

ACH17-1/April 2019

The value of agricultural production declined slightly between 2012 and 2017 but remains concentrated by farm size, location, and industry. The number of large and small farms increased, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, as the number of mid-size farms declined. The largest operations and a small number of the largest states accounted for the majority of agricultural production and sales. Five commodities accounted for two thirds of value.

- 2 million farms 
- \$389 billion in agricultural products 
- 900 million acres 

Value of Production

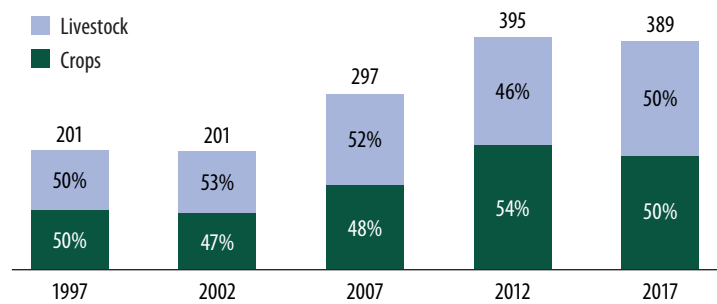
In 2017, U.S. farms and ranches produced \$388.5 billion in agricultural products, down from \$394.6 billion in 2012. Crop and livestock commodities each account for half of the total. In 2012, only the second time in census history, the value of crop sales exceeded livestock sales; 2017 is a return to longer-term trends.

The total number of farms declined between 2012 and 2017, from 2.11 to 2.04 million. All categories of mid-sized farms declined.

The largest farms (sales of \$5 million or more) accounted for fewer than 1 percent of all farms but 35 percent of all sales. Small farms (sales of \$50,000 or less) accounted for 76 percent of the farms and 3 percent of the sales.

Sales Class	% of farms	% of sales
\$5,000,000 +	1	35
\$1,000,000 - \$4,999,999	3	34
\$250,000 - \$999,999	8	21
\$50,000 - \$249,999	12	8
< \$50,000	76	3

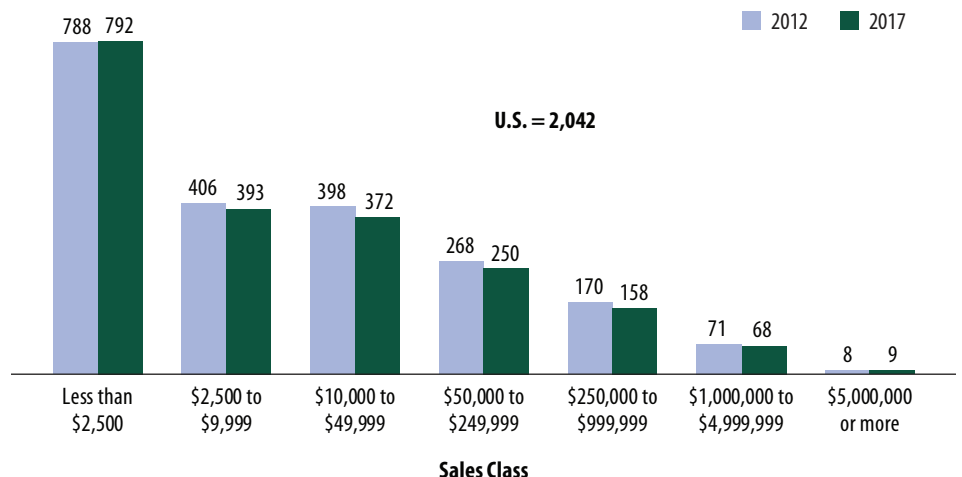
Value of Production, 1997-2017 (\$ billions)



The total value of crops in 2017 was \$194 billion, down 9 percent from 2012. For livestock, the value was \$195 billion, up 7 percent.

The number of mid-sized farms declined between 2012 and 2017. Only very small farms (annual sales of \$2,500 or less) and very large farms (sales of \$5 million or more) increased in number. The 76,865 farms in the top two categories (sales of \$1 million or more) are fewer than 4 percent of U.S. farms; they sold more than two thirds of all agricultural production.

Number of Farms, by Size of Farm, 2012 and 2017 (thousands)

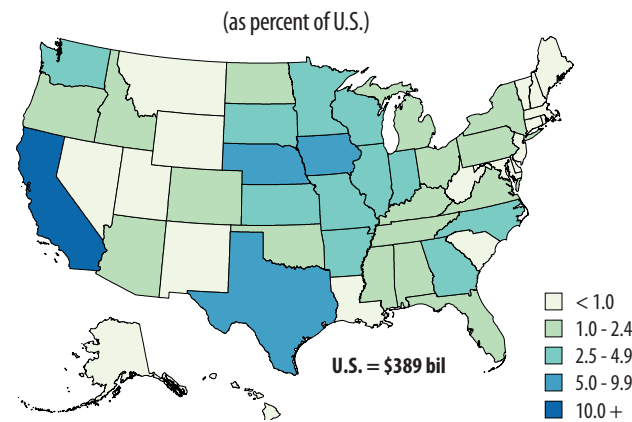


U.S. Production by State

The top ten states accounted for 54 percent of sales in 2017. California remained the largest provider of agricultural products, with sales of \$45.2 billion, 12 percent of the U.S. total.

The top seven U.S. counties are in California, and the top county, Fresno, had larger agriculture sales than 25 states.

Agriculture Sales by State



Top States	(\$ bil)
California	45.2
Iowa*	29.0
Texas	24.9
Nebraska	22.0
Kansas	18.8
Minnesota*	18.4
Illinois	17.0
North Carolina	12.9
Wisconsin	11.4
Indiana	11.1

Top Commodities

Cattle and calves was the top ranked commodity, with \$77.2 billion in sales. Texas was the top state in cattle and calves sales, accounting for 16 percent of the U.S. total.

The top five commodities accounted for \$255 billion in sales, 66 percent of U.S. total agriculture sales.

Top Commodities, 2017

	(\$ billions)	Top State	% of U.S.
Cattle and calves	77.2	Texas	16
Corn*	51.2	Iowa	17
Poultry and eggs*	49.2	Georgia	11
Soybeans	40.3	Illinois	14
Milk	36.7	California	18

Income and Expenses

Farm income includes not just sales but also government payments and earnings from farm-related activities. With these items included, total U.S. farm income in 2017 was \$414 billion. With farm production expenses of \$326 billion, U.S. farms had net cash income of \$88 billion.

At the farm level, average income in 2017 was \$43,053, down 2 percent from 2012.

	All U.S. Farms		Production Expenses	(\$ bil)
	(\$ bil)	% change since 2012		
Income				
Value of ag products sold	388.5	-2	Feed*	62.6
Government payments*	8.9	+11	Livestock purchased	44.9
Farm-related income	16.8	-9	Hired labor*	31.6
Production expenses	326.4	-1	Fertilizer*	23.5
Net income	87.9	-5	Cash rents	21.1
			Seeds*	21.0
			Supplies and repairs*	19.7
			Chemicals*	17.6
			Fuels*	13.5
			Interest	12.4
			Other	58.5

About the Census

The Census of Agriculture, conducted once every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Results from the 2017 Census, as well as previous censuses, are available online at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, the new and easy-to-use Census Data Query Tool, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products.

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

Farms with Internet Access, by County, 2017

