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National Agricultural Statistics Service



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Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations 2012 Summary





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2012 Number of Farms and Land in Farms Highlights

The number of farms in the United States in 2012 is estimated at 2.2 million, down 11,630 farms from 2011. Total land in farms, at 914 million acres, decreased 3 million acres from 2011. The average farm size is 421 acres, up 1 acre from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are differentiated by five economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these "sales classes" by summing sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, and \$500,000.

Farm numbers in the \$500,000 and over sales class increased by 8.6 percent, to 145,190 farms. Higher commodity prices and larger value of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class decreased by 2.5 percent to 1,172,200. Farm numbers increased slightly in the \$10,000 - \$99,999 sales class to slightly over 600,000 farms. The number of farms in the \$100,000 - \$249,999 and \$250,000 - \$499,999 sales classes increased 1.9 and 1.1 percent, respectively.

Land in farms increased in the largest sales class while decreasing in all other sales classes. Land operated by farms in the \$500,000 & over sales class increased 3.7 percent, to 317.1 million acres. Land operated by farms in the \$1,000-\$9,999 sales class decreased by 3.9 percent, to slightly less than 97 million acres. Land in farms in the \$10,000 - \$99,999, \$100,000 - \$249,999 and \$250,000 - \$499,999 sales classes decreased by 1.4, 2.6 and 2.4 percent respectively.

The **average farm size** increased 1 acre in 2012 to 421 acres per farm. However, average farm sizes declined in all sales classes partially due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

2012 Livestock Operations Highlights

The number of operations with cattle totaled 915,000 for 2012, down 1 percent from 2011. Beef cow operations in 2012, at 729,000, were also down 1 percent from last year. The number of milk cow operations for 2012 totaled 58,000, down 3 percent from 2011.

The three operation classes: Cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and 1-49 size group for beef cows.

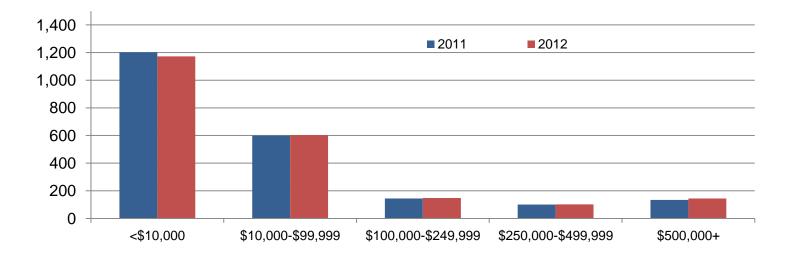
The number of operations with hogs totaled 68,300 for 2012, down 1 percent from 2011. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 87 percent of the inventory.

The number of operations with sheep totaled 79,500 for 2012, down 1 percent from 2011. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 93.9 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 5.0 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.1 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 35.5 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 21.1 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 43.4 percent of the inventory.

The number of operations with goats totaled 149,000 for 2012, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Angora goat operations totaled 5,300, down 4 percent from 2011. Milk goat operations totaled 30,500, down 2 percent from 2011. Meat goat operations totaled 123,000, down 1 percent from a year earlier. Total goat operations will be equal to or less than the sum of angora, milk and meat goat operations since places which own more than one goat type count as only one operation.

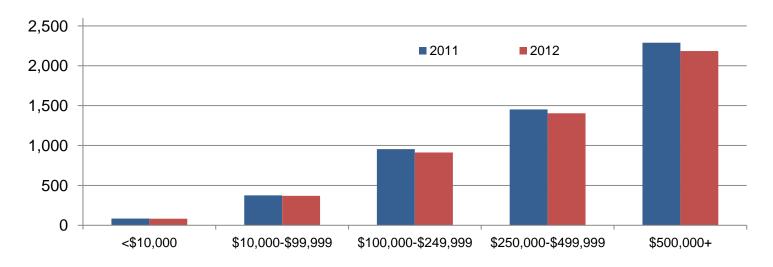
Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2011 and 2012

Thousands of farms



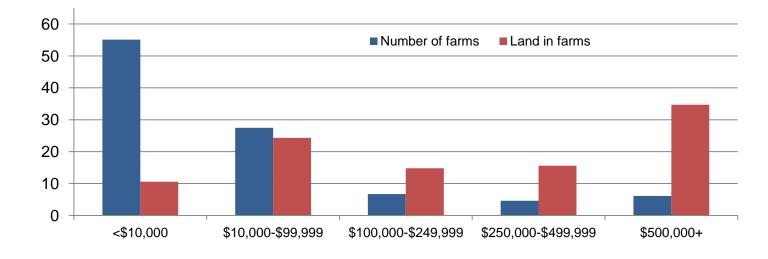
Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2011 and 2012

Acres

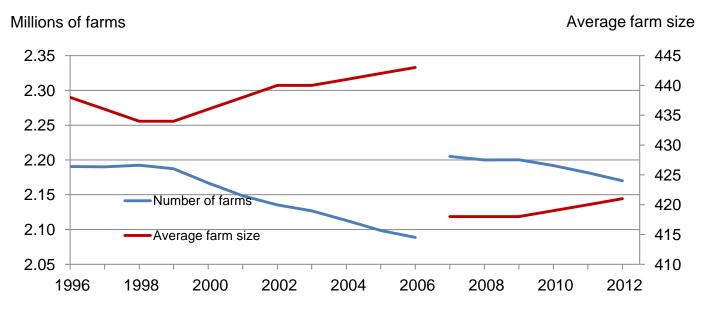


Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2012

Percent of total



Number of Farms and Average Farm Size – United States: 1996-2012



Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations 2012 Summary (February 2013) USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Point Farms, Percent of Total – United States: 2003-2012

| Year | Farms | Land |
|--------------|--|---|
| | (percent) | (percent) |
| 2003 | 18.0 17.0 18.0 19.0 22.0 17.0 18.0 | 3.0 2.5 2.5 2.7 3.0 2.8 2.9 |
| 2010 2011 | 19.0 19.0 | 3.0 3.0 |
| 2012 | 18.5 | 2.9 |

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size – United States: 2003-2012

| Year | Number of farms | Land in farms | Average farm size |
|------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | (number) | (1,000 acres) | (acres) |
| 2003 | 2,126,860 | 936,750 | 440 |
| 2004 | 2,112,970 | 932,260 | 441 |
| 2005 | 2,098,690 | 927,940 | 442 |
| 2006 | 2,088,790 | 925,790 | 443 |
| 2007 | 2,204,950 | 921,460 | 418 |
| 2008 | 2,200,100 | 919,910 | 418 |
| 2009 | 2,200,210 | 919,890 | 418 |
| 2010 | 2,192,000 | 918,840 | 419 |
| 2011 | 2,181,630 | 917,000 | 420 |
| 2012 | 2,170,000 | 914,000 | 421 |

Percent of Farms and Land in Farms and the Average Farm Size by Economic Sales Class – United States: 2011 and 2012

| | | Percent | Average farm size | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|--|
| Economic sales class | Farn | ns | Land in | farms | Average failth size | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (acres) | (acres) | |
| \$1,000 - \$2,499 | 27.0 | 25.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 54 | 55 | |
| \$2,500 - \$4,999 | 14.5 | 14.8 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 101 | 95 | |
| \$5,000 - \$9,999 | 13.5 | 13.7 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 124 | 121 | |
| \$10,000 - \$24,999 | 12.0 | 13.2 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 238 | 220 | |
| \$25,000 - \$49,999 | 8.3 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 370 | 404 | |
| \$50,000 - \$99,999 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 10.4 | 10.1 | 608 | 607 | |
| \$100,000 - \$249,999 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 15.1 | 15.2 | 951 | 888 | |
| \$250,000 - \$499,999 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 16.0 | 16.0 | 1,468 | 1,401 | |
| \$500,000 - \$999,999 | 3.7 | 3.2 | 16.4 | 16.3 | 1,871 | 2,142 | |
| \$1,000,000 + | 2.5 | 3.0 | 17.0 | 17.7 | 2,870 | 2,481 | |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 420 | 421 | |

Number of Farms, Land in Farms, and Average Farm Size – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

| | Number o | of farms | Land ir | n farms | Average | arm size |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------|----------|
| State | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | (number) | (number) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (acres) | (acres) |
| Alabama | 47,500 | 46,500 | 8,900 | 8,850 | 187 | 190 |
| Alaska | 680 | 680 | 880 | 880 | 1,294 | 1,294 |
| Arizona | 15,500 | 15,500 | 26,100 | 26,100 | 1,684 | 1,684 |
| Arkansas | 48,300 | 47,800 | 13,500 | 13,500 | 280 | 282 |
| California | 81,500 | 80,500 | 25,400 | 25,400 | 312 | 316 |
| Colorado | 36,700 | 36,300 | 31,300 | 31,300 | 853 | 862 |
| Connecticut | 4,900 | 4,900 | 400 | 400 | 82 | 82 |
| | | | | | | |
| Delaware | 2,500 | 2,500 | 490 | 490 | 196 | 196 |
| Florida | 47,500 | 47,500 | 9,250 | 9,250 | 195 | 195 |
| Georgia | 47,000 | 47,000 | 10,300 | 10,400 | 219 | 221 |
| Hawaii | 7,500 | 7,500 | 1,110 | 1,110 | 148 | 148 |
| Idaho | 24,700 | 24,500 | 11,400 | 11,400 | 462 | 465 |
| Illinois | 74,600 | 74,300 | 26,600 | 26,600 | 357 | 358 |
| Indiana | 62,000 | 60,000 | 14,700 | 14,700 | 237 | 245 |
| lowa | 92,300 | 92,200 | 30,700 | 30,700 | 333 | 333 |
| Kansas | 65,500 | 65,500 | 46,000 | 46,000 | 702 | 702 |
| Kentucky | 85,500 | 85,500 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 164 | 164 |
| Louisiana | 29,000 | 29,000 | 7,950 | 7,950 | 274 | 274 |
| Maine | 8,100 | 8,100 | 1,350 | 1,350 | 167 | 167 |
| Maryland | 12,800 | 12,800 | 2,050 | 2,050 | 160 | 160 |
| Maaaaabuaatta | 7 700 | 7 700 | 500 | 500 | 69 | 69 |
| Massachusetts | 7,700 | 7,700 | 520 | 520 | 68 | 68 |
| Michigan | 54,900 | 54,700 | 10,000 | 9,900 | 182 | 181 |
| Minnesota | 79,800 | 79,400 | 26,850 | 26,800 | 336 | 338 |
| Mississippi | 42,400 | 42,300 | 11,150 | 11,150 | 263 | 264 |
| Missouri | 106,500 | 106,000 | 29,000 | 29,000 | 272 | 274 |
| Montana | 29,300 | 28,600 | 60,500 | 58,800 | 2,065 | 2,056 |
| Nebraska | 46,800 | 46,700 | 45,500 | 45,500 | 972 | 974 |
| Nevada | 2,980 | 2,950 | 5,860 | 5,840 | 1,966 | 1,980 |
| New Hampshire | 4,150 | 4,150 | 470 | 470 | 113 | 113 |
| New Jersey | 10,300 | 10,200 | 730 | 730 | 71 | 72 |
| New Mexico | 23,000 | 23,800 | 43,400 | 43,900 | 1,887 | 1,845 |
| New York | 36,000 | 36,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 194 | 194 |
| North Carolina | 50,400 | 50,000 | 8,500 | 8,500 | 169 | 170 |
| North Dakota | 31,800 | 31,600 | 39,600 | 39,600 | 1,245 | 1,253 |
| Ohio | 73,700 | 73,400 | 13,600 | 13,550 | 185 | 185 |
| Oklahoma | 85,500 | 85,500 | 34,700 | 34,800 | 406 | 407 |
| Oregon | 38,300 | 38,100 | 16,300 | 16,500 | 400 | 433 |
| Pennsylvania | 62,200 | 62,100 | 7,600 | 7,700 | 122 | 124 |
| - | | | | | | |
| Rhode Island | 1,220 | 1,220 | 70 | 70 | 57 | 57 |
| South Carolina | 27,000 | 26,700 | 4,900 | 4,800 | 181 | 180 |
| South Dakota | 31,300 | 31,000 | 43,650 | 43,650 | 1,395 | 1,408 |
| Tennessee | 77,300 | 76,000 | 10,800 | 10,800 | 140 | 142 |
| Texas | 245,000 | 244,700 | 130,000 | 128,000 | 531 | 523 |
| Utah | 16,600 | 16,400 | 11,100 | 11,100 | 669 | 677 |
| Vermont | 7,000 | 7,000 | 1,220 | 1,220 | 174 | 174 |
| | | | | 8,050 | 174 | 174 |
| Virginia | 46,400 | 46,200 | 7,950 | | | |
| Washington | 39,500 | 39,300 | 14,800 | 14,800 | 375 | 377 |
| West Virginia | 22,500 | 22,100 | 3,650 | 3,620 | 162 | 164 |
| Wisconsin | 77,000 | 76,800 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 195 | 195 |
| Wyoming | 11,000 | 10,800 | 30,200 | 30,200 | 2,745 | 2,796 |
| United States | 2,181,630 | 2,170,000 | 917,000 | 914,000 | 420 | 421 |

Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012

| | Economic sales class | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|--|--|
| Region and state | \$1,000-\$ | \$9,999 | \$10,000-\$99,999 | | \$100,000-\$249,999 | | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | | |
| | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | | |
| lortheast | | | | | | | | |
| Connecticut | 3,050 | 3,050 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | |
| Maine | 5,300 | 5,300 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | |
| Massachusetts | 4,800 | 4,800 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | |
| New Hampshire | 2,900 | 2,900 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | |
| New Jersey | 6,700 | 6,600 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | |
| New York | 18,900 | 18,000 | 10,800 | 11,300 | 3,200 | 3,50 | | |
| Pennsylvania | 35,800 | 35,000 | 15,700 | 16,400 | 5,200 | 5,30 | | |
| Rhode Island | 750 | 750 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | |
| Vermont | 4,000 | 4,000 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | |
| Other States ¹ | (X) | (X) | 11,050 | 10,950 | 2,220 | 2,22 | | |
| Total | 82,200 | 80,400 | 37,550 | 38,650 | 10,620 | 11,02 | | |
| Jorth Central | | | | | | | | |
| Illinois | 31,300 | 30,500 | 16,600 | 15,800 | 8,200 | 8,70 | | |
| Indiana | 33,000 | 30,500 | 15,500 | 14,900 | 5,000 | 4,90 | | |
| lowa | 30,000 | 29,500 | 28,400 | 27,200 | 14,400 | 14,00 | | |
| Kansas | 28,000 | 27,300 | 22,300 | 22,400 | 6,700 | 6,70 | | |
| Michigan | 32,300 | 31,600 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 3,700 | 3,50 | | |
| Minnesota | 35,500 | 33,000 | 21,300 | 21,400 | 8,900 | 10,30 | | |
| Missouri | 56,300 | 53,000 | 37,900 | 39,500 | 5,300 | 5,70 | | |
| Nebraska | 11,000 | 10,200 | 12,600 | 12,200 | 8,200 | 8,20 | | |
| North Dakota | 10,200 | 10,000 | 9,400 | 9,000 | 3,800 | 4,00 | | |
| Ohio | 38,700 | 38,000 | 22,700 | 22,700 | 5,000 | 5,00 | | |
| South Dakota | 9,000 | 8,800 | 9,800 | 9,600 | 4,800 | 4,90 | | |
| Wisconsin | 37,500 | 36,800 | 20,400 | 20,600 | 9,300 | 9,20 | | |
| Total | 352,800 | 339,200 | 230,900 | 229,300 | 83.300 | 85,10 | | |

Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012 (continued)

| | Economic sales class | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|--|--|
| Region and state | \$1,000-\$9,999 | | \$10,000-\$99,999 | | \$100,000-\$249,999 | | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | | |
| | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | | |
| South | | | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 28,400 | 27,600 | 14,300 | 14,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 | | |
| Arkansas | 26,600 | 25,400 | 13,300 | 13,300 | 1,500 | 1,600 | | |
| Delaware | 1,000 | 1,000 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | |
| Florida | 29,600 | 29,600 | 12,400 | 12,400 | 2,300 | 2,400 | | |
| Georgia | 28,700 | 28,700 | 10,300 | 10,100 | 2,400 | 2,300 | | |
| Kentucky | 54,800 | 54,700 | 24,400 | 24,400 | 2,900 | 2,900 | | |
| Louisiana | 18,100 | 18,200 | 7,600 | 7,100 | 1,000 | 1,100 | | |
| Maryland | 7,100 | 7,200 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | |
| Mississippi | 27,700 | 26,300 | 10,000 | 11,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | | |
| North Carolina | 30,800 | 29,200 | 11,600 | 12,900 | 1,800 | 2,000 | | |
| Oklahoma | 50,000 | 50,000 | 28,400 | 28,400 | 3,300 | 3,300 | | |
| South Carolina | 18,600 | 18,100 | 6,200 | 6,100 | 700 | 800 | | |
| Tennessee | 54,600 | 52,400 | 18,200 | 18,800 | 1,800 | 1,700 | | |
| Texas | 165,200 | 164,800 | 62,000 | 62,000 | 6,800 | 7,000 | | |
| Virginia | 29,500 | 29,000 | 12,800 | 13,000 | 1,400 | 1,500 | | |
| West Virginia | 17,700 | 17,200 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | |
| Other States ² | (X) | (X) | 7,830 | 7,430 | 1,280 | 1,230 | | |
| Total | 588,400 | 579,400 | 239,330 | 241,030 | 29,280 | 29,930 | | |
| West | | | | | | | | |
| Alaska | 350 | 350 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | |
| Arizona | 12.000 | 12.000 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | |
| California | 35,600 | 33,200 | 26,300 | 28,200 | 6,600 | 6,100 | | |
| Colorado | 19.800 | 19,400 | 11,400 | 11,200 | 2,700 | 2,700 | | |
| Hawaii | 4,600 | 4,600 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | |
| Idaho | 11,400 | 10.900 | 8,200 | 7,800 | 2,000 | 2,300 | | |
| Montana | 13,400 | 11,500 | 9,000 | 9,700 | 3,200 | 3,100 | | |
| Nevada | 1,600 | 1,550 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | |
| New Mexico | 15,300 | 16,000 | 5,800 | 5,900 | 900 | 900 | | |
| Oregon | 24,600 | 24,600 | 8,700 | 8,400 | 2,000 | 2,100 | | |
| Utah | 10,200 | 10,000 | 4,700 | 4,700 | 850 | 2,100 | | |
| Washington | 25,000 | 24,000 | 8,400 | 8.800 | 1,800 | 1.900 | | |
| Wyoming | 5,200 | 5,100 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | |
| Other States ³ | (X) | (X) | 9,080 | 8,900 | 2,100 | 2,100 | | |
| Total | 179,050 | 173,200 | 91,580 | 93,600 | 22,150 | 22,100 | | |
| United States | 1,202,450 | 1,172,200 | 599,360 | 602,580 | 145,350 | 148,150 | | |

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012 (continued)

| | Economic sales class | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| Region and state | \$250,000-\$499,999 | | \$500,000 and over | | Total | | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | | |
| | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | | |
| ortheast | | | | | | | | |
| Connecticut | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 4,900 | 4,90 | | |
| Maine | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 8,100 | 8,10 | | |
| Massachusetts | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 7,700 | 7,70 | | |
| New Hampshire | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 4,150 | 4,15 | | |
| New Jersey | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 10,300 | 10,20 | | |
| New York | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 36,000 | 36,00 | | |
| Pennsylvania | 2,900 | 2,700 | 2,600 | 2,700 | 62,200 | 62,10 | | |
| Rhode Island | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 1,220 | 1,22 | | |
| Vermont | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 7,000 | 7,00 | | |
| Other States ¹ | 1,220 | 1,320 | 1,380 | 1,380 | (X) | (| | |
| Total | 5,420 | 5,320 | 5,780 | 5,980 | 141,570 | 141,3 | | |
| orth Central | | | | | | | | |
| Illinois | 8,300 | 8,100 | 10,200 | 11,200 | 74,600 | 74,3 | | |
| Indiana | 3,600 | 3,500 | 4,900 | 6,200 | 62,000 | 60,0 | | |
| lowa | 9,500 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 11,500 | 92,300 | 92,2 | | |
| Kansas | 3,900 | 3,700 | 4,600 | 5,400 | 65,500 | 65,5 | | |
| Michigan | 2,200 | 2,500 | 2,700 | 3,100 | 54,900 | 54,7 | | |
| Minnesota | 7,000 | 6,700 | 7,100 | 8,000 | 79,800 | 79,4 | | |
| Missouri | 2,900 | 2,900 | 4,100 | 4,900 | 106,500 | 106,0 | | |
| Nebraska | 6,000 | 6,300 | 9,000 | 9,800 | 46,800 | 46,7 | | |
| North Dakota | 3,800 | 3,400 | 4,600 | 5,200 | 31,800 | 31,6 | | |
| Ohio | 3,900 | 3,900 | 3,400 | 3,800 | 73,700 | 73,4 | | |
| South Dakota | 4,100 | 4,100 | 3,600 | 3,600 | 31,300 | 31,0 | | |
| Wisconsin | 5,500 | 5,900 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 77,000 | 76,8 | | |
| Total | 60.700 | 61,000 | 68,500 | 77,000 | 796,200 | 791,6 | | |

Number of Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012 (continued)

| | Economic sales class | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
| Region and state | \$250,000-\$499,999 | | \$500,000 | and over | Tota | al | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | | |
| | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | | |
| South | | | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 1,300 | 1,300 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 47,500 | 46,500 | | |
| Arkansas | 2,000 | 2,100 | 4,900 | 5,400 | 48,300 | 47,800 | | |
| Delaware | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 2,500 | 2,500 | | |
| Florida | 1,100 | 1,000 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 47,500 | 47,500 | | |
| Georgia | 1,500 | 1,700 | 4,100 | 4,200 | 47,000 | 47,000 | | |
| Kentucky | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 85,500 | 85,500 | | |
| Louisiana | 900 | 1,200 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 29,000 | 29,000 | | |
| Maryland | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 12,800 | 12,800 | | |
| Mississippi | 900 | 800 | 2,800 | 3,200 | 42,400 | 42,300 | | |
| North Carolina | 2,300 | 2,100 | 3,900 | 3,800 | 50,400 | 50,000 | | |
| Oklahoma | 1,800 | 1,700 | 2,000 | 2,100 | 85,500 | 85,500 | | |
| South Carolina | 400 | 400 | 1,100 | 1,300 | 27,000 | 26,700 | | |
| Tennessee | 1,200 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 77,300 | 76,000 | | |
| Texas | 4,200 | 4,100 | 6,800 | 6,800 | 245,000 | 244,700 | | |
| Virginia | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 46,400 | 46,200 | | |
| West Virginia | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 22,500 | 22,100 | | |
| Other States ² | 890 | 820 | 2,000 | 2,520 | (X) | (X) | | |
| Total | 21,190 | 21,320 | 38,400 | 40,420 | 916,600 | 912,100 | | |
| West | | | | | | | | |
| Alaska | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 680 | 680 | | |
| Arizona | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 15,500 | 15.500 | | |
| California | 3,900 | 4,300 | 9,100 | 8,700 | 81,500 | 80,500 | | |
| Colorado | 1,200 | 1,400 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 36,700 | 36,300 | | |
| Hawaji | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 7,500 | 7,500 | | |
| Idaho | 1,200 | 1,400 | 1,900 | 2.100 | 24,700 | 24.500 | | |
| Montana | 2,400 | 2,500 | 1,300 | 1,800 | 29,300 | 28,600 | | |
| Nevada | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 2,980 | 2,950 | | |
| New Mexico | 450 | 400 | 550 | 600 | 23,000 | 23,800 | | |
| Oregon | 1,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 38,300 | 38,100 | | |
| Utah | 400 | 400 | 450 | 400 | 16,600 | 16,400 | | |
| Washington | 1.700 | 1.600 | 2.600 | 3.000 | 39,500 | 39.300 | | |
| Wyoming | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 11,000 | 10,800 | | |
| Other States ³ | 1,240 | 1,240 | 1,490 | 1,590 | (X) | (X) | | |
| Total | 13,490 | 14,240 | 20,990 | 21,790 | 327,260 | 324,930 | | |
| United States | 100,800 | 101,880 | 133,670 | 145,190 | 2,181,630 | 2,170,000 | | |

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
¹ Other States includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
² Other States includes Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.
³ Other States includes Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, and Wyoming.

Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012

| | Economic sales class | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| Region and state | \$1,000- | \$9,999 | \$10,000-\$99,999 | | \$100,000-\$249,999 | | | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | | | |
| | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | | | |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | |
| Connecticut | 130 | 130 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | | |
| Maine | 480 | 480 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | | |
| Massachusetts | 210 | 210 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | | |
| New Hampshire | 230 | 230 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | | |
| New Jersey | 180 | 190 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | | |
| New York | 1,600 | 1,350 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 1,100 | 1,20 | | | |
| Pennsylvania | 2,300 | 2,330 | 2,100 | 2,060 | 1,100 | 1,02 | | | |
| Rhode Island | 30 | 30 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | | |
| Vermont | 340 | 340 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA | | | |
| Other States ¹ | (X) | (X) | 1,250 | 1,240 | 500 | 50 | | | |
| Total | 5,500 | 5,290 | 5,150 | 5,200 | 2,700 | 2,72 | | | |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | |
| Illinois | 1,300 | 1,200 | 2,200 | 2,000 | 3,100 | 2,90 | | | |
| Indiana | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,900 | 1,600 | 1,800 | 1.60 | | | |
| lowa | 1,400 | 1,400 | 4,900 | 4,900 | 5,400 | 5,30 | | | |
| Kansas | 3,000 | 2,800 | 9,100 | 8,800 | 8,300 | 8,40 | | | |
| Michigan | 1,650 | 1,650 | 1,800 | 1,700 | 1,350 | 1,20 | | | |
| Minnesota | 2,900 | 2,800 | 4,650 | 4,600 | 3,900 | 3,80 | | | |
| Missouri | 4,600 | 4,400 | 10,300 | 10,300 | 3,400 | 3,30 | | | |
| Nebraska | 1,200 | 1,100 | 5,300 | 4,800 | 7,800 | 7,60 | | | |
| North Dakota | 1,600 | 1,500 | 6,000 | 5,600 | 5,400 | 5,35 | | | |
| Ohio | 1,850 | 1,750 | 3,150 | 3,050 | 2,000 | 2,00 | | | |
| South Dakota | 1,450 | 1,450 | 7,300 | 7,200 | 9,100 | 9,30 | | | |
| Wisconsin | 2,300 | 2,200 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 2,600 | 2,50 | | | |
| Total | 24,450 | 23,350 | 59,600 | 57,550 | 54,150 | 53,25 | | | |

Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012 (continued)

| | Economic sales class | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| Region and state | \$1,000-\$9,999 | | \$10,000-\$99,999 | | \$100,000- | \$249,999 | | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | | | |
| | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | | | |
| South | | | | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 2,650 | 2,550 | 3,550 | 3,500 | 650 | 650 | | | |
| Arkansas | 2,000 | 1,500 | 3,200 | 3,400 | 1,000 | 1,100 | | | |
| Delaware | 30 | 30 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | | |
| Florida | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 850 | 850 | | | |
| Georgia | 2,750 | 2,600 | 2,550 | 2,700 | 950 | 900 | | | |
| Kentucky | 4,400 | 4,350 | 4,800 | 4,800 | 1,350 | 1,350 | | | |
| Louisiana | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 850 | 800 | | | |
| Maryland | 400 | 400 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | | |
| Mississippi | 3,450 | 3,430 | 2,700 | 2,720 | 950 | 950 | | | |
| North Carolina | 1,900 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,800 | 750 | 750 | | | |
| Oklahoma | 6,000 | 6,000 | 12,800 | 12,850 | 5,350 | 5,350 | | | |
| South Carolina | 1,550 | 1,500 | 1,450 | 1,200 | 400 | 400 | | | |
| Tennessee | 3,700 | 3,500 | 3,450 | 3,500 | 900 | 800 | | | |
| Texas | 18,200 | 18,000 | 44,500 | 45,000 | 15,500 | 15,000 | | | |
| Virginia | 2,100 | 2,050 | 2,750 | 2,800 | 850 | 900 | | | |
| West Virginia | 1,800 | 1,700 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | | |
| Other States ² | (X) | (X) | 1,770 | 1,770 | 600 | 550 | | | |
| Total | 53,730 | 52,110 | 88,920 | 89,740 | 30,950 | 30,350 | | | |
| West | | | | | | | | | |
| Alaska | 270 | 270 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | | |
| Arizona | 750 | 750 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | | |
| California | 1.800 | 1.700 | 4,700 | 5,000 | 3,700 | 3.700 | | | |
| Colorado | 2,700 | 2,600 | 9,500 | 9,400 | 5,300 | 5,300 | | | |
| Hawaii | 2,100 | 2,000 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | | |
| Idaho | 800 | 800 | 2,500 | 2,300 | 1,900 | 2,000 | | | |
| Montana | 2,400 | 1,500 | 11,500 | 10,500 | 14,300 | 12,000 | | | |
| Nevada | 200 | 190 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | | |
| New Mexico | 3,100 | 3,100 | 11,700 | 11,500 | 8,000 | 8,100 | | | |
| Oregon | 1.600 | 1,700 | 3,300 | 3,100 | 3.000 | 3.000 | | | |
| Utah | 850 | 850 | 2,280 | 2,280 | 1,410 | 1,410 | | | |
| Washington | 1,300 | 1,300 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 1,410 | 1,410 | | | |
| Wyoming | 1,300 | 1,300 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | | | |
| Other States ³ | (X) | (X) | 22,760 | 22,250 | 11,770 | 11,770 | | | |
| Total | 17,150 | 16,140 | 71,240 | 69,330 | 51,080 | 48,980 | | | |
| United States | 100,830 | 96,890 | 224,910 | 221,820 | 138,880 | 135,300 | | | |

See footnote(s) at end of table.

--continued

Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012 (continued)

| | Economic sales class | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Region and state | \$250,000-\$499,999 | | \$500,000 and over | | Total | | | | |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | | | |
| | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres) | (1,000 acres | | | |
| ortheast | | | | | | | | | |
| Connecticut | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 400 | 4 | | | |
| Maine | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 1,350 | 1,3 | | | |
| Massachusetts | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 520 | 5 | | | |
| New Hampshire | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 470 | 4 | | | |
| New Jersey | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 730 | 7 | | | |
| New York | 700 | 650 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 7,000 | 7,0 | | | |
| Pennsylvania | 900 | 970 | 1,200 | 1,320 | 7,600 | 7,7 | | | |
| Rhode Island | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 70 | | | | |
| Vermont | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 1,220 | 1,2 | | | |
| Other States ¹ | 445 | 455 | 965 | 955 | (X) | | | | |
| Total | 2,045 | 2,075 | 3,965 | 4,175 | 19,360 | 19, | | | |
| orth Central | | | | | | | | | |
| Illinois | 4,900 | 4,600 | 15,100 | 15,900 | 26,600 | 26, | | | |
| Indiana | 2,500 | 2,600 | 7,300 | 7,800 | 14,700 | 14, | | | |
| lowa | 6,700 | 6,700 | 12,300 | 12,400 | 30,700 | 30, | | | |
| Kansas | 8,000 | 8,000 | 17,600 | 18,000 | 46,000 | 46, | | | |
| Michigan | 1,500 | 1,550 | 3,700 | 3,800 | 10,000 | 9, | | | |
| Minnesota | 4,900 | 4,500 | 10,500 | 11,100 | 26,850 | 26, | | | |
| Missouri | 3,200 | 2,800 | 7,500 | 8,200 | 29,000 | 29, | | | |
| Nebraska | 9,300 | 8,900 | 21,900 | 23,100 | 45,500 | 45, | | | |
| North Dakota | 8,600 | 8,050 | 18,000 | 19,100 | 39,600 | 39, | | | |
| Ohio | 2,450 | 2,450 | 4,150 | 4,300 | 13,600 | 13, | | | |
| South Dakota | 9,800 | 9,800 | 16,000 | 15,900 | 43,650 | 43, | | | |
| Wisconsin | 2,600 | 2,700 | 4,500 | 4,600 | 15,000 | 15, | | | |
| Total | 64.450 | 62,650 | 138.550 | 144.200 | 341.200 | 341, | | | |

Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class – Region, States, and United States: 2011 and 2012 (continued)

| | | | Economic | sales class | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Region and state | \$250,000- | \$499,999 | \$500,000 | and over | To | tal |
| | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | (1,000 acres) |
| South | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 650 | 650 | 1,400 | 1,500 | 8,900 | 8,850 |
| Arkansas | 1,400 | 1,200 | 5,900 | 6,300 | 13,500 | 13,500 |
| Delaware | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 490 | 490 |
| Florida | 900 | 900 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 9,250 | 9,250 |
| Georgia | 950 | 1,000 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 10,300 | 10,400 |
| Kentucky | 1,000 | 1,050 | 2,450 | 2,450 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| Louisiana | 1,050 | 1,050 | 2,750 | 2,800 | 7,950 | 7,950 |
| Maryland | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 2,050 | 2,050 |
| Mississippi | 950 | 800 | 3,100 | 3,250 | 11,150 | 11,150 |
| North Carolina | 1,150 | 950 | 3,000 | 3,300 | 8,500 | 8,500 |
| Oklahoma | 4,400 | 4,150 | 6,150 | 6,450 | 34,700 | 34,800 |
| South Carolina | 400 | 400 | 1,100 | 1,300 | 4,900 | 4,800 |
| Tennessee | 950 | 1,100 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 10,800 | 10,800 |
| Texas | 17,300 | 16,500 | 34,500 | 33,500 | 130,000 | 128,000 |
| Virginia | 850 | 800 | 1,400 | 1,500 | 7,950 | 8,050 |
| West Virginia | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 3,650 | 3,620 |
| Other States ² | 410 | 410 | 1,180 | 1,300 | (X) | (X) |
| Total | 32,360 | 30,960 | 72,130 | 73,050 | 278,090 | 276,210 |
| West | | | | | | |
| Alaska | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 880 | 880 |
| Arizona | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 26.100 | 26.100 |
| California | 2,800 | 3,000 | 12,400 | 12,000 | 25,400 | 25,400 |
| Colorado | 5,800 | 6,100 | 8,000 | 7,900 | 31,300 | 31,300 |
| Hawaii | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 1,110 | 1,110 |
| Idaho | 1.100 | 1,200 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 11,400 | 11.400 |
| Montana | 14,500 | 13,800 | 17,800 | 21,000 | 60,500 | 58,800 |
| Nevada | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 5,860 | 5,840 |
| New Mexico | 8,500 | 8,400 | 12,100 | 12,800 | 43,400 | 43,900 |
| Oregon | 2,400 | 2,600 | 6,000 | 6,100 | 16,300 | 16,500 |
| Utah | 1,100 | 1,100 | 5,460 | 5,460 | 11,100 | 11,100 |
| Washington | 2.900 | 2.700 | 5,900 | 6.100 | 14,800 | 14.800 |
| Wyoming | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | 30,200 | 30,200 |
| Other States ³ | 8,550 | 8,350 | 18,470 | 19,170 | (X) | (X) |
| Total | 47,650 | 47,250 | 91,230 | 95,630 | 278,350 | 277,330 |
| United States | 146,505 | 142,935 | 305,875 | 317,055 | 917,000 | 914,000 |

(NA) Not available.
(X) Not applicable.
¹ Other States includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
² Other States includes Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.
³ Other States includes Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, and Wyoming.

Number of Cattle and Calves Operations and Percent of Inventory by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012

| lland | Operation | ns | Percent of inventory | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Head | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | (number) | (number) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Cattle and calves | | | | |
| 1-49 | 627,000 | 624,000 | 11.6 | 11.5 |
| 50-99 | 127,000 | 125,000 | 9.5 | 9.5 |
| 100-499 | 138,700 | 137,000 | 30.4 | 30.2 |
| 500-999 | 18,600 | 18,400 | 13.5 | 13.6 |
| 1,000-1,999 | 6,500 | 6,440 | 9.0 | 9.0 |
| 2,000-4,999 | 3,020 | 3,000 | 8.9 | 9.0 |
| 5,000-9,999 | 710 | 700 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| 10,000-19,999 | 270 | 260 | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| 20,000+ | 200 | 200 | 8.3 | 8.5 |
| Total | 922,000 | 915,000 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Beef cows ¹ | | | | |
| 1-49 | 583,000 | 581,000 | 27.7 | 27.7 |
| 50-99 | 81,000 | 79,000 | 17.4 | 17.2 |
| 100-499 | 64,200 | 63,400 | 38.2 | 38.4 |
| 500-999 | 4,390 | 4,230 | 9.1 | 9.0 |
| 1,000-1,999 | 1,080 | 1,050 | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| 2,000-4,999 | 280 | 270 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| 5,000+ | 50 | 50 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Total | 734,000 | 729,000 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

¹ Included in operations with cattle.

Number of Milk Cow Operations, Percent of Inventory, and Percent of Milk Production by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012

[Included in operations with cattle]

| Head | Operations | | | Percent of inventory | | Percent of production ¹ | |
|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|--|
| - | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | |
| | (number) | (number) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | |
| 1-29 | 19,400 | 18,800 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.0 | |
| 30-49 | 10,100 | 9,700 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 3.2 | |
| 50-99 | 14,800 | 14,500 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | |
| 100-199 | 8,300 | 7,900 | 11.9 | 11.8 | 10.9 | 10.7 | |
| 200-499 | 4,000 | 3,800 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.6 | 12.6 | |
| 500-999 | 1,650 | 1,570 | 12.3 | 11.9 | 12.6 | 12.4 | |
| 1,000-1,999 | 950 | 950 | 13.7 | 14.0 | 15.7 | 15.9 | |
| 2,000+ | 800 | 780 | 32.5 | 32.6 | 34.6 | 34.7 | |
| Total | 60,000 | 58,000 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

¹ Estimates reflect the average distributions of various probability surveys conducted during the year.

Number of Hog and Pig Operations and Percent of Inventory by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012

| Head | Opera | ations | Percent of | finventory |
|-------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| nead | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | (number) | (number) | (percent) | (percent) |
| 1-99 | 49,400 | 48,700 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| 100-499 | 5,100 | 5,000 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| 500-999 | 2,400 | 2,300 | 2.7 | 2.6 |
| 1,000-1,999 | 3,400 | 3,300 | 7.5 | 7.3 |
| 2,000-4,999 | 5,500 | 5,700 | 24.9 | 25.5 |
| 5,000+ | 3,300 | 3,300 | 62.1 | 61.9 |
| Total | 69,100 | 68,300 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Number of Hog and Pig Operations and Percent of Inventory by Size Group, Based on Ownership – United States: 2011 and 2012

| llood | Opera | tions | Percent of | inventory |
|---------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Head | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | (number) | (number) | (percent) | (percent) |
| 1-99 | 49,250 | 48,900 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| 100-499 | 4,450 | 4,400 | 2.0 | 1.8 |
| 500-999 | 1,750 | 1,700 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| 1,000-1,999 | 1,900 | 1,800 | 3.8 | 3.7 |
| 2,000-4,999 | 2,250 | 2,100 | 9.8 | 9.1 |
| 5,000-9,999 | 660 | 630 | 7.2 | 7.0 |
| 10,000-19,999 | 360 | 345 | 7.5 | 7.2 |
| 20,000-49,999 | 185 | 180 | 8.8 | 8.5 |
| 50,000+ | 135 | 145 | 58.1 | 60.0 |
| Total | 60,940 | 60,200 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Number of Sheep and Goat Operations – United States: 2011 and 2012

| Commodity | 2011 | 2012 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| | (number) | (number) |
| Sheep | 80,000 | 79,500 |
| Angora goats | 5,500 | 5,300 |
| Milk goats | 31,000 | 30,500 |
| Meat and other goats | 124,000 | 123,000 |
| All goats | | 149,000 |

Breeding Sheep, Survey Percent by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012

[Percents reflect distributions from the January annual survey]

| Item | 1-99 | head | 100-49 | 9 head | 500-4,9 | 99 head | 5,000+ | - head |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| liem | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 |
| | (percent) |
| Operations | 93.5 | 93.9 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Inventory | 35.9 | 35.5 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 31.1 | 31.2 | 11.9 | 12.2 |

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data are collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) during the June Agricultural Survey using sampling procedures to ensure every farm and ranch has a chance of being selected. NASS uses a multiple sampling frame approach to count farms and measure land in farms. An Area Sampling Frame that divides all land into segments is built for every State. A sample of segments is selected in each State and enumerated in early June. Highly trained interviewers locate each sampled segment and identify every farm and ranch operating land in the segment and the number of acres in each operation.

These data are used to compute summary indications of farm numbers and acres of land in farms. Additionally, all farms found in the segments are checked against a list of farms and ranches maintained by NASS to determine if the farm is on the list. Operations found in the Area Frame sample that are not on the list provide a measure of incompleteness of the list. The summarized totals for these non-overlap (or not-on-list) operations are combined with summarized totals collected from a sample selected from the list to calculate additional indications of farms and land in farms.

Estimation Procedures: Data are checked for reasonableness and consistency and summarized for each state. State estimates are aggregated to regional and national totals for Headquarters review. Field Offices perform a thorough review of their survey results and historical data relationships and recommend official estimates. Headquarters establishes regional and national estimates and ensures that state estimates are in balance with the Regional and National numbers.

Revision Policy: Estimates are subject to revision the following year and following review of the five-year Census of Agriculture. The basis for revision must be supported by additional data which directly affects the level of the estimate.

Reliability: Two types of errors, sampling and non-sampling, are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey. Both types can affect the quality 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 United States number of farms and land in farms is 1.3 and 1.2 percent respectively. The sampling error for total number of farms and total land in farms is less than the sampling error for each component of the total, such as number of farms by economic sales class. Relative sampling errors by economic sales class generally ranged from 1.3 to 2.7 percent for number of farms and 1.2 to 4.1 percent for land in farms at the United States level.

Non-sampling errors can occur in complete censuses as well as sample surveys. They are caused by the inability to obtain correct information from each person surveyed, 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 non-sampling errors.

Terms and Definitions

A **farm** is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 Census.

Land in farms consists of agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing. Also included is woodland and wasteland not actually under cultivation or used for pasture or grazing, provided it was part of the farm operator's total operation. Land in farms includes acres in the Conservation Reserve, Wetlands Reserve Programs, or other government programs.

Land in farms includes land owned and operated as well as land rented from others. Land used rent-free is included as land rented from others. All grazing land, except land used under government permits on a per-head basis, is included as land in farms provided it was part of a farm or ranch. Land under the exclusive use of a grazing association is reported by the grazing association and included as land in farms. All land in American Indian reservations used for growing crops or grazing livestock is included as land in farms. Land in reservations not reported by individual American Indians or non-Native Americans is reported in the name of the cooperative group that used the land. In many instances, the entire American Indian reservation is reported as one farm.

Economic sales classes are based on the gross value of agricultural products sold. Government program payments are also included.

Point Farms are places that did not have \$1,000 of reported sales for the year, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more.

A cattle operation is any place having one or more head of cattle on hand on December 31.

A beef cow operation is any place having one or more head of beef cows on hand on December 31.

A milk cow operation is any place having one or more head of milk cows on hand on December 31.

A hog and pig operation is any place having one or more hog or pig on hand on December 31.

A sheep and lamb operation is any place having one or more head of sheep or lambs on hand on December 31.

A goat and kid operation is any place having one or more head of goats or kids on hand on December 31.

Farm Definition History

The definition of a farm has remained the same since 1974. Activities included as agriculture, however, have undergone modification in recent years. Beginning in 1995, operations having 5 or more horses or ponies and no other agricultural sales were counted as horse farms. An operation with 1 or more horses with agricultural sales of at least \$1,000, qualified as a farm. Two industries, maple syrup and short rotation woody crop farms, were added beginning in 1997 as a result of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). These changes were made to achieve comparability with the Census of Agriculture farm definition. All the changes in the farm definition beginning in 1995 were carried back to 1993 and included in the 1993-1998 estimates. These changes bring comparability between the Census of Agriculture data and the annually published NASS estimates. Because of these changes in the farm definition, the official estimates show a level difference in the number of farms between 1992 and 1993 in some states. To further align the counting of farms with the Census of Agriculture, places with 100 acres or more of pasture only in 2002 were included in farm and land in farm numbers. The handling of Indian reservation land was changed in 2002 to provide some accounting for individual farms.

| Year | Acres in Place | Value of Agricultural Products (Produced) | Value of Sales of Agricultural Products | Required some Agricultural Operations | Apiaries and Fur Farms Enumerated |
|----------------|----------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 1974 - Present | | | \$1,000 or more | | |
| 1959 | Less than 10 10 or more | | \$250 or more \$50 or more | | |
| 1954 | Less than 3 3 or more | \$150 or more | \$150 or more | | |
| 1950 | Less than 3 3 or more | \$150 or more | \$150 or more | | Apiaries Fur Farms |
| 1935 - 1945 | Less than 3 3 or more | \$250 or more | | X | Apiaries Fur Farms |
| 1930 | Less than 3 3 or more | \$250 or more | | X | Apiaries |
| 1925 | Less than 3 3 or more | \$250 or more | | X | |
| 1910 - 1925 | Less than 3 3 or more | \$250 or more | | X | Apiaries |
| 1900 | Less than 3 3 or more | | | X | Apiaries |
| 1870 - 1890 | Less than 3 3 or more | | \$500 or more | X | Apiaries |
| 1860 | | | | | |
| 1850 | | \$100 or more | | | Apiaries |
| 1840 | | | | | |

Minimum Criteria for "FARM" Definition, 1840 – Present and Enumeration of Apiaries and Fur Farms

Historic Estimates: Final estimates of Farms and Land in Farms in earlier years are available in Statistical Bulletins, No. 1018 for 2003-2007, No. 991 for 1998-2002, No. 955 for 1993-97, No. 895 for 1988-92, No. 792 for 1979-87, SpSy3 for 1975-80, No. 594 for 1969-75, No. 507 for 1959-70, No. 316 for number of farm estimates for 1910-59 and land in farms estimates for 1950-59.

Special Note Regarding the 2007 Estimates

Census: The Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations publication is produced annually. The purpose of this publication is to provide annual estimates of Farms, Land in Farms, and Operations with Livestock. It also provides revisions, as necessary, to previous year estimates. The Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years provides a base from which the annual surveys measure the change from that base. At the end of the next five year cycle, the annual estimates are revised based on inter-census trends.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture showed a significant increase in the number of farms, and reversed the downward trend that was shown in the annual estimates of Farm Numbers since the 2002 Census of Agriculture. NASS believes that some of the increase is due to methodological changes that allowed NASS to more accurately count small farms in the 2007 Census. This is discussed in more detail below.

Methodological Discussion: Each year NASS conducts the June Area Frame Survey (AFS) to provide an estimate of the number of farms and the land in farms. The exception is Alaska, which does not have an area frame and uses a list survey instead. The area frame is stratified by land use. A sample of approximately 11,000 segments of land (each approximately one square mile in size) is selected, and field enumerators visit each sampled segment to identify agricultural activity within the segment. The AFS is assumed to provide complete coverage of the universe of farm and ranch operations because the area-based frame covers all land in the U.S.

In preparation for the census of agriculture, NASS builds the Census Mail List (CML) consisting of all known farms and potential farms. In addition, NASS uses the area frame sample to measure and account for the incompleteness of the CML in a dual-frame estimation procedure. This dual-frame estimation procedure assumes complete coverage of the universe of farm and ranch operations because the undercoverage of the CML is accounted for through the area frame sample.

Results from the 2002 Census of Agriculture indicated undercoverage of farms in the lowest value of sales categories. This category includes a high concentration of disadvantaged and minority farm operators. In preparation for the 2007 Census, NASS exerted more extensive efforts than in previous censuses to build a comprehensive list. Additionally, NASS worked with several community based organizations and producer groups to enhance awareness, to increase response, and to improve coverage of these types of farms. This resulted in a 2007 CML with 3,194,373 records as compared with 2,841,788 in 2002. Additionally, NASS augmented the area frame sample with segments that were located in areas where small and minority operated farms were likely to be located.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture produced a greater number of farms in the lowest value of sales categories. The extensive list building efforts and the augmentation of the area frame sample allowed NASS to capture more of the small farms with less than \$10,000 in value of agricultural sales. Additionally, 2007 was a year of relatively high commodity prices. As the value of farm commodities increased, more very small operations are able to meet the \$1,000 value of sales threshold to qualify as a farm in the census.

After the 2007 Census of Agriculture NASS conducted a classification error research study for the census in five states. The study used data from the 2007 AFS and the 2007 census to examine whether there were farms incorrectly classified as nonfarms, and whether there were any nonfarms incorrectly classified as farms. Records in the 2007 AFS were matched to the 2007 census using probabilistic record linkage. Records whose farm status differed in the two data collections were interviewed to determine which data source was correct.

Results of the study showed that where there were discrepancies in farm status between the two reports, the census data was more often correct than the AFS data. Some AFS farms had not been correctly classified by the enumeration and processing procedures. These results challenged the NASS assumption made for its annual estimates that all farms are captured using the AFS estimation procedures. This assumption had been made on the basis of the completeness of the frame, the high quality of the personal enumeration mode utilized for the data collection, and the extensive training of field enumerators collecting the data. However, the more extensive census procedures using dual-frame estimation produced a larger farm count than the AFS estimation. This result and the results of the research study provided evidence that the AFS procedure is underestimating the number of farms. Because the AFS estimate is the major indicator for producing annual farm number estimates, it is likely these farms were also underestimated in the non census years.

Since 2007, farm number estimates reflect adjustments in the number of farms based on estimates produced by the 2007 Census of Agriculture. NASS has launched a research initiative to address the methodological issues discussed above.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Economics Section of the Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

| Tony Dorn, Head, Economics Section | |
|--|-----------------|
| Daryl Brinkman – Prices Received, Prices Received Indexes | |
| Kuan Chen – Prices, Prices Research | |
| Bryan Combs – ARMS | |
| Chris Dickerson – Prices | |
| Mark Gorsak – Prices, Prices Research | |
| Vincent Davis – Prices Paid, Prices Paid Indexes | |
| Michael Mathison – ARMS | |
| Nick Pallotta Land Values, Grazing Fees, Cash Receipts | |
| Scott Shimmin – Cash Rents, Farm Numbers, Land in Farms | |
| Seote Similian Cush Rends, Furni Rumoers, Lund in Furnis | (202) 00 0 2201 |
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch | |
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch | |
| | |
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section | |
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed | |
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs Donnie Fike – Manufactured Dairy Products | |
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs | |

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