

Table 825. Farm Operators—Tenure and Characteristics: 2002 and 2007

[In thousands, except as indicated (3,054 represents 3,054,000). An "operator" is a person who operates a farm, either doing the work or making day-to-day decisions. A family operation may have more than one operator. A principal operator is the person primarily responsible for the on-site, day-to-day operation of the farm or ranch business. Data on operator characteristics were collected up to a maximum of three operators per farm, though operators were asked to report the total number of operators. Data have been adjusted for coverage; see text, this section and Appendix III]

| Tenure and characteristic | Total operators, 2002 | 2007 | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | | Total operators | Principal operators | Other operators |
| Total operators | 3,054 | 3,282 | 2,205 | 1,077 |
| White alone | 2,966 | 3,141 | 2,114 | 1,026 |
| Black or African American alone | 36 | 40 | 31 | 9 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native alone | 24 | 56 | 35 | 21 |
| Asian alone | 13 | 18 | 11 | 7 |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| More than one race reported | 12 | 25 | 13 | 12 |
| Operators of Hispanic origin ¹ | 72 | 82 | 56 | 27 |
| Female | 822 | 985 | 306 | 679 |
| Under 25 years old | 60 | 54 | 12 | 42 |
| 25 to 34 years old | 201 | 209 | 107 | 103 |
| 35 to 44 years old | 590 | 469 | 269 | 200 |
| 45 to 54 years old | 838 | 878 | 565 | 312 |
| 55 to 64 years old | 690 | 848 | 596 | 252 |
| 65 to 74 years old | 439 | 533 | 412 | 121 |
| 75 years old and over | 236 | 290 | 243 | 47 |
| Average age (years) | 53.2 | 54.9 | 57.1 | (NA) |
| Full owner | (NA) | (NA) | 1,522 | (NA) |
| Part owner | (NA) | (NA) | 542 | (NA) |
| Tenant | (NA) | (NA) | 141 | (NA) |
| Principal occupation: | | | | |
| Farming | 1,658 | 1,400 | 994 | 406 |
| Other | 1,396 | 1,882 | 1,211 | 671 |
| Place of residence: | | | | |
| On farm operated | 2,391 | 2,492 | 1,693 | 799 |
| Not on farm operated | 662 | 789 | 511 | 278 |
| Years on present farm: | | | | |
| 2 years or less | 143 | 163 | 85 | 78 |
| 3 to 4 years | 251 | 240 | 139 | 101 |
| 5 to 9 years | 587 | 593 | 360 | 233 |
| 10 years or more | 2,073 | 2,286 | 1,622 | 664 |
| Average years on present farm | (NA) | (NA) | 22 | (NA) |
| Days worked off farm: | | | | |
| None | 1,354 | 1,118 | 778 | 340 |
| 1 to 49 days | 183 | 364 | 238 | 125 |
| 50 to 99 days | 102 | 181 | 116 | 65 |
| 100 to 199 days | 224 | 305 | 197 | 108 |
| 200 days or more | 1,190 | 1,314 | 876 | 438 |

NA Not available. ¹ Operators of Hispanic origin may be any race.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, *2007 Census of Agriculture*, Vol. 1. See also <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full_Report/index.asp>.

Table 826. Farm Type, Acreage, and Production: 2000 to 2008

[[2,166 represents 2,166,000]. Based on Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) Phase III]

| Type of farm | Unit | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|---|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total farms | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of farms | 1,000 | 2,166 | 2,149 | 2,152 | 2,121 | 2,108 | 2,095 | 2,083 | 2,197 | 2,192 |
| Total value of production | Mil dol. | 177,286 | 193,390 | 182,461 | 186,644 | 225,698 | 215,295 | 226,045 | 289,530 | 310,407 |
| Total acres operated | Mil. | 995 | 979 | 955 | 912 | 990 | 916 | 893 | 878 | 894 |
| Acres operated per farm | Acres | 459 | 455 | 444 | 430 | 470 | 437 | 429 | 400 | 408 |
| Commercial farms ¹ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of farms | 1,000 | 178 | 202 | 188 | 188 | 205 | 216 | 219 | 257 | 272 |
| Total value of production | Mil dol. | 121,202 | 138,799 | 126,242 | 134,627 | 170,130 | 166,566 | 178,104 | 241,728 | 258,972 |
| Total acres operated | Mil. | 392 | 417 | 347 | 341 | 429 | 418 | 382 | 424 | 429 |
| Acres operated per farm | Acres | 2,205 | 2,068 | 1,843 | 1,815 | 2,096 | 1,939 | 1,747 | 1,650 | 1,580 |
| Intermediate farms ² | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of farms | 1,000 | 668 | 710 | 649 | 607 | 624 | 550 | 566 | 546 | 583 |
| Total value of production | Mil dol. | 41,813 | 42,843 | 41,981 | 37,894 | 38,438 | 33,872 | 32,533 | 30,933 | 34,158 |
| Total acres operated | Mil. | 392 | 376 | 384 | 349 | 342 | 307 | 318 | 237 | 253 |
| Acres operated per farm | Acres | 587 | 529 | 591 | 576 | 547 | 558 | 561 | 434 | 434 |
| Rural residence farms ³ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of farms | 1,000 | 1,320 | 1,238 | 1,315 | 1,326 | 1,279 | 1,329 | 1,298 | 1,394 | 1,338 |
| Total value of production | Mil dol. | 14,272 | 11,747 | 14,238 | 14,124 | 17,130 | 14,856 | 15,408 | 16,869 | 17,277 |
| Total acres operated | Mil. | 211 | 186 | 224 | 221 | 219 | 191 | 193 | 217 | 212 |
| Acres operated per farm | Acres | 160 | 150 | 170 | 167 | 172 | 144 | 149 | 156 | 158 |

¹ Includes farms with sales of \$250,000 or more. ² Small family farms whose operators report farming as their major occupation. ³ Includes retirement and residential farms.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, ARMS Phase III—"Structural Characteristics Report," <<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/ARMS/beta.htm>>.