fuels	5,400	2.9	5,500	3.0
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	12,200	6.7	12,600	6.8
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	6,450	3.5	7,100	3.9
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	6,000	3.3	5,400	2.9
Other Farm Machinery	3,550	1.9	3,500	1.9
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	7,200	3.9	7,200	3.9
Trucks & Autos	4,000	2.2	3,900	2.1

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
United States, 1998-99¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	83,810	84,209	183,150	184,250
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	29.8	30.8	6,635	7,678	14,500	16,800
Feed	66.6	63.0	11,440	11,197	25,000	24,500
Farm Services ⁵	96.2	97.2	11,440	11,746	25,000	25,700
Rent ⁶	36.4	35.5	7,917	7,267	17,300	15,900
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	57.3	54.2	4,118	3,931	9,000	8,600
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	64.9	65.0	4,851	4,525	10,600	9,900
Interest	48.2	46.2	4,942	4,890	10,800	10,700
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.2	98.1	3,112	3,108	6,800	6,800
Labor	40.5	37.3	8,694	9,004	19,000	19,700
Fuels	86.3	85.1	2,471	2,514	5,400	5,500
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	88.5	88.6	5,583	5,759	12,200	12,600
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	51.9	50.6	2,952	3,245	6,450	7,100
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	14.5	13.8	2,746	2,468	6,000	5,400
Other Farm Machinery	23.0	22.9	1,624	1,600	3,550	3,500
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	54.5	51.2	3,295	3,291	7,200	7,200
Trucks & Autos	17.7	16.7	1,830	1,782	4,000	3,900

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Crop Farms, United States, 1998-99 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	99,702	100,166	100,300	96,360
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	15.2	14.2	1,720	1,767	1,730	1,700
Feed	31.7	27.5	1,581	1,559	1,590	1,500
Farm Services ⁵	93.9	95.3	14,811	14,969	14,900	14,400
Rent ⁶	41.2	41.0	13,827	12,983	13,910	12,490
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	71.1	68.7	7,873	7,817	7,920	7,520
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	75.7	74.8	8,231	7,838	8,280	7,540
Interest	50.7	49.6	5,895	5,852	5,930	5,630
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.7	97.8	4,016	4,106	4,040	3,950
Labor	45.6	42.1	13,708	14,553	13,790	14,000
Fuels	86.5	84.8	3,469	3,649	3,490	3,510
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	86.5	86.6	7,475	7,911	7,520	7,610
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	43.8	44.9	2,922	3,264	2,940	3,140
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	16.7	13.7	3,827	3,337	3,850	3,210
Other Farm Machinery	25.2	22.8	2,083	1,944	2,095	1,870
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	71.8	67.5	6,093	6,372	6,130	6,130
Trucks & Autos	19.2	17.2	1,909	1,871	1,920	1,800

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Livestock Farms, United States, 1998-99 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	70,254	71,688	82,850	87,890
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	42.1	42.6	10,828	12,316	12,770	15,100
Feed	95.9	88.4	19,851	18,760	23,410	23,000
Farm Services ⁵	98.1	98.5	8,564	9,217	10,100	11,300
Rent ⁶	32.4	31.6	2,875	2,781	3,390	3,410
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	45.7	43.9	916	881	1,080	1,080
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	55.8	58.0	1,967	1,925	2,320	2,360
Interest	46.0	43.7	4,130	4,135	4,870	5,070
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.8	98.3	2,340	2,325	2,760	2,850
Labor	36.2	33.8	4,418	4,649	5,210	5,700
Fuels	86.2	85.3	1,620	1,623	1,910	1,990
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	90.2	90.1	3,968	4,070	4,680	4,990
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	58.7	54.6	2,976	3,230	3,510	3,960
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	12.6	13.9	1,823	1,786	2,150	2,190
Other Farm Machinery	21.1	22.9	1,234	1,330	1,455	1,630
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	39.9	39.5	907	873	1,070	1,070
Trucks & Autos	16.4	16.4	1,764	1,713	2,080	2,100

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Economic Class Gross Sales \$250,000 and Over, United States, 1998-99 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	648,114	717,794	104,100	105,950
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	46.0	51.4	61,325	83,669	9,850	12,350
Feed	61.5	61.1	108,828	119,915	17,480	17,700
Farm Services ⁵	100.0	100.0	83,053	94,509	13,340	13,950
Rent ⁶	79.8	76.0	61,885	60,432	9,940	8,920
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	89.2	86.4	33,495	34,348	5,380	5,070
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	87.7	84.0	33,308	33,129	5,350	4,890
Interest	88.4	87.6	29,822	32,180	4,790	4,750
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.9	98.8	13,884	14,905	2,230	2,200
Labor	87.5	86.2	88,781	99,861	14,260	14,740
Fuels	98.3	98.9	15,502	17,174	2,490	2,535
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	99.5	99.3	37,729	41,869	6,060	6,180
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	75.6	74.4	18,740	22,696	3,010	3,350
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	36.5	34.4	17,464	16,192	2,805	2,390
Other Farm Machinery	45.8	44.3	9,214	9,485	1,480	1,400
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	85.2	81.2	25,962	27,980	4,170	4,130
Trucks & Autos	36.8	33.5	7,751	7,656	1,245	1,130

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Economic Class Gross Sales \$100,000 - \$249,999, United States, 1998-99 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	180,008	170,724	35,440	34,260
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	42.8	41.9	11,174	10,465	2,200	2,100
Feed	67.7	60.5	18,158	16,245	3,575	3,260
Farm Services ⁵	100.0	100.0	24,914	23,421	4,905	4,700
Rent ⁶	78.9	76.5	23,187	21,428	4,565	4,300
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	90.2	87.9	10,362	10,016	2,040	2,010
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	89.3	89.1	13,130	12,159	2,585	2,440
Interest	81.5	80.2	11,809	11,212	2,325	2,250
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.9	98.9	7,822	7,300	1,540	1,465
Labor	70.8	68.7	12,597	12,383	2,480	2,485
Fuels	98.8	96.4	6,425	6,428	1,265	1,290
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	98.8	98.7	12,901	12,956	2,540	2,600
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	66.0	64.0	4,871	4,983	959	1,000
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	22.9	23.1	6,349	5,531	1,250	1,110
Other Farm Machinery	42.8	44.5	4,134	4,036	814	810
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	89.1	86.3	8,152	8,172	1,605	1,640
Trucks & Autos	28.5	29.2	3,779	3,538	744	710

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Economic Class Gross Sales \$40,000 - \$99,999, United States, 1998-99¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	75,090	75,372	17,680	17,910
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	33.8	36.2	4,714	4,166	1,110	990
Feed	61.7	60.0	6,604	5,618	1,555	1,335
Farm Services ⁵	99.3	99.6	11,382	11,784	2,680	2,800
Rent ⁶	63.3	65.2	7,114	6,986	1,675	1,660
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	82.0	80.9	3,822	3,724	900	885
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	87.5	87.1	5,712	5,471	1,345	1,300
Interest	67.5	64.7	5,882	5,639	1,385	1,340
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.9	98.4	4,162	4,103	980	975
Labor	55.9	54.1	4,332	4,882	1,020	1,160
Fuels	94.9	96.7	2,867	2,904	675	690
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	97.1	97.7	6,201	6,691	1,460	1,590
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	53.9	59.7	2,531	2,925	596	695
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	16.5	15.5	2,697	2,820	635	670
Other Farm Machinery	29.5	30.1	1,801	1,978	424	470
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	83.1	79.7	3,198	3,325	753	790
Trucks & Autos	18.4	21.1	1,924	2,188	453	520

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Economic Class Gross Sales \$10,000 - \$39,999, United States, 1998-99¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	33,691	32,127	13,980	13,140
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	29.3	31.4	1,976	1,883	820	770
Feed	64.6	58.7	2,771	2,347	1,150	960
Farm Services ⁵	97.0	99.3	5,181	5,183	2,150	2,120
Rent ⁶	39.5	42.9	2,024	1,834	840	750
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	64.3	63.8	1,253	1,174	520	480
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	72.7	73.8	2,133	1,993	885	815
Interest	47.1	45.8	2,518	2,457	1,045	1,005
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.4	98.8	2,217	2,225	920	910
Labor	38.9	41.5	1,807	1,822	750	745
Fuels	89.9	91.5	1,299	1,345	539	550
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	92.3	94.1	2,928	2,910	1,215	1,190
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	49.9	51.1	1,935	1,895	803	775
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	14.3	13.3	1,675	1,528	695	625
Other Farm Machinery	25.3	22.6	998	929	414	380
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	64.6	63.2	1,169	1,088	485	445
Trucks & Autos	18.0	16.2	1,757	1,443	729	590

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Economic Class Gross Sales Less Than \$10,000, United States, 1998-99 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	10,149	10,888	11,950	12,990
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	24.3	25.0	442	495	520	590
Feed	68.9	65.7	1,053	1,044	1,240	1,245
Farm Services ⁵	93.9	95.1	1,635	1,785	1,925	2,130
Rent ⁶	15.3	15.2	238	226	280	270
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	38.3	36.0	136	130	160	155
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	49.0	51.2	369	381	435	455
Interest	32.5	31.8	1,066	1,136	1,255	1,355
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.8	97.6	960	1,048	1,130	1,250
Labor	25.5	21.2	416	478	490	570
Fuels	78.9	76.9	366	365	431	435
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	81.5	82.0	786	872	925	1,040
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	46.1	43.4	919	1,073	1,082	1,280
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	9.3	9.6	522	507	615	605
Other Farm Machinery	13.5	15.2	355	369	418	440
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	33.3	31.8	159	163	187	195
Trucks & Autos	12.4	11.8	704	796	829	950

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Northeast Region, 1998-99 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	81,836	77,748	12,300	11,670
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	34.5	27.5	4,225	4,131	635	620
Feed	65.8	54.2	16,301	14,990	2,450	2,250
Farm Services ⁵	91.6	96.1	11,510	11,792	1,730	1,770
Rent ⁶	30.5	31.6	2,129	1,732	320	260
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	53.2	53.5	2,129	1,932	320	290
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	68.8	73.1	2,794	2,632	420	395
Interest	41.5	40.4	3,992	3,764	600	565
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.9	98.0	4,158	4,064	625	610
Labor	34.5	37.0	11,111	10,326	1,670	1,550
Fuels	90.4	91.0	2,242	2,232	337	335
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	90.6	94.1	6,986	6,729	1,050	1,010
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	58.2	57.3	4,657	4,464	700	670
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	14.8	15.0	2,255	2,032	339	305
Other Farm Machinery	29.3	28.5	2,063	2,132	310	320
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	63.3	54.0	3,360	2,898	505	435
Trucks & Autos	15.0	15.6	1,730	1,666	260	250

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Lake States Region, 1998-99¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	90,476	86,462	19,000	18,330
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	36.1	29.6	5,190	5,094	1,090	1,080
Feed	58.4	56.6	11,524	10,330	2,420	2,190
Farm Services ⁵	94.5	96.3	11,000	11,038	2,310	2,340
Rent ⁶	41.9	38.4	7,214	6,368	1,515	1,350
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	63.8	62.3	4,524	4,269	950	905
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	70.5	62.5	5,095	4,481	1,070	950
Interest	55.7	59.4	6,143	6,274	1,290	1,330
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	100.0	97.6	4,429	4,387	930	930
Labor	43.4	35.1	7,976	7,264	1,675	1,540
Fuels	85.8	85.2	2,643	2,618	555	555
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	86.4	89.7	7,500	7,358	1,575	1,560
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	54.6	53.6	4,357	4,387	915	930
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	12.0	19.6	3,519	3,302	739	700
Other Farm Machinery	39.0	39.3	2,643	2,783	555	590
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	72.8	66.4	4,643	4,693	975	995
Trucks & Autos	22.0	16.7	1,857	1,580	390	335

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Corn Belt Region, 1998-99 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	80,509	79,884	34,780	34,350
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	26.0	32.5	4,688	5,895	2,025	2,535
Feed	58.0	58.9	7,986	8,605	3,450	3,700
Farm Services ⁵	99.1	97.8	7,685	7,860	3,320	3,380
Rent ⁶	45.3	41.0	14,722	13,581	6,360	5,840
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	67.0	62.2	5,417	5,209	2,340	2,240
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	72.0	68.5	6,944	6,442	3,000	2,770
Interest	58.4	54.3	4,919	5,093	2,125	2,190
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	100.0	99.3	3,611	3,628	1,560	1,560
Labor	32.8	31.4	3,484	3,372	1,505	1,450
Fuels	83.4	83.8	2,213	2,209	956	950
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	86.0	89.2	4,572	4,744	1,975	2,040
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	48.1	50.5	2,708	2,698	1,170	1,160
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	18.1	15.2	3,414	2,791	1,475	1,200
Other Farm Machinery	27.4	25.9	1,870	1,663	808	715
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	68.2	63.9	4,664	4,581	2,015	1,970
Trucks & Autos	16.1	15.1	1,481	1,372	640	590

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Northern Plains Region, 1998-99 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	123,161	126,995	22,600	23,240
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	38.3	38.2	18,583	25,082	3,410	4,590
Feed	59.6	63.6	12,316	12,077	2,260	2,210
Farm Services ⁵	97.4	98.1	13,951	14,481	2,560	2,650
Rent ⁶	58.8	59.4	17,003	15,519	3,120	2,840
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	69.4	64.6	5,886	5,738	1,080	1,050
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	71.6	65.9	7,548	7,049	1,385	1,290
Interest	68.1	64.6	8,338	8,197	1,530	1,500
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.9	97.7	5,341	5,328	980	975
Labor	39.4	39.9	4,986	4,727	915	865
Fuels	92.1	88.1	4,316	4,290	792	785
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	92.7	94.0	8,474	8,361	1,555	1,530
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	49.4	47.7	2,698	2,650	495	485
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	16.7	17.9	3,651	3,579	670	655
Other Farm Machinery	28.9	27.3	2,659	2,486	488	455
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	69.4	62.4	4,469	4,754	820	870
Trucks & Autos	28.3	25.1	2,861	2,514	525	460

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Appalachian Region, 1998-99¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	45,663	45,636	14,110	14,170
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	26.8	26.5	4,337	4,992	1,340	1,550
Feed	77.6	69.8	10,324	9,758	3,190	3,030
Farm Services ⁵	97.6	98.0	5,696	5,539	1,760	1,720
Rent ⁶	26.8	26.2	2,605	2,576	805	800
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	50.0	56.5	1,570	1,643	485	510
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	70.7	72.8	2,638	2,512	815	780
Interest	35.9	31.7	2,039	2,077	630	645
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.9	97.8	1,149	1,143	355	355
Labor	43.7	39.5	3,754	3,929	1,160	1,220
Fuels	90.2	90.4	1,369	1,385	423	430
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	89.6	90.6	2,654	2,738	820	850
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	51.7	46.8	1,812	1,804	560	560
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	12.1	9.7	1,987	1,723	614	535
Other Farm Machinery	17.3	18.1	1,036	1,063	320	330
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	50.9	53.0	1,197	1,288	370	400
Trucks & Autos	13.9	13.7	1,424	1,353	440	420

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Average per Farm, Farms Reporting, and Total,
Southeast Region, 1998-99 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	71,893	71,667	12,150	12,040
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	20.6	29.4	2,929	4,107	495	690
Feed	64.8	66.2	12,781	13,750	2,160	2,310
Farm Services ⁵	92.2	98.5	11,065	10,952	1,870	1,840
Rent ⁶	21.3	19.8	2,308	1,845	390	310
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	46.6	53.2	4,586	4,048	775	680
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	70.4	75.8	4,675	4,048	790	680
Interest	35.6	37.3	3,462	3,542	585	595
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.7	97.8	1,893	1,905	320	320
Labor	42.1	33.3	11,302	10,119	1,910	1,700
Fuels	81.5	89.4	2,112	2,083	357	350
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	83.4	89.6	4,467	4,315	755	725
Farm Improvements & construction ⁹	44.4	48.8	2,308	3,065	390	515
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	12.5	12.2	2,154	2,113	364	355
Other Farm Machinery	11.1	15.1	964	952	163	160
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	34.6	42.5	3,107	2,798	525	470
Trucks & Autos	14.8	14.2	1,568	1,786	265	300

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Delta Region, 1998-99¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	75,309	75,720	9,150	9,200
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	27.3	35.5	5,638	6,255	685	760
Feed	70.8	74.4	15,144	14,156	1,840	1,720
Farm Services ⁵	96.7	98.4	10,288	10,617	1,250	1,290
Rent ⁶	35.3	31.2	6,502	6,091	790	740
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	53.2	43.6	6,008	6,049	730	735
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	64.9	66.9	4,198	4,074	510	495
Interest	38.6	43.5	3,498	3,498	425	425
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	86.0	97.1	1,235	1,276	150	155
Labor	45.7	33.4	4,979	5,309	605	645
Fuels	87.2	88.1	2,634	2,757	320	335
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	87.8	89.9	4,774	4,979	580	605
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	50.9	54.5	1,728	2,222	210	270
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	13.2	14.3	2,905	2,469	353	300
Other Farm Machinery	18.3	18.4	1,366	1,152	166	140
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	49.1	45.8	2,305	2,551	280	310
Trucks & Autos	19.6	20.0	1,893	2,016	230	245

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Southern Plains Region, 1998-99 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	50,453	51,093	15,590	15,890
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	30.8	33.6	7,880	7,653	2,435	2,380
Feed	85.9	75.7	7,476	6,817	2,310	2,120
Farm Services ⁵	95.7	95.4	7,379	8,006	2,280	2,490
Rent ⁶	35.2	33.8	3,544	3,183	1,095	990
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	42.7	37.9	1,424	1,302	440	405
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	52.9	55.3	2,460	2,347	760	730
Interest	39.0	37.4	2,994	2,830	925	880
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	100.0	99.0	1,877	1,961	580	610
Labor	37.2	34.5	3,350	3,826	1,035	1,190
Fuels	85.4	78.2	1,922	1,913	594	595
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	93.0	81.7	2,994	3,312	925	1,030
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	51.1	48.8	1,796	2,363	555	735
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	7.8	11.7	1,405	1,463	434	455
Other Farm Machinery	14.4	18.7	819	900	253	280
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	38.4	35.4	1,327	1,238	410	385
Trucks & Autos	15.6	15.8	1,715	1,849	530	575

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Mountain Region, 1998-99 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	108,906	108,912	14,430	14,420
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	43.2	32.0	11,698	12,840	1,550	1,700
Feed	69.2	61.6	15,019	13,973	1,990	1,850
Farm Services ⁵	97.0	97.6	16,981	16,767	2,250	2,220
Rent ⁶	36.2	42.5	8,453	8,233	1,120	1,090
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	49.3	43.6	3,321	3,134	440	415
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	35.7	48.9	4,981	4,909	660	650
Interest	46.8	50.8	7,358	7,100	975	940
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.9	97.6	3,321	3,285	440	435
Labor	44.7	41.6	11,962	12,387	1,585	1,640
Fuels	81.2	79.2	3,525	3,550	467	470
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	81.9	86.9	7,774	7,628	1,030	1,010
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	53.6	55.9	3,245	3,965	430	525
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	16.8	13.5	3,758	3,248	498	430
Other Farm Machinery	16.6	19.6	1,864	1,964	247	260
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	37.1	38.8	2,642	2,908	350	385
Trucks & Autos	18.6	21.6	2,679	2,606	355	345

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Pacific Region, 1998-99¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	172,344	182,537	29,040	30,940
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	20.4	22.3	4,955	5,280	835	895
Feed	52.7	42.2	17,389	18,407	2,930	3,120
Farm Services ⁵	95.2	95.7	33,650	35,398	5,670	6,000
Rent ⁶	23.3	28.6	10,593	9,912	1,785	1,680
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	70.9	56.2	8,546	8,083	1,440	1,370
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	56.3	55.1	7,062	6,844	1,190	1,160
Interest	53.1	43.9	10,178	9,617	1,715	1,630
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.9	96.5	5,104	5,015	860	850
Labor	55.5	56.8	41,187	46,608	6,940	7,900
Fuels	87.5	80.3	3,555	4,100	599	695
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	92.5	84.0	11,484	13,215	1,935	2,240
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	62.3	49.2	6,083	7,375	1,025	1,250
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	21.9	10.6	3,050	2,743	514	465
Other Farm Machinery	22.0	14.6	1,424	1,475	240	250
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	40.5	33.2	5,638	5,782	950	980
Trucks & Autos	18.3	16.3	2,166	2,242	365	380

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Total,
United States, 1994-99 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	<i>Million Dollars</i>					
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	160,670	167,800	174,950	183,180	183,150	184,250
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	15,200	15,000	12,800	14,200	14,500	16,800
Feed	22,600	23,800	25,200	26,300	25,000	24,500
Farm Services ⁵	23,000	23,800	23,500	24,700	25,000	25,700
Rent ⁶	15,400	16,000	18,300	18,470	17,300	15,900
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	7,200	7,700	8,500	9,000	9,000	8,600
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	9,150	10,000	10,900	10,900	10,600	9,900
Interest	9,450	10,300	10,400	10,500	10,800	10,700
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	6,200	6,400	6,500	6,650	6,800	6,800
Labor	15,000	16,000	17,100	18,300	19,000	19,700
Fuels	5,100	5,500	5,800	6,000	5,400	5,500
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	10,800	11,500	11,800	12,300	12,200	12,600
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	5,400	5,200	5,900	6,100	6,450	7,100
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	4,610	4,750	5,000	5,400	6,000	5,400
Other Farm Machinery	3,360	3,100	3,350	3,410	3,550	3,500
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	5,360	5,450	6,200	6,700	7,200	7,200
Trucks & Autos	2,560	2,800	3,300	3,800	4,000	3,900

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Percent of Total,
United States, 1994-99 ¹**

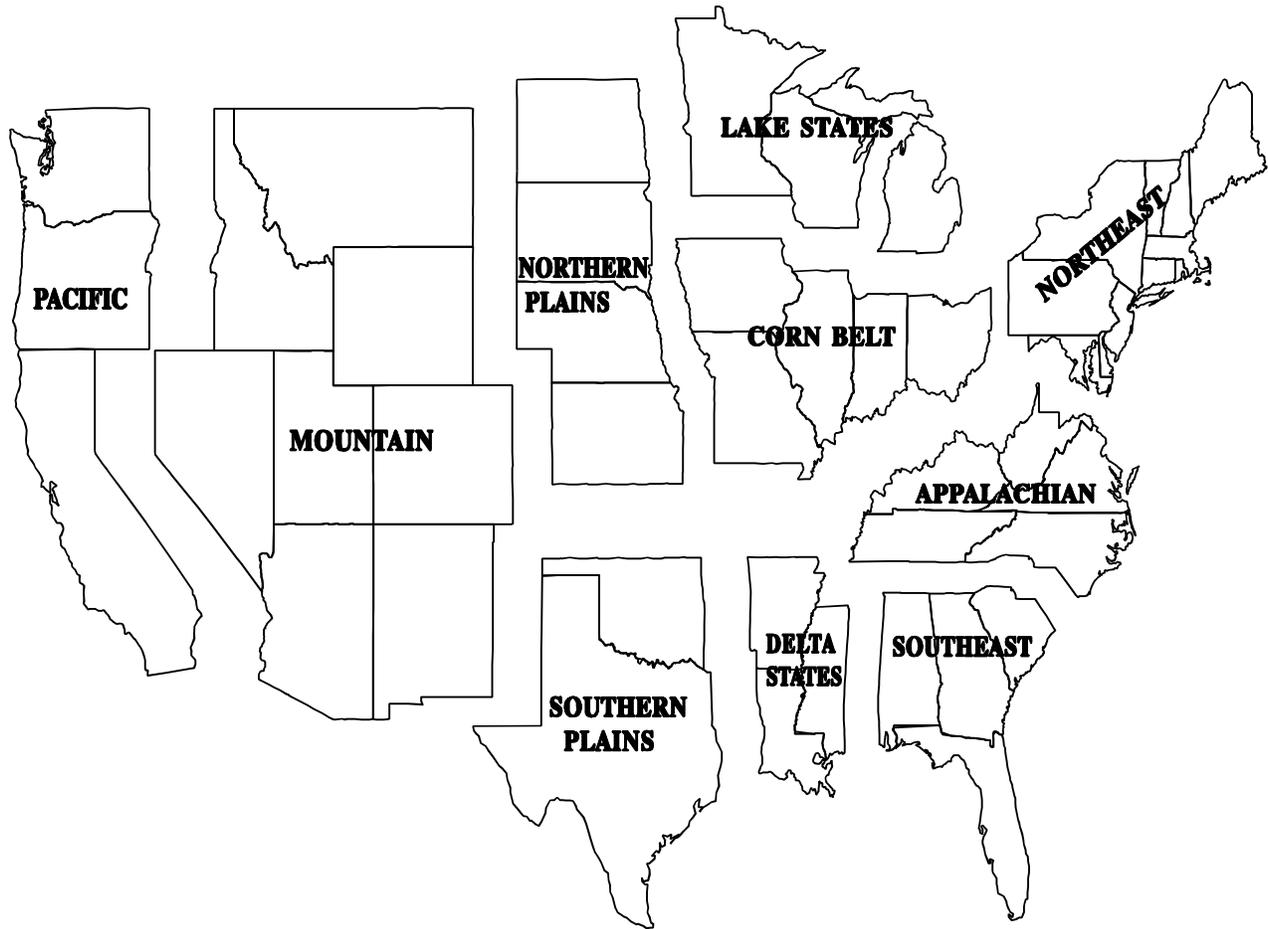
Expenditure - Farm Share	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	9.5	8.9	7.3	7.8	7.9	9.1
Feed	14.1	14.2	14.4	14.4	13.7	13.3
Farm Services ⁵	14.3	14.2	13.4	13.5	13.7	13.9
Rent ⁶	9.6	9.5	10.5	10.1	9.4	8.6
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.4
Interest	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.8
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7
Labor	9.3	9.5	9.8	10.0	10.4	10.7
Fuels	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.0
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.9
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.3	2.9
Other Farm Machinery	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.9
Trucks & Autos	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.1

See footnotes on page 23.

Footnotes

- ¹ Excludes AK and HI.
- ² Total includes production costs not allocated to any of the 16 expense categories published.
- ³ Includes landlord and contractor share of farm production expenses.
- ⁴ Includes purchases and leasing of livestock and poultry.
- ⁵ Includes all crop custom work, veterinary services, custom feeding, transportation costs, marketing charges, insurance, leasing of machinery and equipment, miscellaneous business expenses, and utilities.
- ⁶ Includes public and private grazing fees.
- ⁷ Includes material and application costs.
- ⁸ Includes bedding and litter, marketing containers, power farm shop equipment, miscellaneous non-capital equipment and supplies, repairs and maintenance of livestock and poultry equipment, and capital equipment for livestock and poultry.
- ⁹ Includes all expenditures related to new construction or repairs of buildings and fences, and any improvements to physical structures of land.
- ¹⁰ Excludes bedding plants, nursery stock, and seed purchased for resale. Includes seed treatment.
- ¹¹ Number of farms reporting item divided by total number of farms.
- ¹² Total expenditures divided by total number of farms.
- ¹³ Regions consist of the following States:
Northeast: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT;
Lake States: MI, MN, WI;
Corn Belt: IL, IN, IA, MO, OH;
Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD;
Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV;
Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC;
Delta: AR, LA, MS;
Southern Plains: OK, TX;
Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY;
Pacific: CA, OR, WA.
See next page for regional map.

Farm Production Expenditure Regions



Northeast	CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.
Lake States	MI, MN, WI.
Corn Belt	IL, IN, IA, MO, OH.
Northern Plains	KS, NE, ND, SD.
Appalachian	KY, NC, TN, VA, WV.
Southeast	AL, FL, GA, SC.
Delta States	AR, LA, MS.
Southern Plains	OK, TX.
Mountain	AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY.
Pacific	CA, OR, WA.

Estimating Procedures and Reliability

Program Changes: The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) initiated an estimation program in calendar year 1993 for farm production expenditures. Prior year's Farm Production Expenditure publications included only survey indications for expenditures at the U.S. level and other geographic, size, and type of farm levels. Estimates are currently published based on survey indications and other check data for major groupings of farm production expenses for the U.S., 10 Farm Production Regions, 5 U.S. Economic Sales Classes, and U.S. Crop and Livestock Farms. Previous year's data are subject to revision as additional indications and check data are available.

In 1996, the Agricultural Resource Management Study (ARMS) was developed from a combining of the previous Farm Costs and Returns Survey (FCRS) and the Cropping Practice Survey (CPS). The initiative to combine these surveys came from a growing interest in tying the resources used in agricultural production and the farm financial information to the relationships between various production practices and farm financial conditions; and the need to improve the efficiency of data collection by combining identical information collected in both the CPS and the FCRS into one survey. Because of the variety of issues needing to be addressed with ARMS, it was designed with a flexible structure that allowed different questionnaire versions to focus more specifically on topics of interest. The ARMS was conducted in three phases. Survey phases one and two screened for farms with specific commodities of interest and collected agricultural production, resource use, and cost of production information. The third phase of the survey collected farm production expenditure data similar to the previous FCRS.

One of the primary uses of farm production expenditure data is for weighting in the construction of prices paid indexes. In early 1995, NASS completed a revision of the indexes which included changes in the structure of components estimated and subsequently, the relative weights used in the construction of the indexes. Changes were made in an effort to simplify updating of component items and also to establish more appropriate weights for the series. In a combined effort to facilitate this process, changes were made in component items estimated in this publication. The changes made include: grazing fees were moved from the Farm Services category to Rent; oils and lubricants were moved from Fuels to Farm Supplies and Repairs; repairs and maintenance expenditures were moved from Other Farm Machinery to Farm Supplies and Repairs; and the category Building and Fencing along with Farm and Land Improvements were combined into one category called Farm Improvements and Construction. Estimates for these levels were revised back to 1990 at the U.S. level to provide a more useful series for data users.

Survey Procedures: The farm production expenditure data contained in this publication are the result of a sample survey of nearly 17,250 farms and ranches contacted in February through April 2000 in all States except Alaska and Hawaii. The Agricultural Resource Management Study covers the population of farms in the 48 contiguous States defined as "all establishments which sold or would normally have sold at least \$1,000 of agricultural products during the previous year". These establishments are not only traditional agricultural operations such as grain farms and dairy operations, but also specialty farms such as orchards, nurseries, and those producing fish in captivity.

The Agricultural Resource Management Study is a multiple frame survey which utilizes a list frame and a complementary area frame. The list frame typically represents the larger, more specialized operations contributing the greater portion of the data expansions. The area frame provides coverage for the smaller operations that are not available for sampling from the list. Since all of the operators on the list frame are also part of the area frame, rigorous procedures are followed to be certain that an operation is only included in the data expansions once. These multiple frame expansions are unbiased and provide more precise expansions than could be obtained by using the area frame alone.

Special training occurs prior to the Agricultural Resource Management Study period to insure consistent and proper execution of survey procedures in farm determination, data collection, and editing of detailed expense and income data.

Field and office staff edit data using hand and machine edit procedures. Questionnaires are reviewed for consistency, data relationships, and completeness. Past analysis has shown approximately half of the edits simply correct for data misplacement errors. In cases where respondents are unable or unwilling to report data for any item on the questionnaire, the field enumerators or survey statisticians can impute a value. For income, related debt/asset data, and a few expense items statisticians are allowed to enter a (-1) to indicate a missing value and an algorithm within the edit will compute and input the missing value based on similar size and type of operations. The computer generated imputation has not been implemented for all expenditure data because NASS analysis has shown that there are significantly fewer missing data cells on expenses than on income. Missing values for expense items, where no data are reported, are edited to a positive value based on other reported values from similar operations by the survey statistician.

Data Comparability: This publication includes estimates for 1998 and 1999 farm production expenditures for the U.S., 10 Farm Production Expenditure Regions, 5 Economic Sales Classes, and Crop and Livestock Farms. Total expenditures and expenses for major input items at the U.S. level are provided back through 1994 to provide data users a comparable data series.

Some of the expenditure estimates published in this report will differ from production expense estimates published in the Economic Research Service's "Farm Business Economics Report". The Economic Research Service (ERS), the agency responsible for estimates of farm income, treats agriculture as a sector in the U.S. economy while the National Agricultural Statistics Service is interested in annual production expenditures as a cash outlay to farming operations.

In most cases, items that would be considered cash farm operating expenditures are estimated the same by both agencies (NASS and ERS) with the estimates established during a joint national board. This would include production inputs such as feed, seed, fertilizer, chemicals, and labor. There is a major difference in accounting between NASS and ERS for reporting capital expenditures. NASS considers capital expenditures such as purchases of vehicles and construction of buildings as a cash outlay for the farming operation while ERS recognizes the contribution of the expenditure as a depreciable asset to the farm sector. NASS interest expense includes the reported farm share of the household and excludes landlord interest expenditures. ERS excludes the nonfarm share of interest expense but includes landlord interest expense. An additional difference in methodology exists for livestock & poultry expenditures. ERS does not include farm to farm sales of livestock as this would not be a cost to the sector account -- only an expense to the farm making the purchase and income to the farm making the sale.

Data 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.

For 1999 total expenditures, the relative sampling errors were as follows for the different domains estimated: at the U.S. level 2.5 percent; from 3.4 to 10.1 percent at the Regional level; from 2.8 to 4.3 at the U.S. Economic Sales Class level; 3.2 for Crop Farms; 3.9 for Livestock Farms. For 1998 total expenditures, the relative sampling errors were as follows for the different domains estimated: at the U.S. level 2.0 percent; from 3.4 to 8.7 percent at the Regional level. The relative sampling errors for major expense items at the U.S. level typically range from 3.3 to 10.5 percent.

Data from sample surveys are also influenced by non-sampling errors which are not always measurable or known. Non-sampling errors may be introduced by enumerators, respondents, questionnaire design, or field and office procedures. Efforts are made to minimize these errors and maintain survey accuracy through proper training of all individuals involved with the survey, detailed review and verification of data, and analysis of data for comparability and consistency.

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