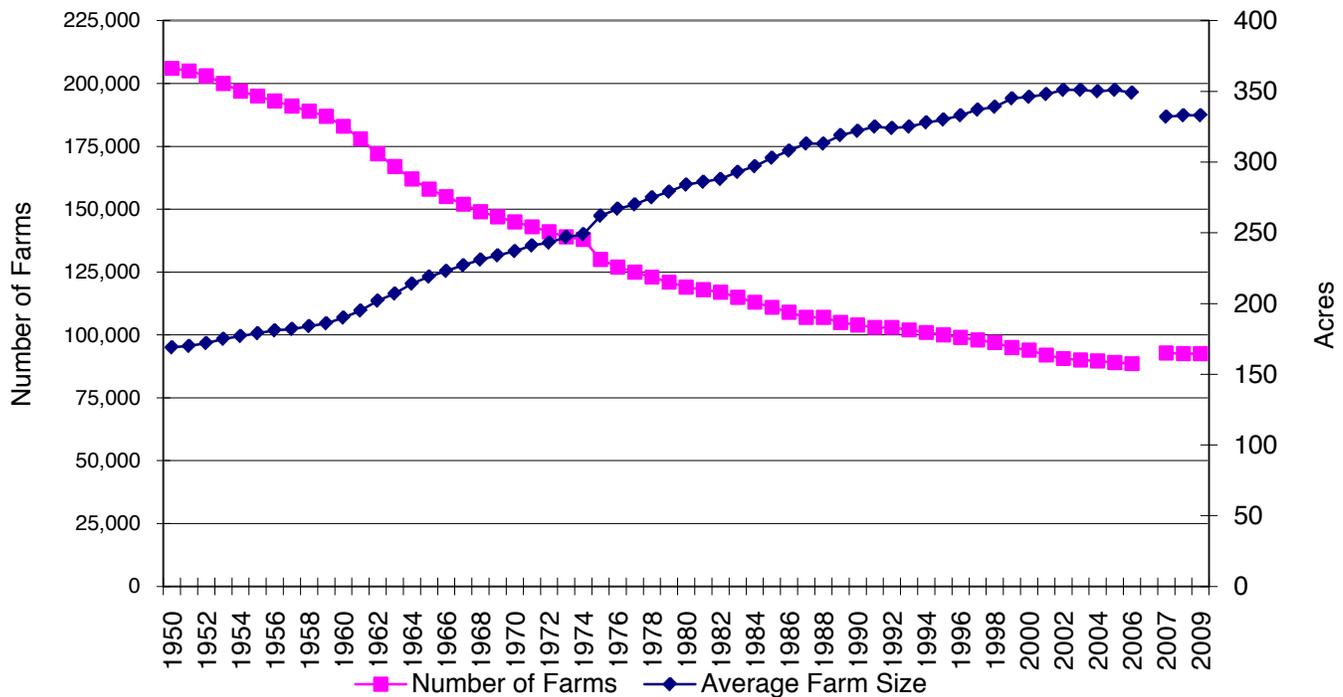


Number of Iowa Farms and Average Farm Size 1950 – 2009



Farms: Number, Average Size, and Land in Farms, Iowa

Year	Number of Farms	Average Size	Land in Farms	Year	Number of Farms	Average Size	Land in Farms
	<i>1,000 farms</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Million acres</i>		<i>1,000 farms</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Million acres</i>
1950	206	169	34.8	2000	94	346	32.5
1955	195	179	34.9	2001	92	348	32.0
1960	183	190	34.7	2002	90.6	351	31.8
1965	158	219	34.6	2003	90	351	31.6
1970	145	237	34.4	2004	89.7	350	31.4
1975	136	251	34.2	2005	89	351	31.2
1975	130	262	34.1	2006	88.6	349	30.9
1980	119	284	33.8	2007	92.8	332	30.8
1985	111	303	33.6	2008	92.6	333	30.8
1990	104	322	33.5	2009	92.6	333	30.8
1995	100	330	33.0				

USDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE DEFINITION OF A FARM

The definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year". This definition has remained the same since 1974. Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

Activities included as agriculture, however, have undergone modification in recent years. Beginning in 1995, operations having 5 or more horses or ponies and no other agricultural sales were counted as farms. Two industries, maple syrup and short rotation woody crop farms, were added as a result of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). These changes were made to achieve comparability with the Census of Agriculture farm definition. To further align the counting of farms with the Census of Agriculture, places with 100 acres or more of pasture only were included in farm and land in farm numbers starting in 2002.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture showed a significant increase in the number of farms, and reversed the downward trend that was shown in the annual estimates of Farm Numbers since the 2002 Census of Agriculture. NASS believes some of the increase is due to methodological changes allowing NASS to more accurately count small farms in the 2007 Census. The 2007-2009 farm number estimates reflect adjustments in the number of farms based on estimates produced by the 2007 Census of Agriculture.