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CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

2002 MINNESOTA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

The USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the 2002 Census of Agriculture data for every county and state today.

Farms: The 2002 total number of farms in Minnesota is 80,839, up 2,084 farms from 1997. The number of farms with value of sales less than \$2500 is 29,024, up 52 percent from 1997. The number of farms with value of sales greater than \$500,000 is 3,625, up 828 farms from 1997. The 2002 acre of land in farms is 27,512, 270 acres, down slightly from 1997. The 2002 average farm size is 340 acres compared to 350 in 1997.

Livestock: The 2002 total number of farms with beef cows in Minnesota is 15,565, down 643 farms from 1997. The 2002 beef cow inventory is 403,594, up 8,535 head from 1997. The 2002 total number of farms with milk cows is 6,474, down 3,436 farms from 1997. The 2002 milk cow inventory is 478,248, down 76,026 head from 1997. The 2002 total number of farms with hogs is 5,628, down 2,137 farms from 1997.

Crops: The 2002 total farms with corn for grain in Minnesota is 31,782, down 5,837 farms from 1997. The 2002 corn harvested for grain is 6,556,082 acres, up 217,907 acres from 1997. The 2002 total farms with soybean is 29,347, down 1,801 farms from 1997. The 2002 harvested soybean acres is 7,068,452, up 716,612 acres from 1997. The 2002 farms with all wheat in Minnesota is 7,023, down 2,495 farms from 1997.

Demographics: The average age of the principal operator is 52.9 years old, up from 51.0 in 1997. The 2002 number of all operators is 114, 218, which women accounted for 23 percent of all operators. The 2002 number of women principal operator is 6,370, up 2,165 from 1997.

Visit the web site www.usda.gov/nass/ for more detailed US, state and county level data or call the Ag Statistics Hotline at 1-800-727-9540.