



# NEWS RELEASE



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture - Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service  
100 Centennial Mall North Suite 298 - Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 - Phone: (402) 437-5541

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Contact: William G. Hamlin (402) 437-5541

E-mail: [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov)

Web: [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/)

### FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE DECLINE

**Lincoln, Neb., February 28, 2003** -Nebraska's number of farms and ranches declined during 2002, continuing the downward trend, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of farms and ranches in the State is 52,000, down 1,000 or 2 percent from 2001. Numbers of farms and ranches in Nebraska with less than \$100,000 in agricultural sales declined 500, additionally, operations with more than \$100,000 saw a 500 farm decrease.

Land in farms and ranches in Nebraska remained unchanged at 46.4 million acres. The average size of operation increased to 892 acres, up 17 acres from a year earlier.

Nationally, the number of farms and ranches in the U.S. is 2.158 million, up 2,410 from 2001. Numbers of farms and ranches in the U.S. with less than \$100,000 in agricultural sales increased 6,230, while operations with more than \$100,000 decreased 3,820.

Land in farms and ranches in the U.S. increased to 941.5 million acres, while the average size of operation decreased to 436 acres, down less than 1 acre from a year earlier.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/other/zfl-bb/fmno0203.pdf>

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