



Iowa Ag News – Farm Computer Usage and Ownership

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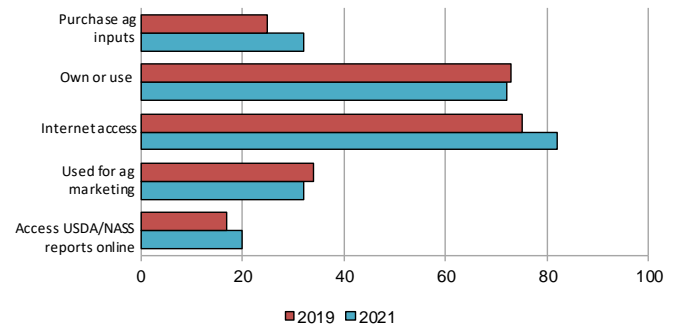
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Seventy-two percent of Iowa farms own or use a desktop or laptop computer, 5 percentage points higher than the U.S. percentage, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Farm Computer Usage and Ownership* report. Farms using smart phones for their farm business was 73%, 4 percentage points below the national percentage.

Eighty-two percent of Iowa farms have internet access, up 7 percentage points from 2019. Cellular service is the most common method of accessing the Internet on Iowa farms, with 67% of farms in Iowa accessing the internet utilizing cellular methods. The proportion of Iowa farms using broadband (DSL, cable, fiber optic) connection was the second most common method for accessing the internet with 49%. Satellite service at 17% was the third most common way for Iowa farms to access the internet.

Farm Computer Usage and Ownership by Percent - Iowa



Farm Computer Usage and Ownership – Iowa and United States: 2019 and 2021

Farms	Iowa		United States	
	2019 (percent)	2021 (percent)	2019 (percent)	2021 (percent)
Own or use desktop or laptop computer ¹	73	72	69	67
Own or use smart phone	(NA)	73	(NA)	77
Own or use a tablet or other portable wireless computer	(NA)	31	(NA)	29
Own or use some other type of computer	(NA)	3	(NA)	2
With Internet access	75	82	75	82
Internet access by paying a cell phone company or ISP	(NA)	96	(NA)	98
Internet access without paying a cell phone company or ISP	(NA)	4	(NA)	2
Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet	25	32	24	29
Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet	34	32	19	21
Access USDA NASS reports over Internet	17	20	12	13
Access other USDA reports/services over Internet	25	28	20	22
Access other federal government websites over Internet	19	23	21	21
Conduct business with any USDA website	13	24	11	16
Conduct business with any other Federal government website	9	16	9	12
Conduct business with any non-agricultural website	55	56	53	47
Method of Internet access ²				
Dialup	(NA)	6	(NA)	2
Broadband (DSL, cable, fiber optic)	(NA)	49	(NA)	50
Cellular	(NA)	67	(NA)	70
Satellite	(NA)	17	(NA)	19
Other	(NA)	2	(NA)	2
Using precision ag practices to manage crops or livestock	(NA)	52	(NA)	25

(NA) Not available.

¹ 2019 values are not directly comparable to 2021

² Does not add to 100% due to operators with multiple types of internet access.

UNITED STATES

Special Note

The questions for the Farm Computer Usage and Ownership questionnaire have changed since the last publication in 2019 to reflect modern internet access and usage. Therefore, there may not be direct comparisons between certain data points. Some changes included reporting multiple types of internet access, consolidating redundant questions, and the addition of a precision agriculture question.

Farm Computer Usage and Ownership Highlights

Nationally, 82% of farms reported having access to the internet with 98% paying for access. In 2021, 29% of farms used the internet to purchase agricultural inputs, which was an increase of 5% from 2019. Additionally, 21% of farms used the internet to market agricultural activities, which was an increase of 2% from 2019. Farms which conducted business with non-agricultural websites in 2021 decreased by 6% to 47%.

In 2021, 50% of internet connected farms utilized a broadband connection while 70% of internet connected farms had access through a cellular data plan. Additionally, 67% of farms had a desktop or laptop computer while 77% of farms had a smart phone.

Precision Agriculture Practices

Beginning in 2021, data were collected for precision agriculture practices with the question: "In the last 12 months, did this farm or ranch use precision agriculture practices to manage crops or livestock? This would include the use of global positioning (GPS) guidance systems, GPS yield monitoring and soil mapping, variable rate input applications, use of drones for scouting fields or monitoring livestock, electronic tagging, precision feeding, robotic milking, etc.." Results are presented at the end of the table.