



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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2015 FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

Charleston, West Virginia – The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,900 in 2015, down 400 farms from 2014. The total land in farms was 3.60 million acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size was 172 acres, up 3 acres from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000 - \$9,999** economic sales class totaled 14,600, down 500 farms from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.60 million acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 110 acres, up 4 acres from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$10,000 - \$99,999** economic sales class totaled 5,400, up 100 farms from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.40 million acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 259 acres, down 5 acres from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$100,000 - \$249,999** economic sales class totaled 400, unchanged from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 240,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 600 acres, unchanged from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$250,000 - \$499,999** economic sales class totaled 150, unchanged from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 733 acres, unchanged from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$500,000 - \$999,999** economic sales class totaled 170, unchanged from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 647 acres, unchanged from 2014.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000,000 or more** economic sales class totaled 180, unchanged from 2014. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 140,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The average farm size for this sales class was 778 acres, unchanged from 2014.

United States – The number of farms in the United States for 2015 is estimated at 2.07 million, down 18 thousand farms from 2014. Total land in farms, at 912 million acres, decreased 1 million acres from 2014. The average farm size for 2015 is 441 acres, up 3 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 2015 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2014 calendar year. Production or commodity price changes in 2014 resulted in the total value for most livestock and livestock products to increase while the value of most crops declined.

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 2012 Census of Agriculture showed that 428,810 farms or 20.3 percent of the 2.11 million farms were Point Farms. These Point Farms operated 63.0 million acres or 6.9 percent of the 914.5 million acres of farmland.

Farm numbers decreased by 18 thousand farms during 2015. The number of farms in Sales Class \$1,000 - \$9,999 declined while all other sales classes increased slightly. Fifty percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales. Eighty percent of all farms had less than \$100,000 in sales. Eight percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

Land in farms, at 912 million acres, was down 1 million acres from 2014. The biggest changes for 2015 are that producers with sales below \$10,000 operated 2.92 million fewer acres and those in Sales Class \$10,000-\$99,999 operated 2.35 million fewer acres. Still, nearly 31 percent of all farmland was operated by farms with less than \$100,000 in sales. Forty-one percent of all farmland was operated by farms with sales of \$500,000 or more.

The **average farm size** continued to increase in 2015 as the number of farms declined more than land in farms. The overall average size increased by 3 acres to 441 acres per farm. However, average farm sizes declined in all sales classes except \$100,000-\$249,000 and \$1,000,000 or more.