



News Release

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Farm Numbers

North Dakota

The number of farms and ranches in North Dakota during 2010 is estimated at 31,900 farms, down 100 farms from 2009, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. All land in farms totaled 39.6 million acres, unchanged from the previous year. The 2010 estimate is 3.1 million acres below the high of 42.7 million acres recorded in the period of 1950-1954. Average farm size increased from 1,238 acres per farm in 2009 to 1,241 acres in 2010.

Farm numbers in the \$1,000-\$9,999 economic sales class totaled 10,500 farms, compared with 10,700 farms in 2009. In 2010, there were 9,200 farms with sales between \$10,000 and \$99,999, a decrease of 100 farms from the previous year. The number of farms ranging \$100,000 to \$249,999 in sales was up 200 farms to 4,600. Unchanged from last year, farms in the \$250,000-\$499,999 sales class numbered 3,700 farms. Farms with sales \$500,000 and higher totaled 3,900 farms, also unchanged from 2009.

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. Farm numbers and land in farms are broken down into five economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these "sales classes" by summing their sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, and \$500,000. 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 2010 is estimated at 2.2 million, virtually unchanged from 2009. Total land in farms, at 920.0 million acres, increased 100 thousand acres from 2009. The average farm size is 418 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

Farm numbers increased slightly in the \$1,000-\$9,999 and \$500,000 and over sales classes. Higher commodity prices and larger value of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Farm numbers increased 0.1 percent, to 1.23 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$500,000 and over sales class increased by 1.6 percent, to 126,720 farms.

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 3.0 percent, to 298.9 million acres. Land operated by farms with \$1,000-\$9,999 in sales decreased by 0.6 percent, to 105.0 million acres.

The average farm size was unchanged in 2010. However, average farm sizes declined in some of the sales classes partially due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class and Average Farm Size – North Dakota and United States: 2009-2010

(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.)

Item and class	North Dakota		United States	
	2009 (number)	2010 (number)	2009 (number)	2010 (number)
Number of farms:				
\$1,000-\$9,999	10,700	10,500	1,229,400	1,230,800
\$10,000-\$99,999	9,300	9,200	597,080	594,850
\$100,000-\$249,999	4,400	4,600	149,390	149,050
\$250,000-\$499,999	3,700	3,700	99,570	99,510
\$500,000+	3,900	3,900	124,770	126,720
Total	32,000	31,900	2,200,210	2,200,930
Land In farms:	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)
\$1,000-\$9,999	1,800	1,800	105,580	104,980
\$10,000-\$99,999	6,200	6,000	226,900	223,430
\$100,000-\$249,999	6,900	6,900	147,890	146,060
\$250,000-\$499,999	8,400	8,400	149,385	146,685
\$500,000+	16,300	16,500	290,135	298,835
Total	39,600	39,600	919,890	919,990
Average farm size.....	(acres) 1,238	(acres) 1,241	(acres) 418	(acres) 418