



# Wisconsin Ag News – Farm Computer Use

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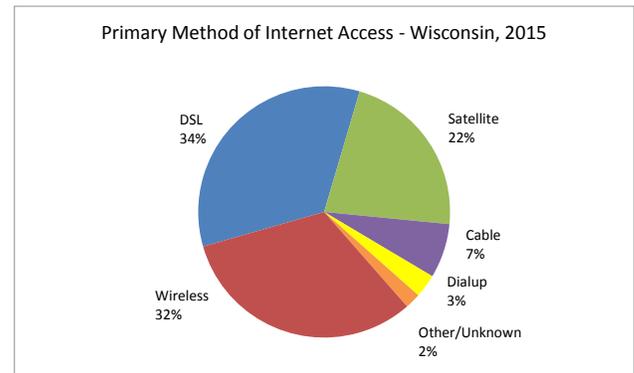
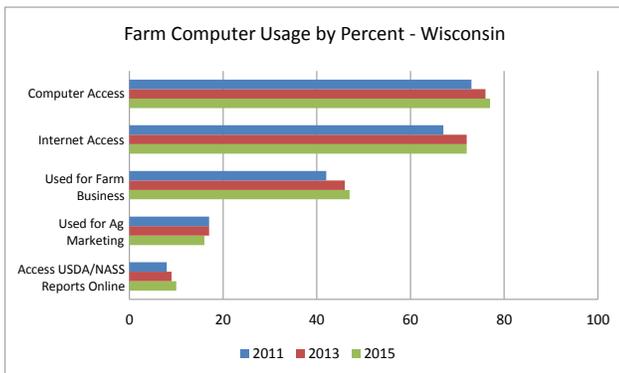
Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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Seventy-three percent of Wisconsin farms own or lease a computer, 2 percentage points higher than the U.S. percentage, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Farm Computer Use* report. Seventy-seven percent of Wisconsin farms report having access to a computer, up slightly from 2013. Farms using computers for their farm business increased slightly to 47 percent, 4 percentage points above the national percentage, which rose to 43 percent.

Seventy-two percent of Wisconsin farms have Internet access, unchanged from 2013. DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) remains the most common method of access, with 34 percent of farms in Wisconsin with access to the Internet utilizing DSL, down 9 percentage points from 2013. Wireless connection access remains unchanged at 32 percent. The proportion of Wisconsin farms using satellite service increased 9 percentage points from 2013, rising to 22 percent.



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

Farms	Wisconsin			United States		
	2011 (percent)	2013 (percent)	2015 (percent)	2011 (percent)	2013 (percent)	2015 (percent)
With computer access .....	73	76	77	65	70	73
Own or lease computers .....	71	73	73	63	68	71
Use computers for farm business .....	42	46	47	37	40	43
With Internet access .....	67	72	72	62	67	70
Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet .....	17	17	19	14	16	19
Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet .....	17	17	16	12	14	16
Access USDA/NASS reports over Internet .....	8	9	10	7	8	10
Access other USDA reports over Internet .....	16	16	16	13	14	17
Access other federal government websites over Internet .....	16	21	21	14	14	17
Conduct business with any USDA website .....	5	6	9	5	6	9
Conduct business with any other federal government website .....	4	8	8	4	5	7
Conduct business with any non-agricultural website .....	43	47	47	35	40	44
Primary method of Internet access						
Dialup .....	12	3	3	12	5	3
DSL .....	51	43	34	38	35	30
Cable .....	8	5	7	11	13	12
Satellite .....	10	13	22	15	17	21
Wireless .....	17	32	32	20	24	29
Other/Unknown .....	2	4	2	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.

