

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



IDAHO
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE
P.O. Box 1699
Boise, ID 83701
1-208-334-1507
FAX: (208) 334-1114
www.nass.usda.gov/id

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Idaho Highlights from the 2002 Census of Agriculture

According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, Idaho's market value of agriculture products sold in 2002 totaled \$3.91 billion, up 15 percent from the 1997 Census of Agriculture. Dairy sales increased 56 percent, accounting for 22 percent of total agricultural sales in 2002 compared to 16 percent in 1997. Idaho's dairy sales ranked 6th in the nation during 2002. Idaho ranked 4th for sales of vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. Potato sales dominated this census category as Idaho continued to rank first nationally in acreage and production of potatoes in 2002. In terms of harvested acres, Idaho ranked 3rd for both sugarbeets and barley.

The census number of Idaho farms in 2002 was 25,017, down 2 percent from 1997. Idaho's land in farms totaled 11.8 million acres, down 2 percent from 1997. Idaho ranks 24th in the nation for land in farms but ranks 5th for irrigated agricultural land with 3.29 million irrigated acres.

Idaho's largest farms continue to increase in importance when looking at value of products sold. In 2002, less than 3 percent of the farms had sales exceeding one million dollars but they accounted for 68 percent of the total sales. In 1997, just over 2 percent of farms had sales exceeding a million dollars, accounting for 52 percent of the total sales. The value of sales from farms with dairy sales of one million or more dollars accounted for 86 percent of the total dairy and dairy product sales during 2002.

Sixty-three percent of Idaho's farms had sales of less than \$10,000 in 2002. Sales from these farms accounted for less than 1 percent of the State's total sales. Farms with sales of less than \$10,000 increased 17 percent from 1997 but the associated value of sales from these farms decreased 20 percent.

Selected information from the 2002 Census is shown in the tables on the following two pages.

Complete 2002 Census of Agriculture reports are available free through the NASS web site at www.usda.gov/nass/.

Selected Items and Idaho's Rank Within U.S.
2002 Census of Agriculture

Item	2002	Rank	1997	Percent Change
Farms (number)	25,017	32	25,590	-2.2
Land in farms (acres)	11,767,294	24	12,057,001	-2.4
Irrigated land, including pasture (acres)	3,288,522	5	3,543,805	-7.2
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (\$1,000)				
Total value of agricultural products sold	3,908,262	20	3,388,296	15.3
Value of crops including nursery	1,787,172	17	1,816,769	-1.6
Value of livestock and poultry	2,121,090	17	1,571,526	35.0
Commodities - Value of Sales (\$1,000)				
Cattle and calves	1,149,407	10	907,428	26.7
Milk and dairy products from cows	869,526	6	556,225	56.3
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	752,994	4	(NA)	
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	479,728	19	(NA)	
Other crops and hay	469,820	5	(NA)	
Livestock Sold (number)				
Cattle and calves sold	1,856,342	10	1,567,003	18.5
Sheep and lambs sold	226,012	8	292,902	-22.8
Livestock Inventory (number)				
Cattle and calves inventory	1,989,548	15	1,862,639	6.8
Beef cows	502,024	23	531,661	-5.6
Milk cows	390,600	6	265,038	47.4
Sheep and lambs inventory	255,858	8	274,852	-6.9
Crop Area - Acres Harvested				
Wheat - acres	1,201,942	11	1,458,097	-17.6
Forage crops - acres 1/	1,335,171	19	(NA)	
Barley - acres	634,476	3	736,771	-13.9
Potato - acres	364,229	1	398,498	-8.6
Sugar beets for sugar - acres	202,932	3	195,869	3.6

(NA) Not Available 1/ Land used for all hay and all haylage, grass silage, and greenchop

Number of Farms and Sales by Value of Sales, Idaho
2002 Census of Agriculture

Value of Sales		2002	Percent of Total	1997	Percent of Total	Percent Change
Less than \$10,000	Farms	15,708	62.8	13,442	52.5	16.9
	Sales (\$1,000)	27,703	0.7	34,420	1.0	-19.5
\$10,000 to \$99,999	Farms	5,416	21.6	7,310	28.6	-25.9
	Sales (\$1,000)	192,278	4.9	266,903	7.9	-28.0
\$100,000 to \$249,999	Farms	1,679	6.7	2,300	9.0	-27.0
	Sales (\$1,000)	269,113	6.9	369,649	10.9	-27.2
\$250,000 to \$999,999	Farms	1,525	6.1	1,964	7.7	-22.4
	Sales (\$1,000)	749,640	19.2	950,961	28.1	-21.2
\$1,000,000 or more	Farms	689	2.8	574	2.2	20.0
	Sales (\$1,000)	2,669,530	68.3	1,766,362	52.1	51.1

All reports from the 2002 Census of Agriculture are available free through the NASS web site at www.usda.gov/nass/.

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