



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE DECLINE

Lincoln, Neb., February 27, 2004 -- Nebraska's number of farms and ranches declined during 2003, continuing the downward trend, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The number of farms and ranches in the State is 48,500, down 900 or 2 percent from the revised 2002 total.

The number of farms and ranches in the economic sales class \$1,000 - \$9,999 remained the same in 2003 at 13,100, while operations with sales of \$10,000 - \$99,999 decreased 4 percent to 19,000. Farms and ranches with sales of \$100,000 - \$249,999 declined 1 percent to 9,100 and operations with sales of \$250,000 - \$499,999 decreased 2 percent to 4,300. The number of farms and ranches with sales over \$500,000 was unchanged during 2003 at 3,000.

Land in farms and ranches in Nebraska, at 45.9 million acres, was unchanged from the revised 2002 total. The average size of operation increased to 946 acres, up 17 acres from a year earlier.

Access the National and historic publications for farm numbers at:
<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/other/zfl-bb/fmno0204.pdf>
<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/general/sb/sb991.pdf>

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