

2003 Farm Computer Usage

Sixty-two percent of Wisconsin farmers have access to computers while 56 percent actually own or lease a computer, both of which increased one percentage point from two years ago. A total of 51 percent of farm operators have access to the Internet, up five points from 2001. Farmers who use a computer for farm business remained steady at 31 percent. The percent of farmers using the Internet to purchase supplies also was unchanged from two years ago at seven percent. Farmers conducting agricultural marketing activities over the Internet increased two percentage points from the same time period. About 4 percent of farm operators with access to the Internet used it to access USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service reports, nine percent accessed other USDA reports or services, and eight percent accessed other Federal Government web sites.

A total of 48 percent of U.S. farms now have Internet access, compared to 43 percent in 2001. Fifty-four percent of all U.S. farms own or lease a computer, up from 50 percent two years ago. Farmers using computers for their farm business increased from 29 percent in 2001 to 30 percent in 2003. While we are showing increases, it appears that computer usage, ownership, and Internet access on farms have begun to level off.

Of the U.S. farms with Internet access, 11 percent used the Internet to access Federal Government web sites other than USDA, while three percent conducted business with any USDA web site, and five percent conducted business with any other Federal Government web site.



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North Central Region States	With computer access	Using computers for farm business	Using computers with Internet access	Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet	Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet
	Percent				
Wisconsin	65	31	51	7	8
Illinois	63	39	53	8	9
Indiana	59	34	51	9	10
Iowa	63	40	49	9	9
Kansas	62	37	48	6	5
Michigan	61	27	49	8	5
Minnesota	64	34	52	7	11
Missouri	56	30	48	5	7
Nebraska	61	38	48	8	9
North Dakota	61	39	53	8	10
Ohio	64	31	50	9	6
South Dakota	61	33	45	6	7
North Central total	61	34	50	7	8
Total crop farms	61	34	50	7	8
Total livestock farms	61	33	49	7	8
United States	58	30	48	8	8

1/Agricultural inputs include seed, fertilizer, chemicals, vet supplies, feed, machinery, replacement parts, farm supplies, office equipment, etc. 2/Agricultural marketing activities include direct sales of commodities, on-line crop and livestock auctions, on-line market advisory services, commodity price tracking, etc. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.