

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2007 CENSUS SHOWS GROWING TRENDS IN U.S. AGRICULTURE

HARRISBURG, PA – The 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 2,204,792 farms in the United States, according to results released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS).

Since the last census in 2002, the number of reported U.S. farms increased 4 percent. In Pennsylvania, the number of farms increased by 9 percent to 63,163 farms.

“The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of the nation’s farms and ranches and the people who operate them,” said Marc Tosiano, director of the NASS Pennsylvania Field Office. “It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.”

Nationally, the latest census results show a continuing trend towards more small and very large farms and fewer mid-sized operations – a trend echoed in Pennsylvania. Overall, the majority of U.S. farms are smaller operations with more than half characterized as residential/lifestyle or retirement farms.

In addition to looking at all aspects of farming, the Census of Agriculture provides the most comprehensive look at operator demographics – with 2007 results indicating that an area in which farmers continue to become more diverse. The 2007 Census counted nearly 30 percent more female principal farm operators in the United States. Nationwide, the count of Hispanic operators grew by 10 percent, and the counts of American Indian, Asian and Black farm operators increased as well.

In Pennsylvania, all land in farms increased by 1 percent while cropland declined by 5 percent from 2002. Women who are primary farm operators increased from about 6,000 in 2002 to over 8,500 in 2007, a 41 percent increase. Fifty-one percent of farmers have Internet access, and about half of them have high-speed access.

Pennsylvania ranks third in the Nation for direct marketing to consumers behind California and New York. Organic sales in Pennsylvania rank fifth behind California, Washington, Oregon and Wisconsin with New York in sixth place.

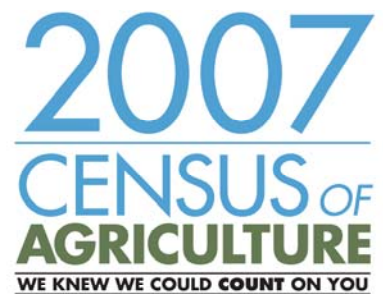
“The Census helps illustrate growing trends throughout agriculture, both nationally and in Pennsylvania,” said Tosiano. “This is an exciting time for the entire agriculture community because the census is the voice of every farmer and rancher – regardless of size or type of operation.”

Complete results of the 2007 Census of Agriculture, including first-ever numbers about on-farm energy generation, community-supported agriculture arrangements and historic barns are available at www.agcensus.usda.gov.

2007 Ag Census Highlights – Pennsylvania

National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

released 1 pm, Feb 4, 2009 www.agcensus.usda.gov



Farm Numbers & Land Highlights

- Increase ~5,000 farms or nearly 9 percent from 58,105 to 63,163
- Number of farms in the lowest & highest economic classes continue to increase, while those in the middle economic sales classes continue to decline.
 - ~3,400 more farms with sales under \$10,000
 - ~1,500 more farms with sales over \$250,000
 - ~3,900 more farms with less than 50 acres
- Farm numbers increased in 39 states
- Average farm size declined from 133 acres to 124 acres between 2002 and 2007
- All land in farms increased by 1% while cropland decreased by 5% since 2002
- Farms by Typology – Residential/Lifestyle farms comprise 36 percent of PA farms, the same as the National average.

Summary of Farms and Land in Farms, 2007 and 2002

	2007	2002	% Change
All Farms			
Number of Farms	63,163	58,105	+ 9
Corporate Farms, Family Held	1,480	1,077	+ 37
Corporate Farms, Not Family Held	239	172	+ 39
Farms with livestock and/or poultry (cattle hogs sheep goats broilers layers turkeys)	33,818	n/a	n/a
Total Land in Farms, acres	7.81 million	7.75 million	+ 1
Average per farm	124 acres	133 acres	- 7
Farms With Cropland			
Number of Farms	54,772	52,365	+ 5
Total Cropland, acres	4.87 million	5.12 million	- 5
Average per farm	89 acres	98 acres	- 9

Farm Typology, new for 2007

(www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aib759/aib759.pdf)

	Farms	Acres	
Small Family Farms			Sales of less than \$250,000
Limited Resource Farms	10,230	818,348	Sales under \$100,000 and Farm assets under \$150,000 and Operator household income < \$20,000
Retirement Farms	11,755	1,158,308	Report themselves as retired
Residential/Lifestyle Farms	22,563	1,672,568	Major occupation NOT farming
Farming Occupation/lower sales	7,533	842,882	Sales of less than \$100,000
Farming Occupation/higher sales	4,644	951,075	Sales of \$100,000-\$249,999
Large Family Farms	2,589	895,990	Sales of \$250,000-\$499,999
Very Large Family Farms	2,003	1,039,408	Sales of \$500,000 +
Non-Family Farms	1,846	430,665	Nonfamily Corporations and farms operated by hired managers



Prepared by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office
Operated in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture



Economic Highlights

- In 2007, PA farms sold \$5.8 billion in ag products vs. \$4.3 billion in 2002, a 36 percent increase in 5 years.
- Top sales categories:
 - Milk \$1.9 billion
 - Poultry & Eggs \$1.0 billion
 - Cattle & Calves \$556 million
 - Grains & Oilseeds \$500 million
 - Mushrooms \$487 million
 - Nursery & Greenhouse \$406 million
- Total farm expenditures were up in 2007, 36% higher than in 2002. The largest expenses were for
 - Feed 26%
 - Hired & contract labor 13%
 - Livestock & poultry purchased 10%
 - Supplies, repairs & maintenance 10 %
- In 2007, just over 5,200 farms produced 75% of all ag products sold In 2002, 5,700 farms accounted for the same share.
- The net cash farm income of operators in 2007 increased by 37% from '02.
 - Nationwide, the same measurement of net income increased by 90%.
 - 42% of farms show a net gain in 2007 averaging nearly \$55,000 per farm
 - 58% of farms show net loss averaging \$12,000 per farm
- Direct marketing in 2007 continues to increase versus 2002
 - 7,500 operations selling via direct markets is 24% more than 2002
 - \$75.9 million in direct sales is 41% above 2002 and 3rd behind CA & NY
 - Direct sales per farm averaged \$10,000 for 2007, 14% above \$8,800 in '02

Summary of Income and Expenses, 2007 and 2002

	2007	2002	% Change
Market Value of Products Sold			
All farms	\$5.8 billion	\$4.3 billion	+ 36
Average per farm	\$91,965	\$73,263	+ 26
Government Payments Received			
Number of farms receiving payment	17,441	11,991	+ 45
All farm payments	\$76 million	\$86 million	- 11
Average per farm, PA	\$4,356	\$7,155	- 39
Average per farm, United States	\$9,523	\$9,251	+ 3
Farm Related Income			
Number of farms with related income	17,846	16,667	+ 7
All related income	\$197 million	\$128 million	+ 54
Average per farm	\$11,042	\$7,664	+ 44
Production Expenses			
All farm expenses	\$4.9 billion	\$3.6 billion	+ 36
Average per farm	\$77,721	\$62,157	+ 25



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Demographic Highlights

- Number of PA farms operated principally by women increased by 41% over 2002 compared to a 29% increase nationally.
- Number of PA farms with Internet access increased from 43% in 2002 to 51% in 2007. The 2007 Census of Agriculture also collected information about high speed internet access for the first time.
- Organic agriculture
 - \$58.3 million in sales ranks PA fifth in the Nation behind California, Washington, Oregon, Wisconsin with New York in sixth place.
 - While over 45,000 acres were in production in 2007, another 14,000 acres were in transition to organic.

Demographics, 2007 and 2002

	2007	2002	Change
Farming is Primary Occupation	45.5 %	56.7 %	- 11 points
Average Age of Operator	55.2	53.1	2.1 yrs. Older
Principal Operator Works Off Farm	63.7 %	53.9 %	+ 10 points
Operator Lives on Farm	85.5 %	87.9 %	-2 points
Women Principal Operators	8,550	6,079	+ 41%
Internet Access	51.0 %	42.5 %	+ 8 points
High-speed internet access	28.9 %		
Organic Agriculture			
Farms used for production	775		
Acres used for production	45,181 ac		
Farms with sales	680		
Value of sales	\$58.3 million		
Average per farm	\$85,724		
Acres being converted to organic	14,346 ac		

Selected Practices, new for 2007

	Number of Farms	Percent
Generated energy or electricity on the farm	592	0.9
Used conservation methods	17,860	28.3
Practiced rotation or management intensive grazing	10,871	17.2
compared to 30,935 farms with grazing animals (cattle, equine, goats and/or sheep)		35.1
Produced and sold value added commodities	2,766	4.4
Marketed products through CSA	379	0.6
Raised or sold veal calves	876	1.4
Raised or sold hair sheep or wool-hair crosses	627	1.0
Had a barn built prior to 1960	29,321	46.4



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General Points Concerning Census Results

- Results from the 2002 census indicated significant under-coverage of small farms. Methodological changes, extensive list building, and partnering with community based organizations enabled NASS to more accurately account for small farms in 2007. The USDA farm definition is all farms that produce or sell, or normally produce or sell, \$1,000 in agricultural products.
- NASS made extraordinary efforts to outreach to small and minority-operated farms and ranches. We have done a better job of counting those than ever before. The partnerships with Community Based Organizations were a major civil rights accomplishments for the entire Department.
- Census data are adjusted for non-response and for under-coverage using statistical methodology to provide the most accurate numbers possible.
- The count of farms in Pennsylvania increased by 9% from 2002.
 - Probably the biggest news bit from the release of the census.
 - Increase in value of agricultural commodities brought operations above the cut off to be a farm.
- Annual estimates of farm numbers did not predict the increase seen in the Census
 - NASS makes annual estimates for Farm Numbers based on a survey. The Census of Agriculture provides a base from which the annual surveys measure the change from that base.
 - The 2007 Census of Agriculture showed a significant increase in the number of farms and reversed the downward trend that was shown in the annual estimates for Farm Numbers since the 2002 Census. Analysis shows that some of this change is based on methodological advances that allowed NASS to more accurately count small farms.
 - NASS has concluded that the most appropriate action is not to revise the Farm Number data series between 2002 and 2006. The 2007 Census estimates will form a new base for farm numbers that will be used to anchor the annual estimate for 2007 and beyond.

You are here: [Home](#) / [Publications](#) / 2007

2007 Census Publications

Getting Started

If you are not familiar with the Census of Agriculture, learn how the Census was conducted, view the survey forms, and find additional information.

[More](#) ▶

2007 Census Results

Full 2007 Census Report

This is the single source for all 2007 Census data. Browse and download PDF files of the 2007 Census reports at no cost, query our on-line database, or purchase hard copies of Census reports.

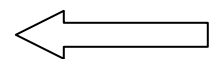
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Online Highlights

See overviews of U.S., State, and County data. Compare data with pre-defined profiles and with interactive maps. See summary totals for key Census subject areas.

[More](#) ▶

Check out the easy-to-use online tools for electronic data, maps, county profiles and more !



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