



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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2018 FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

Charleston, West Virginia – The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 23,400 in 2018, down 200 farms from 2017. The total land in farms was 3.60 million acres, down 0.1 million acres from 2017. The average farm size was 154 acres, down 3 acres from 2017.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000 - \$9,999** economic sales class totaled 17,000 in 2018, unchanged from 2017. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.60 million acres, unchanged from 2017. The average farm size for this sales class was 94 acres, unchanged from 2017.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$10,000 - \$99,999** economic sales class totaled 5,600 in 2018, down 200 farms from 2017. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.40 million acres, down 0.1 million acres from 2017. The average farm size for this sales class was 250 acres, down 9 acres from 2017.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$100,000 - \$249,999** economic sales class totaled 370 in 2018, unchanged from 2017. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 270,000 acres, unchanged from 2017. The average farm size for this sales class was 730 acres, unchanged from 2017.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$250,000 - \$499,999** economic sales class totaled 130 in 2018, unchanged from 2017. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 120,000 acres, unchanged from 2017. The average farm size for this sales class was 923 acres, unchanged from 2017.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$500,000 - \$999,999** economic sales class totaled 150 in 2018, unchanged from 2017. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 100,000 acres, unchanged from 2017. The average farm size for this sales class was 667 acres, unchanged from 2017.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000,000 or more** economic sales class totaled 150 in 2018, unchanged from 2017. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, unchanged from 2017. The average farm size for this sales class was 733 acres, unchanged from 2017.

United States – The number of farms in the United States for 2018 is estimated at 2,029,200, down 12,800 farms from 2017. Total land in farms, at 899,500,000 acres, decreased 870,000 acres from 2017. The average farm size for 2018 is 443 acres, up 2 acres from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are differentiated by six economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these six sales classes by summing the sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, \$500,000, and \$1,000,000. Producers were asked during the 2018 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2017 calendar year.

Point Farms are farms that did not have the required minimum \$1,000 in sales for the year to qualify as a farm, but had sufficient crops and livestock to normally have sales of \$1,000 or more. Point Farms are assigned a sales class based on the sum of the agricultural point (dollar) values assigned to the quantity of commodities produced but not sold. The 2017 Census of Agriculture showed that 471,593 farms or 23.1 percent of the 2.04 million farms were Point Farms. These Point Farms operated 59.2 million acres or 6.6 percent of the 900.2 million acres of farmland.

Number of farms declined by 12,800 from 2017. The number of farms in Sales Class \$500,000 - \$999,999 increased while all other sales classes declined. Fifty-one percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales. Eighty-two percent of all farms had less than \$100,000 in sales. Seven percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

Land in farms, at 899,500,000 acres, is down 870,000 acres from 2017. The biggest change for 2018 is that producers in Sales Class \$250,000 - \$499,999 operated 1,080,000 fewer acres than in 2017. In 2018, 30.1 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with less than \$100,000 in sales, while 40.8 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with sales of \$500,000 or more.

The **average farm size** continued to increase in 2018 as the number of farms declined more than land in farms. The overall average size increased by 2 acres to 443 acres per farm. Average farm size decreased in the \$500,000 - \$999,999 sales class and increased or remained unchanged in all others.