



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

PO Box 3166, Fargo, ND 58108-3166
800-626-3134

Farm Computer Usage
August 15, 2007

North Dakota Farm Internet Access Continually Increases

North Dakota

A total of 63 percent of North Dakota farms now have Internet access, compared with 58 percent in 2005 when internet access was last measured. This is according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office which conducted a survey of farm and ranch operators in early June. North Dakota operators using computers for their farm business increased from 41 percent in 2005 to 44 percent in 2007. Sixty-seven percent of all North Dakota farms have computer access in 2007, up from 65 percent in 2005.

Only 9 percent of North Dakota farms use the Internet to purchase agricultural inputs, up from both 2005 and 2003 at 6 and 8 percent, respectively. Ten percent use the Internet to conduct agricultural marketing activities, equal to 2005.

North Dakota farm operators indicated they had shifted their primary method of accessing the Internet moving away from dialup and towards Digital Subscriber Line (DSL). DSL access over the last two years almost doubled. Internet access by method are as follows: DSL, 40 percent; dialup, 35 percent; satellite, 9 percent; cable, 8 percent; wireless, 6 percent; and all other, 2 percent. Thirty-four percent of North Dakota farm operators indicated that they had conducted non-agricultural business via the Internet in the last 12 months.

Internet access for the neighboring states has Minnesota at 64 percent; South Dakota at 55 percent; and Montana 70 percent in 2007.

United States

A total of 55 percent of farms now have Internet access, compared with 51 percent in 2005. Sixty-three percent of farms have access to a computer in 2007, compared with the 2005 level of 59 percent. The proportion of farms owning or leasing a computer in 2007, at 59 percent, is up slightly from 55 percent in 2005. Farms using computers for their farm business increased 3 percentage points from 2005 to 35 percent in 2007. The proportion of operators using DSL doubled in 2007, at 27 percent, compared with the 2005 level of 13 percent. Dialup was again the most common method of accessing the Internet, with nearly half (47 percent) of farms still using it, down from 69 percent in 2005.

In 2007, 80 percent of farms with sales and government payments of \$250,000 or more have access to a computer, 78 percent own or lease a computer, 66 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 75 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between \$100,000 and \$249,999, the figures are: 70 percent have access to a computer, 66 percent own or lease a computer, 51 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 61 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between \$10,000 and \$99,999, 62 percent reported having computer access, 57 percent own or lease a computer, 36 percent use a computer for their farm business, and 53 percent have Internet access.

**Farm Computer Usage: By Type of Farm
Selected States/Regions and United States, 2003, 2005 and 2007**

States/Regions	Percent of Farms								
	With Computer Access			Using Computers for Farm Business			With Internet Access		
	2003	2005	2007	2003	2005	2007	2003	2005	2007
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North Dakota	61	65	67	39	41	44	53	58	63
Minnesota	64	65	71	34	35	38	52	56	64
Montana	72	75	75	44	45	45	63	70	70
South Dakota	61	66	65	33	40	40	45	55	55
North Central ^{1/}	61	61	65	34	36	38	50	52	57
Crop Farms	61	62	65	34	37	39	50	53	57
Livestock Farms	61	60	64	33	35	35	49	50	57
West ^{2/}	70	69	70	41	40	44	60	62	63
Crop Farms	69	67	67	43	42	43	59	60	61
Livestock Farms	70	71	72	39	39	44	60	64	64
United States ^{3/}	58	59	63	30	32	35	48	51	55
Crop Farms	60	60	64	33	34	37	49	52	56
Livestock Farms	56	58	62	27	30	33	47	50	55

1/ Includes IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI. 2/ Includes AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY.
3/ Excludes AK and HI.

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North Dakota Field Office P.O. Box 3166, Fargo, ND 58108-3166 800-626-3134

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