



Iowa Ag News – Farm Computer Usage and Ownership

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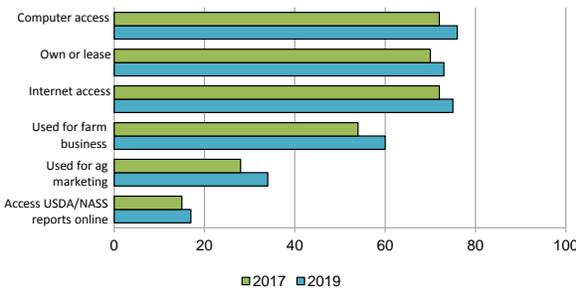
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Media Contact: Greg Thessen

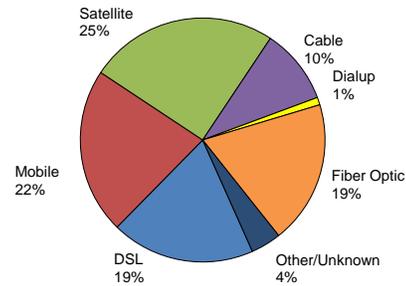
Seventy-three percent of Iowa farms own or lease a computer, 4 percentage points higher than the U.S. percentage, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Farm Computer Usage and Ownership* report. Seventy-six percent of Iowa farms report having access to a computer, up 4 percentage points from 2017. Farms using computers for their farm business increased to 60 percent, up 6 percentage points from 2017 and still well above the national percentage, which rose to 49 percent.

Seventy-five percent of Iowa farms have Internet access, up 3 percentage points from 2017. Satellite service is now the most common method of accessing the Internet on Iowa farms, with 25 percent of farms in Iowa with access to the Internet utilizing satellite. The proportion of Iowa farms using DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) connection declined from 23 percent to 19 percent, while cable modem service declined to 10 percent. Mobile service was unchanged at 22 percent, while fiber optic service increased to 19 percent.

Farm Computer Usage and Ownership by Percent - Iowa



Primary Method of Internet Access - Iowa: 2019



Farm Computer Usage and Ownership – Iowa and United States: 2017 and 2019

Farms	Iowa		United States	
	2017 (percent)	2019 (percent)	2017 (percent)	2019 (percent)
With desktop or laptop computer access	72	76	72	73
Own or lease desktop or laptop computers	70	73	68	69
Use desktop or laptop computers for farm business	54	60	48	49
Use smart phones or tablets for farm business	51	60	44	52
With Internet access	72	75	73	75
Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet	21	25	24	24
Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet	28	34	19	19
Access USDA NASS reports over Internet	15	17	11	12
Access other USDA reports/services over Internet	24	25	19	20
Access other federal government websites over Internet	17	19	20	21
Conduct business with any USDA website	12	13	9	11
Conduct business with any other federal government website	8	9	9	9
Conduct business with any non-agricultural website	50	55	50	53
Primary method of Internet access				
Dialup	4	1	3	3
DSL	23	19	28	22
Cable	11	10	16	16
Fiber optic	17	19	9	12
Mobile	22	22	19	18
Satellite	20	25	23	26
Other/Unknown	3	4	2	3

(NA) Not available.

UNITED STATES

General computer usage and internet access categories increased from 2017 to 2019 in the United States. Nationally, 75 percent of farms reported having access to the internet, with 73 percent of farms having access to a desktop or laptop computer. Farms that used a desktop or laptop computer to conduct farm business was up 1 percent from 2017. Over half of the farms in the United States used a smart phone or tablet to conduct farm business, compared to 44 percent in 2017.

In 2019, 26 percent of farms used satellite and 22 percent of farms used a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) to access the internet. Since 2017, Satellite and DSL continue to be the most popular choices that United States farms use to access the internet.