



North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Agricultural Statistics Service

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NEWS RELEASE

Farm Numbers/Land in Farms
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NORTH DAKOTA FARM NUMBERS DECLINE

North Dakota

The number of farms and ranches in North Dakota during 2003 is estimated at 30,300, down from the revised 30,500 in 2002, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. All land in farms totaled 39.4 million acres, which has remained the same since 1999.

The number of farms, at 30,300, is the lowest level since estimates were first started in 1910 when there were 74,400 farms. North Dakota farm numbers peaked in 1933, at 86,000. All land in farms, estimated at 39.4 million acres, is 3.3 million acres below the high of 42.7 million acres set in the period of 1950-1954.

Small farms with sales of \$1,000-\$9,999 increased 200 operations from 2002 to 8,800 and farms with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 declined by 600 operations to 12,000. Farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased 200 operations from 2002 to 9,500. Within that category, the number of farms with sales of \$100,000-\$249,999 was estimated at 5,500, farms with \$250,000-\$499,999 were estimated at 2,600, and farms with \$500,000 or more sales were estimated at 1,400. Number and land in farms are now available by the expanded sales classes over \$100,000 back to 1998.

A farm and ranch is defined as any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year. Government payments are included as sales. The annual estimate includes farms with their entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program or other government programs.

United States

The number of farms in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. The decline in farms occurred in all sales categories except the \$250,000-\$499,999 class which remained unchanged. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms continues to reflect consolidation in farming operations and competition for agricultural land for other uses.

The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class \$1,000-\$9,999 declined 0.2 percent to 1,199,270 in 2003. Farms with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 decreased 0.7 percent from 2002 to 600,530. The number of farms with \$100,000-\$249,999 in sales was 167,230, a decline of 0.9 percent. In the \$250,000-\$499,999 sales class, the number of farms was unchanged from the previous year. The number of agricultural operations with \$500,000 or more of sales declined 0.4 percent from 2002. Generally favorable weather, stronger commodity prices, higher value of commodities produced, farm consolidation, and competition for other uses of farmland contributed to the shifting of farms among the sales categories.

For More Information Contact:

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NUMBER OF FARMS BY ECONOMIC SALES CLASS, 1998-2003

Year	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$249,999	\$250,000- \$499,999	\$500,000+	Total
--- Number ---						
NORTH DAKOTA						
1998	8,300	14,000	6,100	2,050	750	31,200
1999	8,400	13,800	5,900	2,100	800	31,000
2000	8,400	13,400	5,700	2,300	1,000	30,800
2001	8,500	13,000	5,600	2,400	1,100	30,600
2002	8,600	12,600	5,600	2,500	1,200	30,500
2003	8,800	12,000	5,500	2,600	1,400	30,300
UNITED STATES						
1998	1,184,380	651,400	192,910	92,120	71,520	2,192,330
1999	1,187,390	648,710	188,340	90,940	71,900	2,187,280
2000	1,183,480	638,380	182,900	89,370	72,650	2,166,780
2001	1,189,920	621,490	176,290	87,400	73,530	2,148,630
2002	1,201,840	604,570	168,820	86,550	73,580	2,135,360
2003	1,199,270	600,530	167,230	86,550	73,280	2,126,860

LAND IN FARMS BY ECONOMIC SALES CLASS, 1998-2003

Year	\$1,000- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$249,999	\$250,000- \$499,999	\$500,000+	Total	Average Size of Farms
--- 1,000 Acres ---							- Acres -
NORTH DAKOTA							
1998	3,400	14,000	12,800	6,400	2,900	39,500	1,266
1999	3,400	13,900	12,300	6,500	3,300	39,400	1,271
2000	3,400	13,500	11,900	6,700	3,900	39,400	1,279
2001	3,300	12,700	11,900	7,100	4,400	39,400	1,288
2002	3,000	11,800	11,600	7,500	5,500	39,400	1,292
2003	3,000	11,200	11,500	7,900	5,800	39,400	1,300
UNITED STATES							
1998	131,000	285,825	203,445	145,205	186,605	952,080	434
1999	129,810	282,565	201,005	146,245	188,835	948,460	434
2000	128,320	279,265	198,705	147,295	191,495	945,080	436
2001	127,090	274,895	197,065	148,605	194,415	942,070	438
2002	126,625	271,155	196,305	149,170	197,045	940,300	440
2003	124,780	270,055	196,145	150,135	197,635	938,750	441

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