
Farm Economics and Demographics Summary

Number of Farms

The number of U.S. farms fell to 2.11 million in 2004, 0.6 percent below the 2003 level. The average farm size increased by 2 acres, to 443 acres. Land in farms decreased 2.05 million acres, to 936.6 million acres. Farms with annual sales of over \$100,000 accounted for 15.8 percent of all farms and for 58.6 percent of land in farms.

Average Farm Real Estate Values

The value of U.S. farm real estate, including all land and buildings, averaged \$1,360 per acre as of January 1, 2004, up 7.1 percent from the previous year. Farm real estate values increased in all states from the previous year. The \$90 per acre increase in average U.S. farm real estate values extends an upward trend that began in 1988. The change in value closely tracked increases in U.S. cropland and pasture values, which rose by 7.2 and 6.4 percent, respectively, during 2003. The increase in farm real estate, and its cropland and pasture components, was driven by a combination of factors, including; low interest rates, higher cash receipts, and demand for recreational and development uses.

Cash Receipts

U.S. cash receipts from farm marketings totaled \$212 billion in 2003, up 8.5 percent from \$195 billion in 2002. Crop cash receipts, at \$106 billion, were up 4.8 percent while livestock receipts, at \$106 billion, were up 12.5 percent.

Index for Prices Received

The 2004 annual average index of prices received by farmers for all farm products, based on 1990-92=100, was 119, up 11 percent from the 2003 annual average of 107. The 2004 annual average index of all crop prices, at 117, was up 5.4 percent due to higher prices for most crops. The 2004 livestock and products price index, at 122, was up 18 percent from 2003.

Prices Paid Index, Grazing Fees, Overall Expenditures, and Wage Rates

Overall, the 2004 index of annual average prices paid by farmers (PPITW) was 133 (1990-92=100), up 3.9 percent from 2003. The annual average PPITW was 136 for the crop sector and 131 for the livestock sector. Both increased from 2003. In 2004, ranchers in the 17 Western States paid monthly fees for grazing livestock on private non-irrigated grazing lands averaging \$13.10 per animal unit month, up 6.5 percent from 2003. Overall farm production expenditures increased 3.0 percent in 2003. The U.S. annual average wage rate for all hired workers rose to \$9.22 per hour in 2004, up from \$9.08 in 2003.

**Farm Real Estate: Average Value Per Acre,
by Region and State, January 1, 2000-04**

Region and State	Average Value per Acre as of January 1				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>
Northeast	2,660	2,830	3,000	3,200	3,400
Connecticut	7,050	7,700	8,500	9,500	10,200
Delaware	3,150	3,400	3,700	4,000	4,300
Maine	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,750	1,850
Maryland	3,600	3,800	4,000	4,150	4,500
Massachusetts	6,500	7,300	8,100	9,300	9,900
New Hampshire	2,400	2,550	2,800	3,100	3,250
New Jersey	7,600	8,100	8,600	9,100	9,750
New York	1,430	1,520	1,610	1,700	1,780
Pennsylvania	2,800	3,000	3,250	3,450	3,650
Rhode Island	7,300	7,700	8,300	9,300	10,200
Vermont	1,700	1,800	1,900	2,050	2,150
Lake States	1,560	1,700	1,870	2,010	2,220
Michigan	2,090	2,280	2,470	2,680	2,920
Minnesota	1,320	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,800
Wisconsin	1,700	1,950	2,150	2,300	2,500
Corn Belt	1,890	1,950	2,030	2,130	2,300
Illinois	2,260	2,290	2,350	2,430	2,610
Indiana	2,260	2,350	2,460	2,570	2,770
Iowa	1,800	1,850	1,920	2,010	2,200
Missouri	1,230	1,300	1,380	1,470	1,580
Ohio	2,330	2,470	2,600	2,740	2,930
Northern Plains	535	556	576	594	632
Kansas	625	645	665	685	715
Nebraska	710	735	760	775	825
North Dakota	405	410	415	425	455
South Dakota	380	405	430	460	500
Appalachia	1,990	2,120	2,250	2,370	2,500
Kentucky	1,650	1,750	1,830	1,900	2,000
North Carolina	2,450	2,680	2,900	3,100	3,300
Tennessee	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,500
Virginia	2,230	2,380	2,530	2,700	2,850
West Virginia	1,210	1,270	1,330	1,400	1,500

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**Farm Real Estate: Average Value Per Acre,
by Region and State, January 1, 2000-04 (continued)**

Region and State	Average Value per Acre as of January 1				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>
Southeast	1,920	2,030	2,140	2,270	2,420
Alabama	1,570	1,640	1,700	1,760	1,860
Florida	2,500	2,600	2,720	2,900	3,100
Georgia	1,750	1,900	2,050	2,200	2,350
South Carolina	1,700	1,800	1,900	2,050	2,150
Delta States	1,270	1,330	1,390	1,460	1,550
Arkansas	1,290	1,350	1,410	1,480	1,580
Louisiana	1,310	1,380	1,440	1,500	1,580
Mississippi	1,200	1,270	1,330	1,400	1,480
Southern Plains	672	715	755	788	832
Oklahoma	640	655	680	705	745
Texas	680	730	775	810	855
Mountain	448	471	500	523	550
Arizona	1,150	1,250	1,400	1,500	1,600
Colorado	650	675	700	730	775
Idaho	1,150	1,200	1,240	1,280	1,360
Montana	330	350	370	390	410
Nevada	435	450	465	480	500
New Mexico	230	240	250	260	265
Utah	900	975	1,040	1,100	1,150
Wyoming	255	270	285	300	315
Pacific	2,000	2,120	2,240	2,350	2,480
California	3,000	3,200	3,400	3,600	3,800
Oregon	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,250
Washington	1,250	1,300	1,390	1,480	1,530
48 States	1,090	1,150	1,210	1,270	1,360

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Economics

Farm Production Expenses Major Input Items, Total, United States, 1999-03

Expenditure - Farm Share	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	<i>million dollars</i>	<i>million dollars</i>	<i>million dollars</i>	<i>million dollars</i>	<i>million dollars</i>
Total Farm Production Expenditures	184,050	189,600	197,000	193,100	198,900
Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses	16,800	18,000	18,900	18,300	19,000
Feed	24,500	24,500	25,200	24,900	27,000
Farm Services	25,700	25,400	26,700	26,800	26,800
Rent	15,900	16,100	16,800	16,200	16,400
Agricultural Chemicals	8,600	8,500	8,600	8,300	8,400
Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners	9,900	10,000	10,300	9,600	10,000
Interest	10,700	10,900	11,000	10,500	9,300
Taxes (Real Estate & Property)	6,800	6,900	7,000	6,800	6,800
Labor	19,700	20,700	22,000	21,500	21,200
Fuels	5,300	7,000	7,000	6,500	6,700
Farm Supplies & Repairs	12,600	12,400	12,900	12,200	11,000
Farm Improvements & Construction	7,100	8,400	7,800	8,000	11,500
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	5,400	5,400	6,100	6,200	6,500
Other Farm Machinery	3,500	3,600	3,700	3,700	3,900
Seeds & Plants	7,200	7,500	8,300	8,900	9,300
Trucks & Autos	3,900	4,000	4,200	4,200	4,500

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Farm Workers, United States, 2000-04

Year	Average Annual Workers ¹			Average Annual Wages		
	Self-emp	Unpaid	All Hired	All Hired	Field	Field & Lvstk
	<i>thousand</i>	<i>thousand</i>	<i>thousand</i>	<i>dollar per hour</i>	<i>dollar per hour</i>	<i>dollar per hour</i>
2000	1,574.8	487.5	890.3	8.10	7.50	7.54
2001	1,559.8	490.0	873.3	8.45	7.78	7.86
2002 ²			885.7	8.81	8.12	8.18
2003			836.0	9.08	8.31	8.42
2004			825.2	9.22	8.45	8.55

¹ Excludes Alaska. ² Self-employed and unpaid estimates discontinued July 2002 quarter. NASS, Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch, (202) 720-6146.

Grazing Fees for Cattle, Selected States and Regions

State or Region	Average Monthly Rate by Payment Method ¹					
	Animal Unit ²		Cow-Calf		Per Head	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>	<i>dollars</i>
Arizona	7.50	8.00			8.50	9.00
California	13.50	14.50	17.50	19.50	14.30	15.50
Colorado	13.00	13.50	14.60	15.00	13.50	14.00
Idaho	12.00	12.20	14.00	14.20	12.60	12.60
Kansas	13.50	13.00	16.50	16.50	13.50	13.50
Montana	15.20	15.90	17.40	17.40	15.90	16.20
Nebraska	21.60	23.00	26.00	27.50	23.40	25.20
Nevada	10.50	10.60	11.80	12.00	11.80	12.00
New Mexico	8.60	9.70	12.40	11.90	10.00	11.00
North Dakota	13.50	13.00	14.50	14.20	14.00	13.50
Oklahoma	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	7.50	8.50
Oregon	12.50	13.00	14.80	15.10	12.20	12.50
South Dakota	17.30	17.60	20.20	21.50	19.20	19.20
Texas	8.50	10.00	9.00	10.80	9.00	9.80
Utah	11.60	11.80	13.40	13.80	12.50	13.10
Washington	11.20	10.80	11.70	12.50	11.20	10.80
Wyoming	13.40	13.90	15.50	16.00	13.90	14.30
17 Western States	12.30	13.10	14.40	15.30	13.10	13.70
16 Western States (excl. TX)	13.80	14.30	16.40	17.10	14.60	15.20
11 Western States ⁴	12.80	13.30	15.10	15.50	13.40	13.80
9 High Plains States ⁵	12.10	13.00	14.10	15.10	12.90	13.60

¹ Average based on January Agricultural Survey indications of monthly lease rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land. Rates over \$10.00 are rounded to the nearest dime. ² Includes animal unit plus cow-calf rates. Cow-calf rate converted to animal unit (AUM) using 1 aum=cow-calf rate x 0.833. ³ Insufficient data. ⁴ Eleven Western States; AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY. ⁵ Nine high Plains States; CO, KS, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, WY. NASS, Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch, (202) 720-6146.