

Alabama Census of Agriculture: Historical Highlights 2002 and Earlier Census Years

	2002	1997	Not adjusted for coverage				
			1997	1992	1987	1982	1978
Farms.....number	45,126	49,872	41,384	37,905	43,318	48,448	50,780
Land in farmsacres	8,904,387	9,517,377	8,704,385	8,450,823	9,145,753	10,200,547	11,147,825
Average size of farmacres	197	191	210	223	211	211	220
Market value of land & bldgs.-Avg per farm..... dollars	335,217	282,304	298,244	220,265	168,161	171,210	138,257
Market value of mach. & equip.-Avg per farm..... dollars	42,705	34,420	35,914	30,354	25,831	24,151	20,976
Farms by size - 1 to 49 acres.....	16,746	18,508	13,995	12,067	14,958	17,175	16,137
Farms by size - 50 to 499 acres.....	24,642	27,337	23,576	22,091	24,290	26,748	29,822
Farms by size - 500 to 999 acres.....	2,237	2,428	2,277	2,244	2,469	2,786	3,025
Farms by size - 1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	978	1,083	1,039	990	1,111	1,186	1,194
Farms by size - 2,000 acres or more	523	516	497	513	490	553	602
Total croplandfarms	34,073	39,862	34,407	32,327	37,148	41,975	45,443
Total croplandacres	3,732,751	4,435,041	4,197,670	4,237,057	4,496,607	5,105,734	5,448,622
Harvested cropland.....acres	1,995,139	2,179,636	2,077,139	2,104,064	2,231,623	3,265,361	3,364,231
Irrigated landfarms	1,698	1,503	1,301	1,380	1,344	1,040	994
Irrigated landacres	108,783	79,647	76,871	82,015	84,054	66,020	58,581
Mkt. value of ag. prod. sold - Average per farm..... dollars	72,352	64,137	74,884	62,503	44,053	35,175	30,158
Farms by value of sales - Less than \$9,999	32,069	36,117	28,505	24,105	29,342	33,262	33,870
Farms by value of sales - \$10,000 to \$99,999.....	8,386	8,951	8,185	8,915	9,490	10,630	12,912
Farms by value of sales - \$100,000 to \$499,999.....	2,721	2,900	2,830	3,825	3,946	4,173	3,728
Farms by value of sales - \$500,000 or more	1,950	1,904	1,864	1,060	540	353	236
Farms by type of org. - Family or individual.....	42,359	45,640	37,697	34,257	39,553	44,009	45,968
Farms by type of org. - Partnership	1,882	3,138	2,734	2,843	3,014	3,754	4,074
Farms by type of org. - Corporation.....	658	822	735	666	570	513	606
Farms by type of org. - Other.....	227	272	218	139	181	172	132
Principal operator by days of work off farm - None.....	20,519	16,265	13,961	13,492	14,206	14,774	16,649
Principal operator by days of work off farm - Any	24,607	31,134	25,259	21,921	26,899	29,776	31,929
Principal operator. worked 200+ days off farm	18,443	23,163	18,677	16,343	20,154	22,074	23,392
Average age of principal operator..... years	56.6	54.7	54.9	54.8	53.1	51.8	51.1

The 2002 Census of Agriculture was taken to obtain Agricultural Statistics for Alabama and each county in the state, as well as every county and state in the Nation. The 2002 Census introduced new methodology to account for all farms. All Census items published for 2002 were adjusted for undercoverage. To provide comparable data, 1997 Census data were also adjusted.

The Census data provided in this bulletin (pp 94-96) represent only a small portion of the total information collected and published in the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Log onto our website (<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>) and click on "Agriculture Census" to see all the census numbers for the U.S. and each state, including Alabama.

