



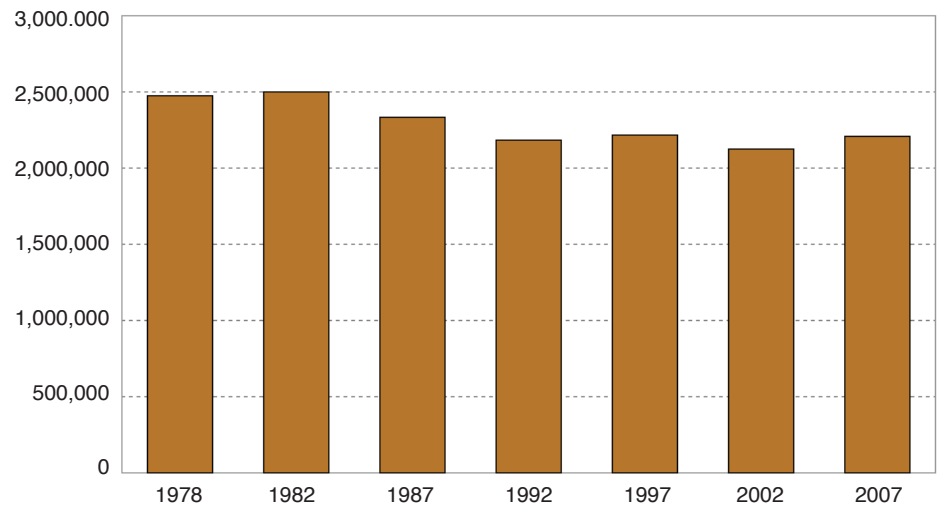
2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Numbers

A farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were, or normally would be, produced and sold during the Census year.

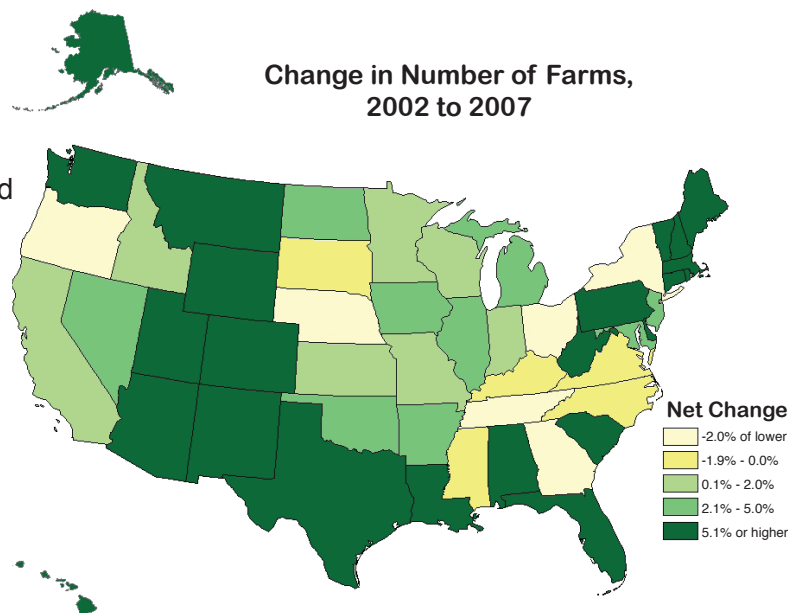
The 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 2,204,792 farms in the United States, a 4 percent increase from 2002. The number of farms nationwide has been on a declining trend since World War II. The latest figure indicates a leveling of this trend, with a net increase of 75,810 farms.

Number of Farms, 1978 to 2007



Despite the overall growth in farm numbers nationwide, not all states showed an increase. Eleven states saw declines in the number of farms while 39 states saw their farm numbers increase.

Change in Number of Farms, 2002 to 2007



U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service



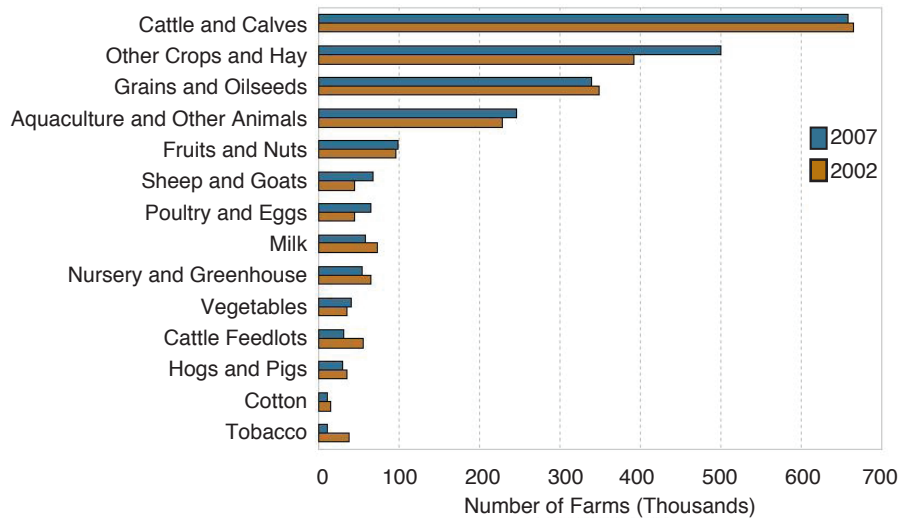
2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



The 2007 Census of Agriculture shows a continuation in the trend towards more small and very large farms.

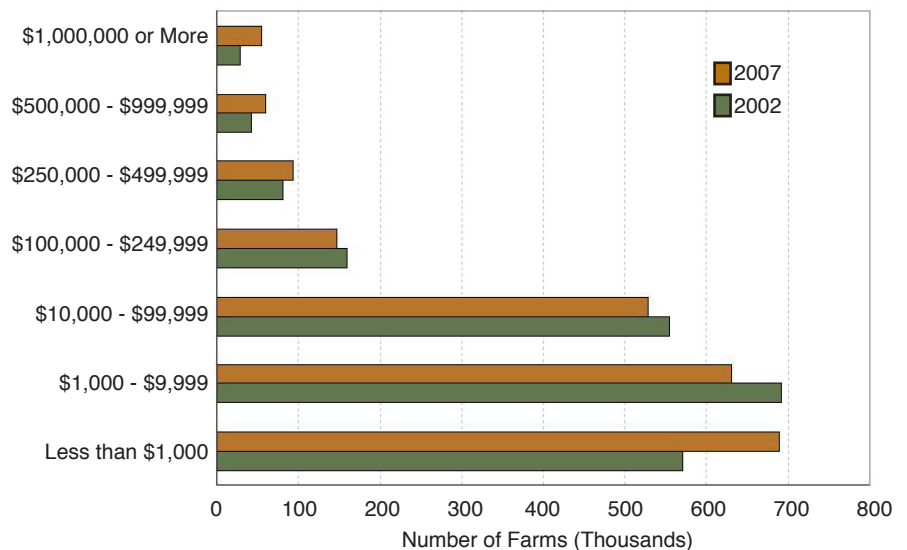
Most of the growth in U.S. farm numbers came from small operations, where sales of no specific commodity accounted for more than 50 percent of the total value of production. Even though the total number of farms increased nationwide, many individual sectors of production – including grains and oilseeds, horticulture, cattle and hog operations – saw a decline in farm numbers.

Number of Farms by North American Industry Classification System



Between 2002 and 2007, the number of farms with sales of less than \$1,000 increased by 118,000. The number of farms with sales of more than \$500,000 grew by 46,000 during the same period.

Number of Farms by Sales Class



Farm Numbers

A Look at New Farms

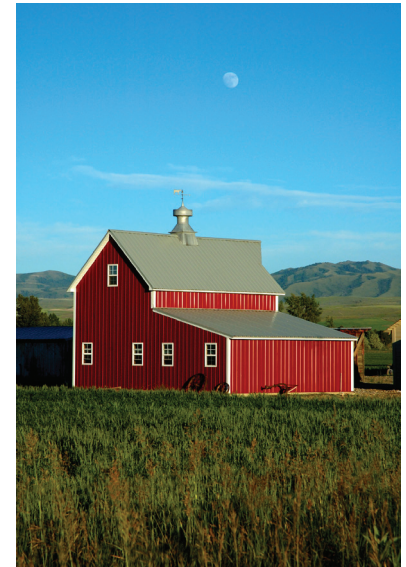
Underlying the change in farm numbers is the fact that farms are continually entering and exiting agriculture. Since the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 291,329 new farms have begun operation.

Farms that began operation between 2003 and 2007 tended to be smaller and have lower sales than all farms nationwide. New farms, on average, had 201 acres of land and \$71,000 in sales. By comparison, the average for all farms in the United States was 418 acres and \$135,000 in sales.

***New farms tend to be smaller
and have younger operators
who also work off the farm.***

Operators of new farms were more likely to be engaged in occupations other than farming and to derive income from non-farm sources. The percentage of principal operators who reported farming as their primary occupation was 33 percent for these new farm operators. The average for all principal farm operators was 45 percent.

	All Farms	New Farms
Percent of Total	100%	13%
Average Size	418 acres	201 acres
Average Value of Products Sold	\$135,000	\$71,000
Sales and Government Payments <\$10,000	58%	73%
Average Age of Operator	57	48
Farming as Primary Occupation	45%	33%



For more information:

www.nass.usda.gov

www.agcensus.usda.gov

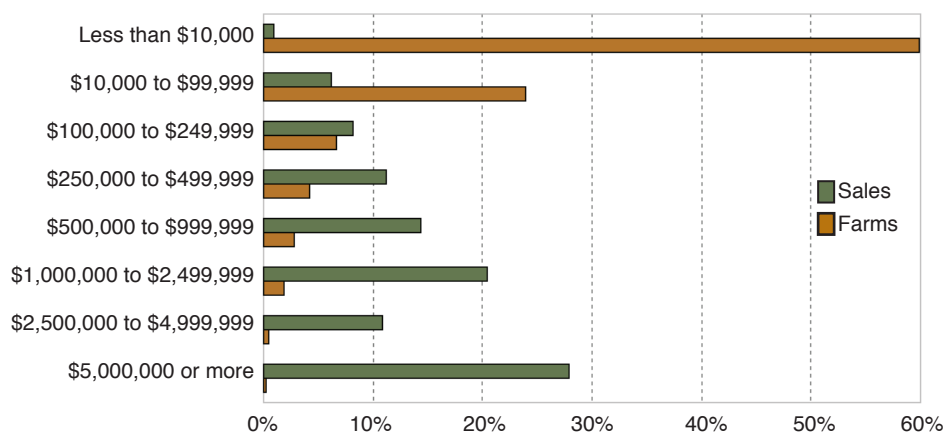
Agricultural Statistics Hotline
(800) 727-9540

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Concentration in Agriculture

2007 Census of Agriculture results show that concentration of production in agriculture has increased in the last five years. In 2002, 144,000 farms produced 75 percent of the value of U.S. agricultural production. In 2007, the number of farms that produced that same share of production declined to 125,000.

Number of Farms and Sales 2007 Percent of Total



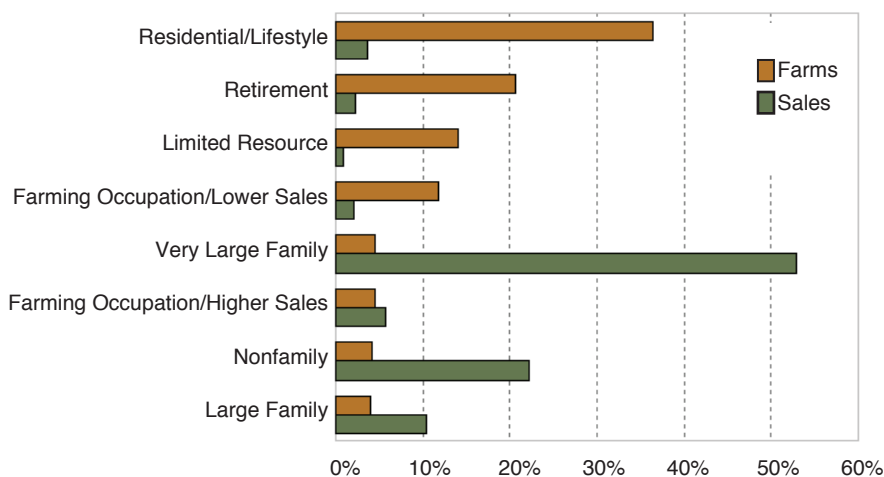
Another way of looking at concentration is the share of agricultural production produced by farms with more than \$1 million in sales. In 2007, farms in this sales class produced 59 percent of U.S. agricultural production, while in 2002 farms in this sales class produced 47 percent of all production.

Farm Typology

The 2007 Census of Agriculture uses a typology that classifies farms by sales and operator's occupation. The census shows that the two largest groups of farms are residential/lifestyle farms (36 percent) and retirement farms (21 percent). Residential/lifestyle farms are those that produced less than \$250,000 in sales of agricultural products and where the principal operators reported something other than farming as their primary occupation. Retirement farms are those that produced less than \$250,000 in sales and where principal operators who reported that they were retired.

Large family farms (sales between \$250,000 and \$500,000) and very large family farms (sales over \$500,000) made up only 9 percent of all farms. Yet they produced more than 63 percent of the value of all agricultural products sold.

Percent of Farms and Sales by Typology, 2007



Farm Numbers