



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
South Dakota Field Office • Sioux Falls, SD



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FARM NUMBERS DOWN FROM 2004

SIoux FALLS, January 31, 2006 – The number of farms in South Dakota in 2005 is estimated at 31,400, down 200 farms from 2004, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Office. This is down 5 percent from 33,000 farms ten years ago and down 14 percent from 36,500 farms twenty years ago. Total land in farms in 2005, at 43.7 million acres, is down 100,000 acres from one year ago. The 2005 average farm size of 1,392 acres is up 6 acres from a year ago.

By sales class there were 8,300 farms in the \$1,000-\$9,999 size group, down 300 from 2004; 12,500 farms in the \$10,000-\$99,999 size groups, down 100 from one year earlier; 6,200 farms in the \$100,000-\$249,999 size group, unchanged from one year earlier; 2,800 farms in the \$250,000-\$499,999 size group, up 100 from one year earlier; and 1,600 farms in the \$500,000 plus size group, up 100 from one year earlier.

Access this complete report at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/other/zfl-bb/fnlo0106.pdf>