



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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2017 FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS

Charleston, West Virginia – The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,400 in 2017, down 200 farms from 2016. The total land in farms was 3.60 million acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size was 176 acres, up 1 acre from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000 - \$9,999** economic sales class totaled 14,300 in 2017, down 100 farms from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.60 million acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 112 acres, up 1 acre from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$10,000 - \$99,999** economic sales class totaled 5,300 in 2017, down 100 farms from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 1.40 million acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 264 acres, up 5 acres from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$100,000 - \$249,999** economic sales class totaled 350 in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 240,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 686 acres, unchanged from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$250,000 - \$499,999** economic sales class totaled 150 in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 120,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 800 acres, unchanged from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$500,000 - \$999,999** economic sales class totaled 170 in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 110,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 647 acres, unchanged from 2016.

The West Virginia number of farms in the **\$1,000,000 or more** economic sales class totaled 130 in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 130,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average farm size for this sales class was 1,000 acres, unchanged from 2016.

United States – The number of farms in the United States for 2017 is estimated at 2.05 million, down 12 thousand farms from 2016. Total land in farms, at 910 million acres, decreased 1 million acres from 2016. The average farm size for 2017 is 444 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 2017 mid-year surveys to report the value of sales based on production during the 2016 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 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.

Number of farms declined by 12 thousand from 2016. The number of farms in Sales Classes \$100,000 - \$249,999 and \$1,000,000 or more increased while all other sales classes declined. 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 910 million acres, was down 1 million acres from 2016. The biggest change for 2017 is that producers in Sales Class \$1,000,000 or more operated 1.3 million more acres than in 2016. Similar to the previous year, in 2017 over 30 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 2017 as the number of farms declined more than land in farms. The overall average size increased by 2 acres to 444 acres per farm. Average farm sizes increased in the \$250,000 - \$499,999, \$500,000 - \$999,999, and \$1,000,000 or more sales classes and decreased or remained unchanged in the others.