

Wisconsin Farm Numbers Down

The number of farms in Wisconsin in 2008 was 78,000. This is a decrease of 500 farms from 2007. Total land in farms remained unchanged from last year at 15.2 million acres, while the average farm size was 195 acres, up one acre from 2007.

By economic size group in Wisconsin, the three highest sales classes increased in number of farms from last year, while the two lower sales classes decreased. For 2008, there were 9,300 farms with sales of \$100,000 - \$249,999, an increase of 700 farms. Farms with sales of \$250,000 to \$499,999, increased by 400 to 5,200 farms. The largest sales category, with sales of \$500,000 or more, increased by 500 to 4,000 farms. Farms with sales of \$1,000 - \$9,999 decreased 1,900 to 39,000 farms, and farms with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 decreased by 200 to 20,500 farms.

The number of farms in the U.S. in 2008 declined by 4,950 from the previous year. There were 2.20 million farms in the nation with 920 million acres of land in farms. The average farm size was 418 acres, unchanged from last year.

Nationally, the two highest sales groups gained farms. The largest economic sales class grew by 5 percent to 126,000 farms. This group averaged 2,326 acres per farm in 2008, down 56 acres from the previous year. The next highest category, \$250,000 - \$499,999 in sales, grew 1 percent to 98,500 farms with an average of 1,457 acres per farm. The bulk of the nation's farms, 56 percent of the total, had gross sales of \$1,000 - \$9,999 in 2008.

The North Central region is made up of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. This region had 36 percent of the U.S. farms and was second to the South in total number of farms. The North Central region had the highest number of farms in the three highest sales groups, while the South region had the most farms in the 2 lowest sales groups.

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". Government payments are included in sales. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

FARMS BY ECONOMIC SALES CLASS: Wisconsin, 2007- 2008

Economic class gross value of sales	Number of farms		Land in farms		Average size of farms	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Number		Thousand acres		Acres	
\$1,000-\$9,999	40,900	39,000	3,100	2,700	76	69
\$10,000-\$99,999	20,700	20,500	3,300	3,300	159	161
\$100,000-\$249,999	8,600	9,300	2,600	2,700	302	290
\$250,000-\$499,999	4,800	5,200	2,300	2,600	479	500
\$500,000 & over	3,500	4,000	3,900	3,900	1,114	975
Total	78,500	78,000	15,200	15,200	194	195

Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO