

Wisconsin Farms and Land in Farms Slightly Lower

The number of farms in Wisconsin declined 500 after remaining steady for two years. The number of farms in the state for 2003 totaled 76,500, compared to 77,000 in 2002. The total number of acres of farm land in Wisconsin also dipped lower to 15.6 million acres, down 100,000 acres from the previous year. The average size of a farm remained the same at 204 acres in 2003.

The largest decrease in number of Wisconsin farms was in the \$10,000 - \$99,999 category. There were two percent fewer farms in this group, at 21,500, a drop of 500 from 2002. The next category with gross sales of \$100,000 - \$249,999 lost 100 farms when compared to a year earlier. The \$250,000 - \$499,999 group gained 100 farms in 2003 while farms with the highest sales, \$500,000 and over, remained the same at 2,000. The \$100,000 - \$249,999 size group was the only one to lose acreage when comparing 2003 with 2002.

The number of farms in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, down 8,500 from 2002. The land in farms declined to 939 million acres, a drop of 1.55 million acres. The average size of a U.S. farm was 441 acres, up one acre from the previous year.

A farm is defined as any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year. Agricultural production includes livestock and livestock products, crops, fruit, vegetables, greenhouse and nursery products, Christmas trees, fish, and government payments, including Conservation Reserve Program payments.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms

Year	Wisconsin			United States		
	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms
	Thous.	Acres	Mil acres	Thous.	Acres	Mil acres
1950	174.0	136	23.6	5,648	213	1,202
1955	155.0	150	23.2	4,654	258	1,202
1960	138.0	161	22.2	3,963	297	1,176
1965	124.0	173	21.4	3,356	340	1,140
1970	110.0	183	20.1	2,949	374	1,102
1975 1/	100.0	193	19.3	2,521	420	1,059
1980	93.0	200	18.6	2,440	426	1,039
1985	83.0	216	17.9	2,293	441	1,012
1990	80.0	220	17.6	2,146	460	987
1995	80.0	210	16.8	2,196	438	963
2000	77.5	206	16.0	2,167	436	945
2001	77.0	205	15.8	2,149	438	942
2002	77.0	204	15.7	2,135	440	940
2003	76.5	204	15.6	2,127	441	939

1/Estimates from 1975 on include any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

Farms by Economic Sales Class United States, 2002-2003

Economic class gross value of sales	Percent of total				Average size of farms	
	Farms		Land		Acres	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Percent				Acres	
\$ 1,000-\$ 2,499	27.3	27.0	4.5	4.3	73	70
\$ 2,500-\$ 4,999	15.0	15.2	4.1	4.0	120	116
\$ 5,000-\$ 9,999	13.7	14.0	4.9	4.9	157	154
\$ 10,000-\$ 24,999	11.5	11.4	7.6	7.5	291	290
\$ 25,000-\$ 49,999	8.7	8.6	9.7	9.8	491	503
\$ 50,000-\$ 99,999	8.4	8.3	11.5	11.5	603	612
\$100,000-\$249,999	7.9	7.9	20.9	20.9	1,165	1,168
\$250,000 - \$499,999	4.1	4.1	15.8	16.0	1,697	1,722
\$500,000-\$999,999	2.2	2.1	11.5	10.5	2,302	2,207
\$1,000,000+	1.2	1.4	9.5	10.6	3,486	3,342
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	440.0	441.0

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.