

# **SOUTH DAKOTA FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS**

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News Release

February 27, 2004

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## ***FARM NUMBERS DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM 2002***

**SIOUX FALLS, February 27, 2004** – The number of farms in South Dakota in 2003 is estimated at 31,600, down 1 percent from the census adjusted 31,800 of 2002, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 8 percent from 34,500 farms ten years ago and down 15 percent from 37,000 farms twenty years ago. Total land in farms in 2003, at 43.8 million acres, is unchanged from one year ago, but the average farm size of 1,386 acres is up from 1,377 in 2002. In 2001, South Dakota had 32,000 farms and 43.9 million acres of land in farms, which resulted in an average farm size of 1,372 acres per farm.

By sales class there were 8,800 farms in the \$1,000-\$9,999 size group, unchanged from the census adjusted 2002; 12,700 farms in the \$10,000-\$99,999 size groups, down 100 from one year earlier; 6,200 farms in the \$100,000-\$249,000 size group, down 100 from one year earlier; 2,600 farms in the \$250,000-\$499,999 size group, unchanged from one year earlier; and 1,300 farms in the \$500,000 plus size group, also unchanged.

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