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Farm Production Expenditures Summary

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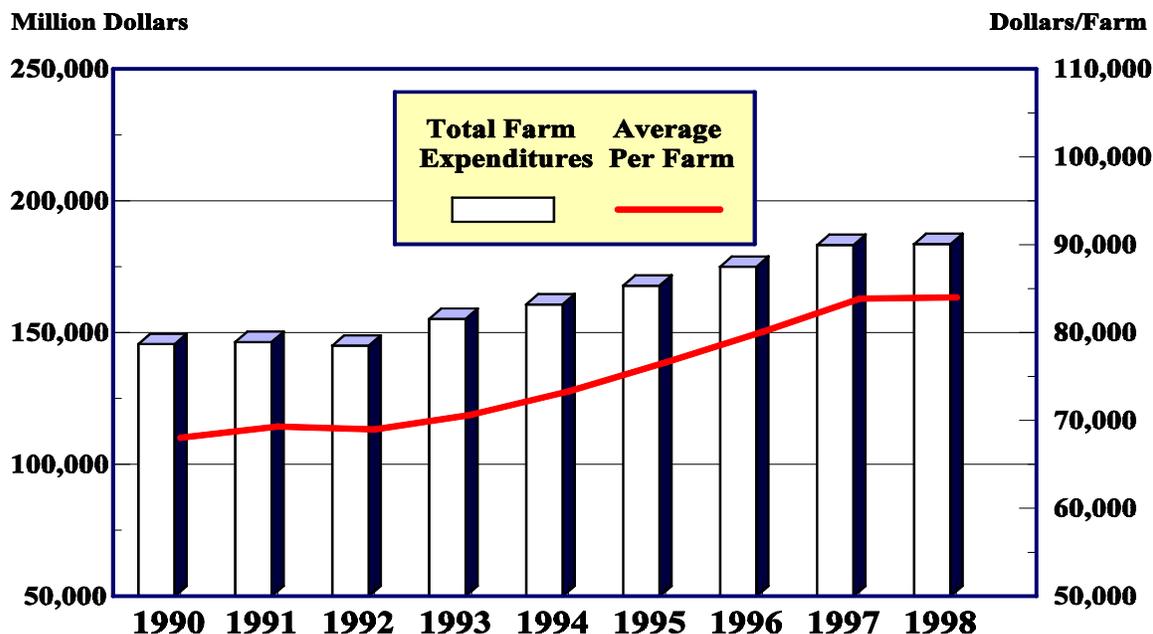
Production Expenditures Up Slightly in 1998

U.S. farm production expenditures totaled \$183.6 billion in 1998, up 0.2 percent from the revised 1997 total of \$183.2 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were; trucks and autos, up 15.8 percent; tractors and self propelled farm machinery, up 11.1 percent; seeds and plants, up 7.5 percent; and farm improvements and construction, up 5.7 percent. These increases were partially offset by decreases in; fuels, down 10.0 percent; rent, down 6.3 percent; and feed, down 4.9 percent. The largest two expenditure categories were feed and farm services; each accounted for 13.6 percent of 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.

Average expenditures per U.S. farm in 1998 were \$83,987 compared to \$83,856, as revised for 1997. On the average, U.S. farm operations in 1998 spent \$11,439 on feed; \$11,439 on farm services; \$7,916 on rent; \$8,694 on labor; and \$6,498 on livestock and poultry purchases. Revised estimates for 1997 indicated that U.S. farms spent an average of \$12,040 on feed; \$11,307 on farm services; \$8,455 on rent; \$8,377 on labor; and \$6,500 for livestock and poultry purchases.

The Farm Production Region (as defined on page 24) contributing most to total 1998 U.S. farm production expenditures was the Corn Belt with expenses of \$34.8 billion, 19 percent of the U.S. total. Expenditures in the Corn Belt were up 2.7 percent from the 1997 level of \$33.9 billion. In total expenditures, the Corn Belt was followed by the Pacific Region at \$29.1 billion (1997 - \$29.9 billion); Northern Plains \$22.6 billion (1997 - \$22.6 billion); Lake States \$19.1 billion (1997 - \$19.3 billion); and the Southern Plains at \$15.6 billion (1997 - \$16.0 billion).

U.S. Farm Production Expenditures Total and Average Per Farm, 1990-98



**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Total and Percent of Total,
United States, 1997-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	1997		1998	
	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	183,180	100.0	183,550	100.0
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	14,200	7.8	14,200	7.7
Feed	26,300	14.4	25,000	13.6
Farm Services ⁵	24,700	13.5	25,000	13.6
Rent ⁶	18,470	10.1	17,300	9.4
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	9,000	4.9	9,100	5.0
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	10,900	6.0	10,600	5.8
Interest	10,500	5.7	10,800	5.9
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	6,650	3.6	7,000	3.8
Labor	18,300	10.0	19,000	10.4
Fuels	6,000	3.3	5,400	2.9
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	12,300	6.7	12,200	6.6
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	6,100	3.3	6,450	3.5
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	5,400	2.9	6,000	3.3
Other Farm Machinery	3,410	1.9	3,550	1.9
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	6,700	3.7	7,200	3.9
Trucks & Autos	3,800	2.1	4,400	2.4

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
United States, 1997-98¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	83,856	83,987	183,180	183,550
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	27.8	29.8	6,500	6,498	14,200	14,200
Feed	65.1	66.6	12,040	11,439	26,300	25,000
Farm Services ⁵	96.9	96.2	11,307	11,439	24,700	25,000
Rent ⁶	38.0	36.4	8,455	7,916	18,470	17,300
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	55.0	57.3	4,120	4,164	9,000	9,100
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	65.2	64.9	4,990	4,850	10,900	10,600
Interest	47.0	48.2	4,807	4,942	10,500	10,800
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	97.7	99.2	3,044	3,203	6,650	7,000
Labor	39.0	40.5	8,377	8,694	18,300	19,000
Fuels	89.2	86.3	2,747	2,471	6,000	5,400
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	90.3	88.5	5,631	5,582	12,300	12,200
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	51.5	51.9	2,792	2,951	6,100	6,450
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	13.3	14.5	2,472	2,745	5,400	6,000
Other Farm Machinery	19.6	23.0	1,561	1,624	3,410	3,550
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	53.1	54.5	3,067	3,295	6,700	7,200
Trucks & Autos	16.1	17.7	1,740	2,013	3,800	4,400

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Crop Farms, United States, 1997-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	97,275	100,010	99,860	100,610
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	13.7	15.2	1,451	1,650	1,490	1,660
Feed	33.9	31.7	1,539	1,581	1,580	1,590
Farm Services ⁵	94.8	93.9	14,271	14,811	14,650	14,900
Rent ⁶	41.9	41.2	14,612	13,827	15,000	13,910
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	69.9	71.1	7,705	7,952	7,910	8,000
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	75.0	75.7	8,251	8,231	8,470	8,280
Interest	49.0	50.7	5,562	5,895	5,710	5,930
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	97.7	99.7	3,702	4,125	3,800	4,150
Labor	42.9	45.6	13,102	13,708	13,450	13,790
Fuels	88.7	86.5	3,731	3,469	3,830	3,490
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	90.0	86.5	7,433	7,475	7,630	7,520
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	43.1	43.8	2,630	2,922	2,700	2,940
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	15.8	16.7	3,526	3,827	3,620	3,850
Other Farm Machinery	20.8	25.2	2,052	2,083	2,107	2,095
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	69.9	71.8	5,572	6,093	5,720	6,130
Trucks & Autos	18.0	19.2	1,844	2,097	1,893	2,110

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Livestock Farms, United States, 1997-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	71,959	70,321	83,320	82,940
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	40.3	42.1	10,977	10,632	12,710	12,540
Feed	92.7	95.9	21,349	19,848	24,720	23,410
Farm Services ⁵	98.8	98.1	8,680	8,563	10,050	10,100
Rent ⁶	34.5	32.4	2,997	2,874	3,470	3,390
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	42.1	45.7	941	933	1,090	1,100
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	56.6	55.8	2,099	1,967	2,430	2,320
Interest	45.2	46.0	4,137	4,129	4,790	4,870
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	97.6	98.8	2,461	2,416	2,850	2,850
Labor	35.6	36.2	4,189	4,417	4,850	5,210
Fuels	89.6	86.2	1,874	1,619	2,170	1,910
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	90.6	90.2	4,033	3,968	4,670	4,680
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	59.0	58.7	2,936	2,976	3,400	3,510
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	11.1	12.6	1,537	1,823	1,780	2,150
Other Farm Machinery	18.4	21.1	1,125	1,234	1,303	1,455
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	38.2	39.9	846	907	980	1,070
Trucks & Autos	14.3	16.4	1,647	1,942	1,907	2,290

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, 1997-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	661,632	642,333	102,950	104,090
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	45.6	46.0	61,150	59,210	9,515	9,595
Feed	58.5	61.5	116,581	107,868	18,140	17,480
Farm Services ⁵	100.0	100.0	84,447	82,320	13,140	13,340
Rent ⁶	79.0	79.8	66,787	61,339	10,392	9,940
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	89.9	89.2	34,062	33,632	5,300	5,450
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	87.6	87.7	33,869	33,015	5,270	5,350
Interest	86.1	88.4	28,271	29,559	4,399	4,790
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.8	99.9	13,683	14,317	2,129	2,320
Labor	86.6	87.5	88,271	87,998	13,735	14,260
Fuels	99.3	98.3	17,082	15,366	2,658	2,490
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	99.4	99.5	39,120	37,396	6,087	6,060
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	74.6	75.6	18,342	18,575	2,854	3,010
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	34.0	36.5	16,324	17,309	2,540	2,805
Other Farm Machinery	43.3	45.8	9,961	9,133	1,550	1,480
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	84.5	85.2	24,126	25,733	3,754	4,170
Trucks & Autos	34.6	36.8	7,654	8,207	1,191	1,330

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, 1997-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	184,640	182,604	36,400	35,480
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	39.5	42.8	11,160	11,323	2,200	2,200
Feed	65.6	67.7	19,834	18,399	3,910	3,575
Farm Services ⁵	100.0	100.0	23,739	25,244	4,680	4,905
Rent ⁶	76.7	78.9	25,870	23,495	5,100	4,565
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	89.6	90.2	10,348	10,602	2,040	2,060
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	91.0	89.3	14,102	13,304	2,780	2,585
Interest	79.9	81.5	12,098	11,966	2,385	2,325
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.1	99.9	8,015	7,952	1,580	1,545
Labor	66.7	70.8	12,478	12,764	2,460	2,480
Fuels	98.6	98.8	7,254	6,511	1,430	1,265
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	99.6	98.8	13,138	13,073	2,590	2,540
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	65.9	66.0	5,002	4,936	986	959
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	21.5	22.9	6,016	6,433	1,186	1,250
Other Farm Machinery	36.6	42.8	3,718	4,189	733	814
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	86.6	89.1	7,862	8,260	1,550	1,605
Trucks & Autos	30.9	28.5	3,698	3,906	729	759

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, 1997-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	81,606	77,408	18,900	17,680
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	36.8	33.8	4,965	4,772	1,150	1,090
Feed	58.9	61.7	7,815	6,808	1,810	1,555
Farm Services ⁵	99.6	99.3	12,219	11,734	2,830	2,680
Rent ⁶	63.7	63.3	7,677	7,334	1,778	1,675
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	81.7	82.0	4,188	3,897	970	890
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	85.9	87.5	6,261	5,889	1,450	1,345
Interest	69.3	67.5	6,261	6,064	1,450	1,385
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	97.8	99.9	4,313	4,238	999	968
Labor	57.1	55.9	4,534	4,466	1,050	1,020
Fuels	96.8	94.9	3,541	2,955	820	675
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	97.4	97.1	6,770	6,392	1,568	1,460
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	57.9	53.9	2,742	2,609	635	596
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	18.0	16.5	2,707	2,780	627	635
Other Farm Machinery	28.0	29.5	1,887	1,856	437	424
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	80.0	83.1	3,368	3,297	780	753
Trucks & Autos	24.3	18.4	2,211	2,167	512	495

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, 1997-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	32,610	34,303	13,470	14,150
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	29.4	29.3	2,082	1,952	860	805
Feed	61.2	64.6	2,929	2,788	1,210	1,150
Farm Services ⁵	98.4	97.0	4,987	5,212	2,060	2,150
Rent ⁶	40.7	39.5	2,155	2,036	890	840
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	63.5	64.3	1,259	1,285	520	530
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	75.2	72.7	2,227	2,145	920	885
Interest	45.7	47.1	2,542	2,533	1,050	1,045
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.5	99.4	2,058	2,376	850	980
Labor	41.3	38.9	1,562	1,818	645	750
Fuels	93.8	89.9	1,428	1,307	590	539
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	95.4	92.3	2,820	2,945	1,165	1,215
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	49.0	49.9	1,707	1,947	705	803
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	15.9	14.3	1,373	1,685	567	695
Other Farm Machinery	20.7	25.3	818	1,004	338	414
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	62.9	64.6	1,060	1,176	438	485
Trucks & Autos	14.9	18.0	1,535	2,046	634	844

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, 1997-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	9,654	10,226	11,460	12,150
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	20.2	24.3	400	429	475	510
Feed	69.0	68.9	1,036	1,044	1,230	1,240
Farm Services ⁵	94.6	93.9	1,676	1,620	1,990	1,925
Rent ⁶	17.4	15.3	261	236	310	280
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	33.5	38.3	143	143	170	170
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	47.9	49.0	404	366	480	435
Interest	30.3	32.5	1,024	1,056	1,216	1,255
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	97.1	98.8	920	999	1,092	1,187
Labor	21.8	25.5	345	412	410	490
Fuels	82.2	78.9	423	363	502	431
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	83.5	81.5	750	778	890	925
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	45.0	46.1	775	911	920	1,082
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	6.7	9.3	404	518	480	615
Other Farm Machinery	10.5	13.5	297	352	352	418
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	31.5	33.3	150	157	178	187
Trucks & Autos	9.1	12.4	618	818	734	972

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Northeast Region, 1997-98 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	78,727	82,075	11,876	12,340
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	30.4	34.5	3,911	4,157	590	625
Feed	62.5	65.8	16,440	16,295	2,480	2,450
Farm Services ⁵	96.2	91.6	11,601	11,506	1,750	1,730
Rent ⁶	30.4	30.5	2,055	2,128	310	320
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	53.9	53.2	2,055	2,195	310	330
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	58.7	68.8	2,983	2,793	450	420
Interest	44.5	41.5	3,845	3,991	580	600
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.7	99.9	3,745	4,223	565	635
Labor	38.4	34.5	10,461	11,107	1,578	1,670
Fuels	93.7	90.4	2,552	2,241	385	337
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	96.6	90.6	6,530	6,984	985	1,050
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	57.9	58.2	4,011	4,656	605	700
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	10.9	14.8	1,783	2,255	269	339
Other Farm Machinery	21.6	29.3	1,757	2,062	265	310
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	56.7	63.3	3,089	3,359	466	505
Trucks & Autos	17.0	15.0	1,657	1,929	250	290

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Lake States Region, 1997-98** ¹³

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	90,587	90,857	19,295	19,080
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	28.7	36.1	5,634	5,000	1,200	1,050
Feed	53.1	58.4	12,629	11,524	2,690	2,420
Farm Services ⁵	95.1	94.5	11,127	11,000	2,370	2,310
Rent ⁶	42.2	41.9	7,324	7,214	1,560	1,515
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	63.1	63.8	4,460	4,571	950	960
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	66.7	70.5	5,376	5,095	1,145	1,070
Interest	56.3	55.7	6,103	6,143	1,300	1,290
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	97.3	100.0	4,779	4,762	1,018	1,000
Labor	35.2	43.4	6,901	7,976	1,470	1,675
Fuels	88.1	85.8	2,915	2,643	621	555
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	92.1	86.4	7,629	7,500	1,625	1,575
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	47.1	54.6	3,624	4,357	772	915
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	16.8	12.0	3,460	3,519	737	739
Other Farm Machinery	30.2	39.0	2,418	2,643	515	555
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	77.8	72.8	4,239	4,643	903	975
Trucks & Autos	17.6	22.0	1,667	2,048	355	430

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Corn Belt Region, 1997-98 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	78,553	80,648	33,935	34,840
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	28.4	26.0	4,630	4,572	2,000	1,975
Feed	60.3	58.0	8,958	7,986	3,870	3,450
Farm Services ⁵	97.5	99.1	7,269	7,685	3,140	3,320
Rent ⁶	43.2	45.3	14,954	14,722	6,460	6,360
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	62.1	67.0	5,255	5,440	2,270	2,350
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	71.5	72.0	6,620	6,944	2,860	3,000
Interest	54.1	58.4	4,722	4,919	2,040	2,125
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.4	100.0	3,403	3,692	1,470	1,595
Labor	34.3	32.8	2,998	3,484	1,295	1,505
Fuels	84.7	83.4	2,366	2,213	1,022	956
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	87.5	86.0	4,456	4,572	1,925	1,975
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	49.9	48.1	2,664	2,708	1,151	1,170
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	15.1	18.1	2,632	3,414	1,137	1,475
Other Farm Machinery	25.3	27.4	1,775	1,870	767	808
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	65.4	68.2	4,326	4,664	1,869	2,015
Trucks & Autos	14.1	16.1	1,412	1,632	610	705

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Northern Plains Region, 1997-98¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	122,701	123,161	22,577	22,600
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	34.6	38.3	17,609	18,120	3,240	3,325
Feed	65.1	59.6	12,228	12,316	2,250	2,260
Farm Services ⁵	97.5	97.4	13,043	13,951	2,400	2,560
Rent ⁶	62.4	58.8	19,565	17,003	3,600	3,120
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	70.5	69.4	5,679	5,940	1,045	1,090
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	70.6	71.6	8,152	7,548	1,500	1,385
Interest	64.2	68.1	7,745	8,338	1,425	1,530
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	96.8	99.9	5,348	5,531	984	1,015
Labor	40.5	39.4	4,277	4,986	787	915
Fuels	96.8	92.1	4,712	4,316	867	792
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	95.3	92.7	8,451	8,474	1,555	1,555
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	48.6	49.4	2,663	2,698	490	495
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	19.9	16.7	3,511	3,651	646	670
Other Farm Machinery	27.7	28.9	2,772	2,659	510	488
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	68.1	69.4	3,989	4,469	734	820
Trucks & Autos	27.0	28.3	2,853	3,079	525	565

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Appalachian Region, 1997-98¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	42,913	45,696	13,346	14,120
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	25.6	26.8	3,875	4,191	1,205	1,295
Feed	72.7	77.6	10,193	10,324	3,170	3,190
Farm Services ⁵	97.6	97.6	5,305	5,696	1,650	1,760
Rent ⁶	25.9	26.8	2,508	2,605	780	805
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	57.0	50.0	1,495	1,602	465	495
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	71.2	70.7	2,331	2,638	725	815
Interest	33.9	35.9	1,929	2,039	600	630
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	98.9	99.9	1,161	1,181	361	365
Labor	38.8	43.7	3,424	3,754	1,065	1,160
Fuels	88.8	90.2	1,383	1,369	430	423
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	87.2	89.6	2,540	2,654	790	820
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	49.5	51.7	1,543	1,812	480	560
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	6.8	12.1	1,736	1,987	540	614
Other Farm Machinery	12.5	17.3	932	1,036	290	320
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	54.5	50.9	1,068	1,197	332	370
Trucks & Autos	10.0	13.9	1,399	1,537	435	475

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Average per Farm, Farms Reporting, and Total,
Southeast Region, 1997-98 ¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	72,881	72,130	12,244	12,190
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	21.8	20.6	2,619	2,811	440	475
Feed	65.1	64.8	13,393	12,781	2,250	2,160
Farm Services ⁵	94.2	92.2	10,298	11,065	1,730	1,870
Rent ⁶	23.9	21.3	2,500	2,308	420	390
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	41.1	46.6	4,792	4,645	805	785
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	72.6	70.4	5,060	4,675	850	790
Interest	32.8	35.6	3,333	3,462	560	585
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	95.2	98.7	1,988	2,041	334	345
Labor	34.8	42.1	10,893	11,302	1,830	1,910
Fuels	87.0	81.5	2,321	2,112	390	357
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	86.9	83.4	4,821	4,467	810	755
Farm Improvements & construction ⁹	47.2	44.4	2,619	2,308	440	390
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	10.3	12.5	2,202	2,154	370	364
Other Farm Machinery	10.3	11.1	923	964	155	163
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	38.6	34.6	3,077	3,107	517	525
Trucks & Autos	14.1	14.8	1,429	1,716	240	290

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Delta Region, 1997-98¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	76,529	75,720	9,260	9,200
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	25.2	27.3	5,455	5,720	660	695
Feed	69.4	70.8	15,289	15,144	1,850	1,840
Farm Services ⁵	91.6	96.7	10,744	10,288	1,300	1,250
Rent ⁶	36.8	35.3	7,025	6,502	850	790
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	38.6	53.2	6,198	6,091	750	740
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	64.3	64.9	4,298	4,198	520	510
Interest	34.6	38.6	3,347	3,498	405	425
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	89.2	86.0	1,298	1,317	157	160
Labor	36.5	45.7	5,041	4,979	610	605
Fuels	95.3	87.2	2,934	2,634	355	320
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	88.4	87.8	5,000	4,774	605	580
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	45.4	50.9	1,488	1,728	180	210
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	8.8	13.2	2,719	2,905	329	353
Other Farm Machinery	15.1	18.3	1,347	1,366	163	166
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	40.4	49.1	2,198	2,305	266	280
Trucks & Autos	13.4	19.6	1,860	2,058	225	250

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Southern Plains Region, 1997-98¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	52,088	50,550	16,043	15,620
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	27.7	30.8	8,036	7,864	2,475	2,430
Feed	84.7	85.9	7,857	7,476	2,420	2,310
Farm Services ⁵	97.8	95.7	7,630	7,379	2,350	2,280
Rent ⁶	34.4	35.2	4,123	3,544	1,270	1,095
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	38.9	42.7	1,591	1,424	490	440
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	54.1	52.9	2,500	2,460	770	760
Interest	43.5	39.0	2,857	2,994	880	925
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.3	100.0	1,656	1,812	510	560
Labor	40.8	37.2	3,458	3,350	1,065	1,035
Fuels	87.1	85.4	2,341	1,922	721	594
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	89.7	93.0	3,156	2,994	972	925
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	57.1	51.1	1,760	1,796	542	555
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	12.9	7.8	1,380	1,405	425	434
Other Farm Machinery	16.1	14.4	844	819	260	253
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	28.9	38.4	1,192	1,327	367	410
Trucks & Autos	18.3	15.6	1,591	1,893	490	585

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Mountain Region, 1997-98¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	111,391	109,276	14,659	14,490
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	35.2	43.2	11,778	11,463	1,550	1,520
Feed	64.7	69.2	16,337	15,008	2,150	1,990
Farm Services ⁵	99.1	97.0	17,553	16,968	2,310	2,250
Rent ⁶	52.7	36.2	9,271	8,446	1,220	1,120
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	59.8	49.3	3,191	3,469	420	460
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	50.9	35.7	5,319	4,977	700	660
Interest	59.1	46.8	7,143	7,353	940	975
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	97.2	99.9	3,351	3,507	441	465
Labor	41.7	44.7	12,234	11,953	1,610	1,585
Fuels	86.8	81.2	3,959	3,522	521	467
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	91.9	81.9	7,188	7,768	946	1,030
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	51.3	53.6	3,305	3,243	435	430
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	12.8	16.8	3,321	3,756	437	498
Other Farm Machinery	16.5	16.6	1,824	1,863	240	247
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	43.7	37.1	2,812	2,640	370	350
Trucks & Autos	22.4	18.6	2,508	3,017	330	400

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Farms Reporting, Average per Farm, and Total,
Pacific Region, 1997-98¹³**

Expenditure - Farm Share	Farms Reporting ¹¹		Average per Farm ¹²		Total Expenditures	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<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	181,485	172,522	29,945	29,070
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	21.0	20.4	5,091	4,807	840	810
Feed	45.1	52.7	19,212	17,389	3,170	2,930
Farm Services ⁵	99.7	95.2	34,545	33,650	5,700	5,670
Rent ⁶	29.5	23.3	12,121	10,593	2,000	1,785
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	55.1	70.9	9,061	8,605	1,495	1,450
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	59.0	56.3	8,364	7,062	1,380	1,190
Interest	41.9	53.1	10,727	10,178	1,770	1,715
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	99.8	99.9	4,909	5,104	810	860
Labor	56.6	55.5	42,364	41,187	6,990	6,940
Fuels	93.5	87.5	4,170	3,555	688	599
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	94.5	92.5	12,648	11,484	2,087	1,935
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	61.8	62.3	6,091	6,083	1,005	1,025
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	17.1	21.9	3,091	3,050	510	514
Other Farm Machinery	12.1	22.0	1,485	1,424	245	240
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	36.1	40.5	5,309	5,638	876	950
Trucks & Autos	12.0	18.3	2,061	2,433	340	410

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Total,
United States, 1993-98 ¹**

Expenditure - Farm Share	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	<i>Million Dollars</i>					
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	155,160	160,670	167,800	174,950	183,180	183,550
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	16,200	15,200	15,000	12,800	14,200	14,200
Feed	21,400	22,600	23,800	25,200	26,300	25,000
Farm Services ⁵	21,020	23,000	23,800	23,500	24,700	25,000
Rent ⁶	14,780	15,400	16,000	18,300	18,470	17,300
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	6,700	7,200	7,700	8,500	9,000	9,100
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	8,370	9,150	10,000	10,900	10,900	10,600
Interest	9,300	9,450	10,300	10,400	10,500	10,800
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	5,930	6,200	6,400	6,500	6,650	7,000
Labor	14,700	15,000	16,000	17,100	18,300	19,000
Fuels	5,090	5,100	5,500	5,800	6,000	5,400
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	10,120	10,800	11,500	11,800	12,300	12,200
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	5,650	5,400	5,200	5,900	6,100	6,450
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	4,440	4,610	4,750	5,000	5,400	6,000
Other Farm Machinery	3,610	3,360	3,100	3,350	3,410	3,550
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	5,150	5,360	5,450	6,200	6,700	7,200
Trucks & Autos	2,500	2,560	2,800	3,300	3,800	4,400

See footnotes on page 23.

**Farm Production Expenditures:
Major Input Items, Percent of Total,
United States, 1993-98 ¹**

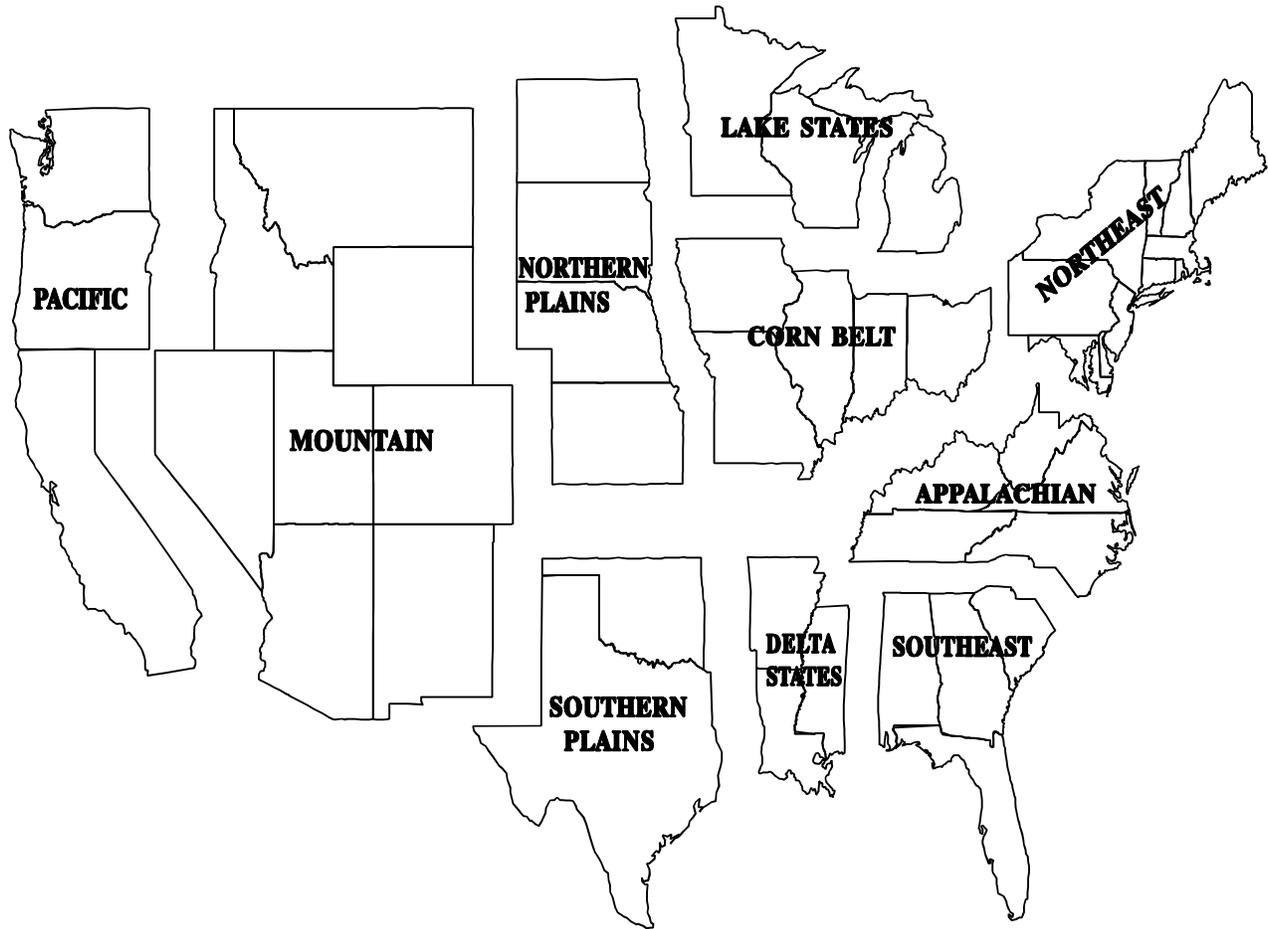
Expenditure - Farm Share	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures ^{2 3}	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses ⁴	10.4	9.5	8.9	7.3	7.8	7.7
Feed	13.8	14.1	14.2	14.4	14.4	13.6
Farm Services ⁵	13.5	14.3	14.2	13.4	13.5	13.6
Rent ⁶	9.5	9.6	9.5	10.5	10.1	9.4
Agricultural Chemicals ⁷	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.9	5.0
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners ⁷	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.0	5.8
Interest	6.0	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.9
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.8
Labor	9.5	9.3	9.5	9.8	10.0	10.4
Fuels	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.9
Farm Supplies & Repairs ⁸	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.6
Farm Improvements & Construction ⁹	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.5
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.3
Other Farm Machinery	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
Seeds & Plants ¹⁰	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.9
Trucks & Autos	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.4

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 19,450 farms and ranches contacted in February through April 1999 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 1997 and 1998 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 1993 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 1998 total expenditures, the relative sampling errors were as follows for the different domains estimated: at the U.S. level 2.0 percent; from 2.4 to 8.2 percent at the Regional level; from 3.1 to 6.6 at the U.S. Economic Sales Class level; 2.8 for Crop Farms; 3.5 for Livestock Farms. For 1997 total expenditures, the relative sampling errors were as follows for the different domains estimated: at the U.S. level 3.4 percent; from 2.9 to 26.0 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.

Index

	Page
Expenditures by Economic Class of Farm, 1997-98	
Gross Value of Sales, \$250,000 and Over	6
Gross Value of Sales, \$100,000 - \$249,999	7
Gross Value of Sales, \$40,000 - \$99,999	8
Gross Value of Sales, \$10,000 - \$39,999	9
Gross Value of Sales, Less Than \$10,000	10
Expenditures by Farm Production Region, 1997-98	
Northeast: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT	11
Lake States: MI, MN, WI	12
Corn Belt: IL, IN, IA, MO, OH	13
Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD	14
Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV	15
Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC	16
Delta: AR, LA, MS	17
Southern Plains: OK, TX	18
Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY	19
Pacific: CA, OR, WA	20
Expenditures by Type of Farm, 1997 - 1998	
Crop Farms	4
Livestock Farms	5
Farm Production Expenditures Region Map	24
Footnotes	23
Highlights	1
Major Farm Production Expenditures, U.S., 1997 and 1998	2-3
Major Farm Production Expenditures, U.S., 1993 - 1998	21
Major Farm Production Expenditures as a Percent of Total, U.S., 1993 - 1998	22
Reliability and Estimating Procedures	25-27

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