


Farms and Farmland


Farms and farmland continued to decline as average farm size increased




ACH22-3/March 2024

In the five years between 2017, when the last Census of Agriculture was conducted, and 2022, the number of farms in the United States and the amount of land in farms continued to decline and average farm size continued to increase. The amount and direction of change varied by state and by county, but farmland continued to be most heavily concentrated in the center of the country.

1,900,487 farms 

880.1 million acres 

463 acres average farm size 

Farms and Land

In 2022, the United States had just over 1.9 million farms, down 6.9% from 2017. These farms accounted for 880.1 million acres of land in farms, or 39% of all U.S. land. This was a decline of 20.1 million acres (2.2%) from the 2017 level.

During the same time, the average farm size increased 5.0%, from 441 acres in 2017 to 463 acres in 2022.

Between 2017 and 2022, almost all of the size classes decreased in number of farms. Only the largest class (5,000 acres or larger) increased in number of farms.

Farm Counts by Size (thousands)

	2017	2022
1 - 49 acres	856	802
50 - 179 acres	565	531
180 - 499 acres	315	288
500 - 999 acres	133	120
1,000 - 4,999 acres	147	133
5,000+ acres	26	27

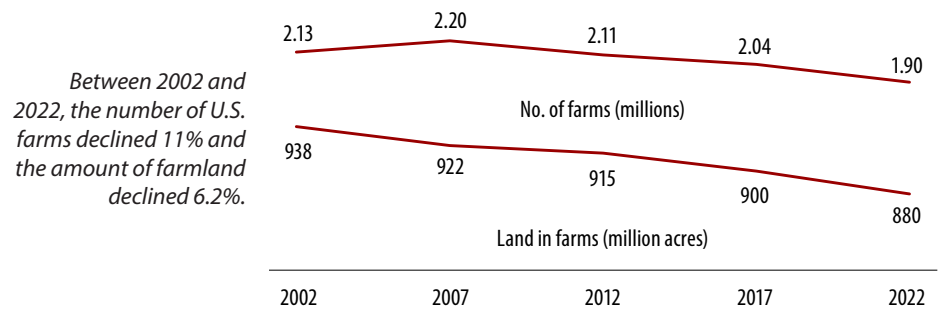
What is a "Farm"?

Since 1974, the Census of Agriculture has defined a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

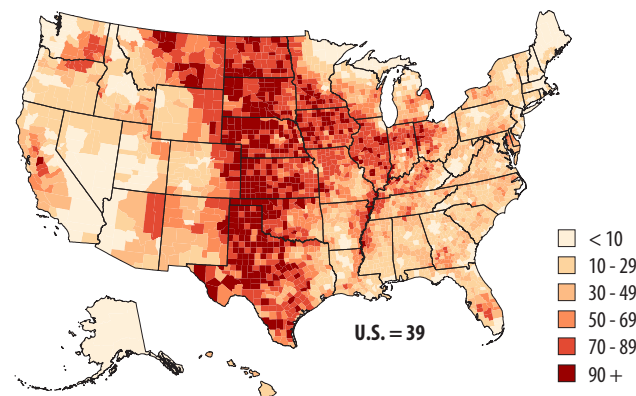
Farms and Farmland, 2017 and 2022

	2017	2022	% change
Number of farms	2,042,220	1,900,487	-6.9
Land in farms (acres)	900,217,576	880,100,848	-2.2
Average farm size (acres)	441	463	+5.0

Twenty-year Trends, 2002–2022



Farmland as Percent of Land Area by County, 2022



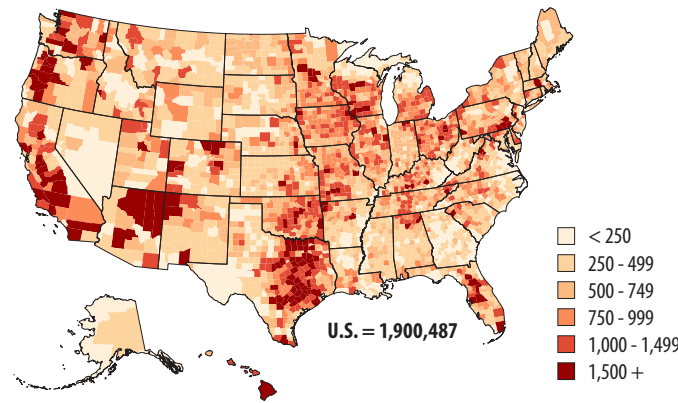
Slightly less than two out of five acres of land in the United States were farmland, but the distribution of that land varied. In many counties from North Dakota down through Texas, more than 70% of land was used for agriculture.

U.S. Farms by Location

Counties with high concentrations of farms were in eastern Texas, north through the central part of the nation, as well as counties on the Pacific coast. With nearly 231,000 farms, Texas had more than twice as many farms as the next state.

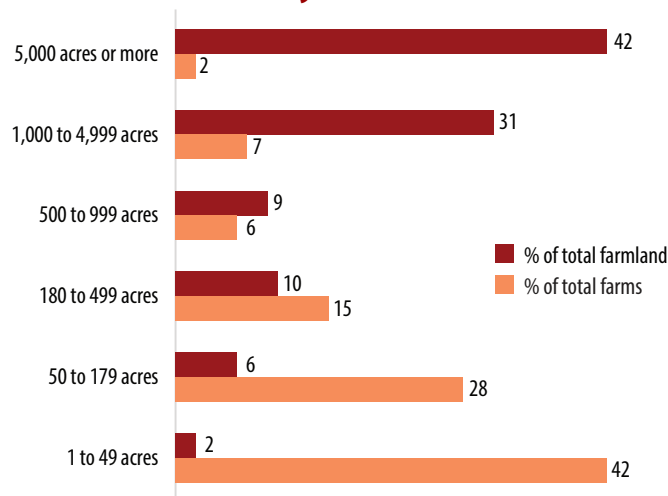
Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri had the largest declines in farm numbers from 2017 to 2022, while New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, and Arkansas had the largest percentage declines.

Number of Farms, 2022



Top States	No. of farms
Texas	230,662
Missouri	87,887
Iowa	86,911
Ohio	76,009
Illinois	71,123
Oklahoma	70,378
Kentucky	69,425
Minnesota	65,531
California	63,134
Tennessee	63,105

Farms and Land by Size of Farm



In 2022, the largest 2% of U.S. farms (5,000 or more acres) controlled 42% of all farmland. Conversely, 42% of farms had less than 50 acres and controlled 2% of all farmland.

In 2002, the largest farms controlled 35% of all farmland.

Farm Specialization^a

Approximately three fourths of farmland was used by farms specializing in two commodity categories: oilseed and grain production (32%) and cattle and dairy production (41%).

	% of farmland	% of farms
Oilseeds and grains	32	18
Specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, nursery)	3	10
Other crops	14	23
Cattle and dairy	41	30
Hogs and pigs	1	1
Poultry and eggs	1	4
Sheep and goats	1	4
Other animals	7	10

Land Use

Approximately nine out of 10 acres of agricultural land in 2022 were either permanent pasture or cropland. Woodland accounted for 8% of farmland, and the remaining 4% included land in farmsteads, buildings, livestock facilities, etc. Midwestern states had large amounts of cropland; most permanent pasture was in the western states.

	acres (mil)	% of total
Permanent pasture	393	45
Cropland	382	43
Harvested	301	34
Woodland	72	8
Other	33	4
Total	880	100

568,972

The number of farms specializing in cattle and dairy production in 2022.

^a Refers to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). More than half of a farm's sales come from the commodity.

Land Ownership

A farm may be operated by full owners (own all the land they farm), part owners (rent some farmland but own some as well), or tenants (rent all the land they farm). In 2022, farms operated by part owners accounted for just under one fourth of all farms but 56% of all farmland. These farms were larger than others in both acres operated and agriculture sales.

	% of farms	% of farmland	Average size acres	dollars
Full owners	72	35	230	144,502
Part owners	22	56	1,155	688,285
Tenants	6	9	655	461,354

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The percent of U.S. farmland rented from others.

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 2022 and earlier censuses are available at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products.

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus