

■ Foreign Ownership of U.S. Farmland

Foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land remained relatively steady from 1981 through 1994—slightly above or below 1 percent of the privately owned agricultural land in the United States.

At the end of 1994, foreign persons owned 14.1 million acres—slightly more than 1 percent of the 1.3 billion acres of privately-owned U.S. agricultural land (farm and forest land).

Forest land accounts for 47 percent of all foreign-owned acreage, cropland for 18 percent, pasture and other agricultural land for 32 percent, and nonagricultural land for 3 percent.

Corporations own 71 percent of the foreign-held acreage, partnerships own 21 percent, and individuals own 6 percent. The remaining 2 percent is held by estates, trusts, institutions, associations, and others.

About 53 percent of the reported foreign holdings involve land actually owned by U.S. corporations. The law requires them to register their landholdings as foreign if as little as 10 percent of their stock is held by foreign investors. The remaining 47 percent of the foreign-held land is owned by investors not affiliated with U.S. firms.

A total of 67 percent of foreign-held acreage is owned by investors (including individuals, corporations, partnerships, etc.) from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands Antilles, and the British Virgin Islands (in descending rank order). Japanese investors own only 3 percent of foreign-owned acreage.

Maine is the State with the largest number of acres (2,052,701) owned by foreign persons. Foreign holdings in Maine account for 11 percent of that State's privately owned agricultural land and 15 percent of all the reported foreign-owned agricultural land nationwide. Three companies own 87 percent of the foreign-held acres in Maine, all in forest land. Two of these companies are Canadian, and the third is a U.S. corporation that is partially Canadian owned.

Outside of Maine, foreign holdings are concentrated in the West and South, each containing 35 percent of all reported foreign holdings of U.S. agricultural land.

These findings are based on reports submitted to USDA under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

Table 2-5.

U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner,
December 31, 1994

Interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders

<i>Country</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Acres</i>
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
Argentina	13,405	Colombia	11,414
Australia	6,137	Costa Rica	13,835
Austria	57,312	Croatia	1,023
Bahamas	36,126	Cuba	58
Bahrain	313	Czech Republic	347
Barbados	117	Denmark	12,948
Belgium	65,526	Dominican Republic	2,108
Belize	549	Ecuador	971
Bermuda	73,643	Egypt	2,076
Bolivia	11	El Salvador	128
Brazil	10,081	Finland	22
British Virgin Islands	124,975	France	128,202
Canada	1,572,107	Gambia	294
Cayman Islands	40,635	Germany	758,844
Chile	2,074	Greece	60,491
China	935	Guatemala	1,102

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Table 2-5 continued.

U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner,
December 31, 1994

<i>Country</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Acres</i>
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
Guyana	35	Pakistan	982
Honduras	1,018	Panama	121,649
Hong Kong	14,741	Peru	308
Hungary	103	Philippines	3,816
India	1,734	Poland	147
Indonesia	752	Portugal	4,146
Iran	2,343	Russia	761
Ireland	10,508	St. Vincent	2,637
Israel	951	Saudi Arabia	31,553
Italy	82,633	Singapore	504
Ivory Coast	119	Somalia	11
Jamaica	321	South Africa	2,673
Japan	200,302	Spain	3,890
Jordan	1,580	Sweden	54,549
Kampuchea	31	Switzerland	291,392
Korea (South)	1,570	Syria	2,689
Kuwait	20,188	Taiwan	7,899
Laos	31	Tanzania	10,143
Lebanon	12,604	Thailand	1,835
Liberia	29,632	Trinidad & Tobago	94
Liechtenstein	135,249	Turkey	38
Luxembourg	3,109	Turks Island	3,192
Malaysia	7,948	United Arab Emirates	4,080
Mexico	178,736	United Kingdom	1,734,467
Morocco	1,035	Uruguay	10,807
Namibia	197	Venezuela	22,610
Netherlands	112,292	Vietnam	152
Netherlands Antilles	356,837	Zimbabwe	230
New Zealand	13,587	Multiple ¹	54,145
Nicaragua	1,378	Third tier ²	65,887
Norway	5,073		
Oman	454	Subtotal ³	6,632,186

U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders

<i>Country</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Acres</i>
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
US/Andorra	3,741	US/Barbados	41
US/Argentina	4,056	US/Belgium	88,484
US/Australia	5,030	US/Bermuda	38,264
US/Austria	23,091	US/Brazil	14,400
US/Bahamas	61,496	US/Brit. Virgin Islands	423,636

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Table 2-5 continued.

U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner,
December 31, 1994

<i>Country</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Acres</i>
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
US/Canada	1,687,398	US/Malaysia	300
US/Cayman Islands	12,528	US/Malta	500
US/Chile	9,929	US/Mexico	252,485
US/China	15,589	US/Netherlands	363,882
US/Colombia	10,154	US/Netherlands Antilles	212,250
US/Costa Rica	407	US/New Hebrides	883
US/Denmark	7,917	US/New Zealand	50,455
US/Dominican Republic	589	US/Nicaragua	282
US/Ecuador	1,632	US/Norway	9,709
US/Egypt	959	US/Panama	151,798
US/El Salvador	607	US/Paraguay	236
US/Finland	2,212	US/Peru	1,696
US/France	271,571	US/Philippines	7,793
US/Germany	867,626	US/Portugal	1,683
US/Greece	5,249	US/Qatar	219
US/Guatemala	412	US/Saudi Arabia	10,648
US/Guyana	334	US/Singapore	73
US/Honduras	37	US/South Africa	2,733
US/Hong Kong	131,139	US/Spain	4,574
US/Indonesia	644	US/Sweden	4,094
US/Iran	1,861	US/Switzerland	323,510
US/Iraq	800	US/Taiwan	18,207
US/Ireland	1,942	US/Thailand	252
US/Israel	414	US/Trinidad & Tobago	20
US/Italy	23,547	US/Turkey	443
US/Japan	284,860	US/United Arab Emirates	3,443
US/Jordan	434	US/United Kingdom	1,024,718
US/Kenya	32	US/Uruguay	618
US/Korea (South)	85	US/Venezuela	40,182
US/Kuwait	8,330	US/Multiple	178,177
US/Lebanon	703	US/Third Tier	387,016
US/Liberia	26,733		
US/Libyan Arab Republic	280	Subtotal ⁴	7,425,988
US/Liechtenstein	99,365	Total all landholdings	14,058,174
US/Luxembourg	234,551		

¹A report is processed as "multiple" when no single country predominates—for example, an equal partnership between a Canadian and a German.

²A report is processed as "third tier" if three or more levels of ownership are reported with no foreign interests stated.

³Total interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

⁴Total interest of U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.