



Minnesota Ag News – Farm Computer Use

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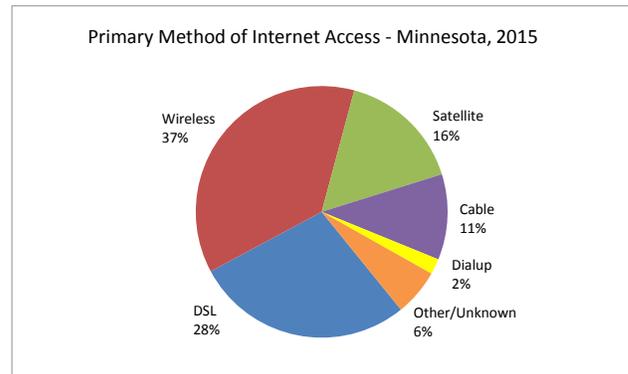
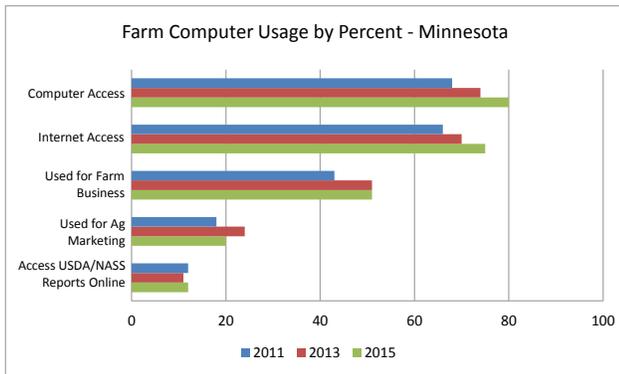
Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

August 19, 2015

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Seventy-eight percent of Minnesota farms own or lease a computer, 7 percentage points higher than the U.S. percentage, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Farm Computer Use* report. Eighty percent of Minnesota farms report having access to a computer, up 6 percentage points from 2013. Farms using computers for their farm business remains unchanged at 51 percent, 8 percentage points above the national percentage, which rose to 43 percent.

Seventy-five percent of Minnesota farms have Internet access, up 5 percentage points from 2013. A wireless connection is now the most common method of accessing the Internet, with 37 percent of farms in Minnesota with access to the Internet utilizing wireless, up 10 percentage points from 2013. In 2015, DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) service declined to 28 percent, down from 43 percent in 2013.



Farm Computer Usage – Minnesota and United States: 2011, 2013, and 2015

Farms	Minnesota			United States		
	2011	2013	2015	2011	2013	2015
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
With computer access	68	74	80	65	70	73
Own or lease computers	65	71	78	63	68	71
Use computers for farm business	43	51	51	37	40	43
With Internet access	66	70	75	62	67	70
Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet	13	16	15	14	16	19
Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet	18	24	20	12	14	16
Access USDA/NASS reports over Internet	12	11	12	7	8	10
Access other USDA reports over Internet	16	19	19	13	14	17
Access other federal government websites over Internet	13	13	15	14	14	17
Conduct business with any USDA website	6	9	10	5	6	9
Conduct business with any other federal government website	4	4	5	4	5	7
Conduct business with any non-agricultural website	36	50	50	35	40	44
Primary method of Internet access						
Dialup	12	7	2	12	5	3
DSL	42	43	28	38	35	30
Cable	4	7	11	11	13	12
Satellite	11	10	16	15	17	21
Wireless	25	27	37	20	24	29
Other/Unknown	6	6	6	4	6	5

UNITED STATES

When U.S. producers were asked to respond to questions for USDA-NASS's biennial Farm Computer Usage and Ownership report, 70 percent report having access to the Internet, up 3 percentage points from 2013. A DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) connection is the most common method of accessing the Internet, with 30 percent of the farms in the United States using it, down from 35 percent in 2013. A wireless connection, at 29 percent, and a satellite connection at 21 percent, increased 5 and 4 percentage points, respectively. Other reported methods of accessing the Internet include cable modem service (12 percent), dial-up service (3 percent), and other or unknown (5 percent).

Farms with computer access at 73 percent is slightly higher than the 71 percent of the farms that reporting owning or leasing a computer. Computer access by sales class is 71 percent for sales class \$1,000--\$9,999; 70 percent for sales class \$10,000--\$99,999; 73 percent for Sales Class \$100,000--\$249,999; and 85 percent for Sales Class \$250,000 or more.

Computer usage for farm business at 43 percent nationally, is up 3 percentage points from 2013. This compares with usage by the four geographic regions: West (48 percent), North Central (46 percent), Northeast (45 percent), and the South (36 percent). Comparing computer usage by crop and livestock farms, 47 percent of the crop producers use the computer for farm business compared to 39 percent of the livestock producers.

