



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE DECLINE

Lincoln, Neb., February 22, 2002- Nebraska's number of farms and ranches declined during 2001, continuing the downward trend, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of farms and ranches in the State is 53,000, down 1,000 or 2 percent from 2000. Numbers of farms and ranches in Nebraska with less than \$100,000 in agricultural sales declined 1,500, while operations with more than \$100,000 increased 500 over a year ago.

Land in farms and ranches in Nebraska remained unchanged at 46.4 million acres. The average size of operation increased to 875 acres, up 16 acres from a year earlier.

Nationally, the number of farms and ranches in the U.S. is 2.158 million, down 14,500 or less than 1 percent from 2000. Numbers of farms and ranches in the U.S. with less than \$100,000 in agricultural sales declined 14,500, while operations with more than \$100,000 were unchanged.

Land in farms and ranches in the U.S. declined to 941.2 million acres. The average size of operation increased to 436 acres, up 2 acres from a year earlier.

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