



REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

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FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS

ARIZONA

The number of farms and ranches in Arizona in 2015 totaled 19,500, down 100 operations from the 2014 estimate. Total land in farms in Arizona, at 26.0 million acres, was unchanged from the 2014 estimate. The average size of farm was 1,333 acres, compared to 1,327 acres the previous year.

COLORADO

The number of farms and ranches in Colorado in 2015 totaled 34,200, down 800 operations from the 2014 estimate. Total land in farms in Colorado, at 31.8 million acres, was down less than one-half percent from the 2014 estimate. The average size of farm was 927 acres, compared to 909 acres the previous year.

MONTANA

The number of farms and ranches in Montana in 2015 totaled 27,500, down 300 operations from the 2014 estimate. Total land in farms in Montana, at 59.7 million acres, was unchanged from the 2014 estimate. The average size of farm was 2,171 acres, compared to 2,147 acres the previous year.

NEW MEXICO

The number of farms and ranches in New Mexico in 2015 totaled 24,700, unchanged from the 2014 estimate. Total land in farms in New Mexico, at 43.2 million acres, was unchanged from the 2014 estimate. The average size of farm was 1,749 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

UTAH

The number of farms and ranches in Utah in 2015 totaled 18,100 unchanged from the 2014 estimate. Total land in farms in Utah at 11.0 million acres, was unchanged from the 2014 estimate. The average size of farm was 608 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

WYOMING

The number of farms and ranches in Wyoming in 2015 totaled 11,600, down 100 operations from the 2014 estimate. Total land in farms in Wyoming, at 30.4 million acres, was unchanged from the 2014 estimate. The average size of farm was 2,621 acres, compared to 2,598 acres the previous year.

UNITED STATES

The number of farms in the United States for 2015 is estimated at 2.07 million, down 18,000 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.

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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 18,000 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.

USDA's definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and other government conservation programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 Census.

For a full copy of the *Farms and Land in Farms* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov. For state specific questions please contact:

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