



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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Farm Computer Usage and Ownership

In 2007, 83 percent of Idaho's farms owned or leased a computer compared to 75 percent in 2005, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Sixty-eight percent of Idaho farms had access to the internet. High-speed Internet access methods, such as DSL, cable, satellite, and wireless, have become much more available to Internet users in the farm sector since 2005. The proportion of operators using DSL more than doubled in 2007, at 24 percent, compared with the 2005 level of 10 percent. The proportion of farms reporting cable, satellite, and wireless also increased from 2 years ago. The proportion of farms using dialup access was down significantly from 2 years ago, but was still the most common method of access. The proportion of farms using dialup access in 2007 was 42 percent compared to 73 percent in 2005. Fifty percent of Idaho's farms reporting using their computers for the farm business, up from 47 percent in 2005.

At the national level, 59 percent of farms owned or leased a computer compared to 55 percent in 2005. Fifty-five percent of the nation's farms had access to the internet. The proportion of operators using DSL doubled in 2007, at 27 percent, compared with the 2005 level of 13 percent. Primary access methods of cable, satellite and wireless each hold 7 percent of those U.S. farms with Internet access; with satellite and wireless methods both at virtually double their 2005 levels. Dialup was again the most common method of accessing the Internet, with nearly half (47 percent) of U.S. farms still using it, down from 69 percent in 2005. Thirty-five percent of the nation's farms reporting using their computers for the farm business, up from 32 percent in 2005. For the nation's largest farms (those with sales and government payments totaling \$250,000 or more), 66 percent reported using their computers for the farm business, unchanged from two years ago.

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