



News Release

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Farm Numbers
February 1, 2008

Farm Numbers

North Dakota

The number of farms and ranches in North Dakota during 2007 is estimated at 30,100, down 200 farms from the previous year, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. This is the lowest level since records began in 1910. All land in farms remained unchanged for the ninth consecutive year, at 39.4 million acres, 3.30 million acres below the high of 42.7 million acres recorded in the period of 1950-1954. Average farm size increased by 9 acres to 1,309 acres per farm, due to the decrease in number of farms. This was the first increase in average farm size in four years.

The two smallest farm economic sales classes of \$1,000-\$9,999 and \$10,000-\$99,999 declined by 400 and 200 operations from the previous year to 8,000 and 11,900 farms, respectively. Farms with sales of \$100,000-\$249,000 increased by 100 to 5,300. In the \$250,000-\$499,999 sales class, the number of farms increased by 200 to 2,900 and the farms in the \$500,000 plus category increased by 100 to 2,000.

A farm or ranch is defined as an establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year. Government payments are included as sales. The annual estimate includes farms with their entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program or other government programs.

United States

The number of farms in the United States in 2007 is estimated at 2.08 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2006. Total land in farms, at 930.9 million acres, decreased 1.5 million acres, or 0.16 percent, from 2006. The average farm size was 449 acres during 2007, an increase of three acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

Farm numbers declined in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 and the \$10,000 - \$99,999 sales classes. Farm numbers rose slightly in the three largest sales classes. The changes within the sales classes were a result of operations moving to larger sales classes by consolidation or expansion and rising incomes as result of strong commodity prices. Because of rising incomes, many farms and ranches near the top of their sales class in 2006 moved into the next higher sales class in 2007 without adding land or otherwise expanding their operations.

The largest percentage changes from 2006 occurred in the smallest and largest sales classes. Farm numbers declined 1.5 percent, to 1.14 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 4.4 percent, to 84,970 farms, in the \$500,000 and over sales class. The number of farms with less than \$100,000 in sales fell 1.2 percent from 2006 while the number of farms with \$100,000 or more in sales rose 2.2 percent.

**Number of Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class and Average Farm Size
North Dakota and United States, 2006-2007 ^{1/}**

Item and Class	North Dakota		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Number of Farms				
\$1,000-\$9,999	8,400	8,000	1,152,910	1,135,320
\$10,000-\$99,999	12,100	11,900	597,350	594,230
\$100,000-\$249,999	5,200	5,300	166,420	167,990
\$250,000-\$499,999	2,700	2,900	90,760	93,000
\$500,000+	1,900	2,000	81,350	84,970
Total	30,300	30,100	2,088,790	2,075,510
Land In Farms	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
\$1,000-\$9,999	2,500	2,500	114,685	112,840
\$10,000-\$99,999	10,900	10,600	258,890	255,505
\$100,000-\$249,999	11,000	10,900	191,450	192,260
\$250,000-\$499,999	7,800	7,800	153,980	153,000
\$500,000+	7,200	7,600	213,425	217,315
Total	39,400	39,400	932,430	930,920
Average Farm Size	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
	1,300	1,309	446	449

^{1/} A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

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