

■ Number of Farms and Net Cash Income by Sales Class

The number of farms increased slightly to 2,071,520 in 1995, and the percent of farms in each major sales class remained relatively constant. Almost three-quarters of all U.S. farms have annual sales of less than \$50,000, while less than 1 percent of all farms have sales greater than \$1 million.

Farms with over \$250,000 in sales account for less than 6 percent of all farms but dominate American agricultural output. These large farms sell over 62 percent of the Nation's livestock and over 57 percent of the crops. They have 58 percent of the gross cash income compared with 53 percent of the cash expenses. In 1995 approximately 75 percent of the Nation's net cash income was earned by them. Less than one-third of the direct Government payments went to these farms.

Farms in the largest sales class category, those with gross sales over \$1 million, tend to be specialized in certain commodities. In 1995, nearly one-third of the largest farms were classified as fruit, vegetable, greenhouse, and nursery farms, meaning that 50 percent or more of their gross sales were derived from these products. Cattle and dairy operations were tied for second place, with each accounting for slightly over 17 percent of the largest farms.

More than a third of the largest farms were located in the Pacific region. This is due to the heavy concentration of farms specializing in fruit, vegetable, greenhouse, and nursery in that region. Each of the remaining regions contained less than 10 percent of the largest farms, with the Delta region accounting for the smallest number of the largest farms.

Large farms, those with sales from \$500,000 to \$999,999, have different characteristics from the largest farms. More than 25 percent of the large farms focused on cash grain production. Next in importance were farms specialized in fruit, vegetables, greenhouse, and nursery products. Each of the following farm types account for 9 to 12 percent of the large farms: corn and soybeans, poultry, hogs, and dairy.

With cash grains and hogs being important enterprise types for large farms, it is not surprising to find the Corn Belt region has the greatest number of large farms, with 24 percent of the total in 1995. The Pacific region, with large numbers of the fruit, vegetable, greenhouse and nursery farms, has the second largest number of large farms, followed by the Southeast region, where large poultry operations are concentrated.

Mid-sized farm operations, those with sales of \$50,000 or more but less than \$500,000, are dominated by operations specializing in cash grains. Corn and soybean and other cash grain operations account for roughly 38 percent of these farms. Both dairy and cattle operations account for more than 10 percent of the total mid-size farms. Not surprisingly, the Corn Belt also has the largest number of mid-size farms, followed by the Northern Plains and the Lake States regions.

Small farm operations, those with sales under \$50,000, are dominated by cattle operations, which accounted for 40 percent of these farms. Field crop operations and other livestock operations each account for slightly more than 15 percent of these small farms. Cash grain farms make up 13 percent of the total. The Corn Belt, Appalachian, and Southern Plains regions each have over 15 percent of the smaller farm operations due to the large number of small cattle operations in each of these regions.

Table 3-8.
Direct Government payments, by program, 1950-95¹

Year	Feed grains	Wheat	Rice	Cotton ¹	Wool	Conservation ²	Miscellaneous ³	Total
	<i>Million dollars</i>							
1950	np	np	np	np	np	246	37	283
1951	np	np	np	np	np	246	40	286
1952	np	np	np	np	np	242	33	275
1953	np	np	np	np	np	181	32	213
1954	np	np	np	np	np	217	40	257
1955	np	np	np	np	np	188	41	229
1956	np	np	np	np	54	220	280	554
1957	np	np	np	np	53	230	732	1,015
1958	np	np	np	np	14	215	859	1,088
1959	np	np	np	np	82	233	367	682
1960	np	np	np	np	51	223	429	703
1961	772	42	np	np	56	236	387	1,493
1962	841	253	np	np	54	230	368	1,746
1963	843	215	np	np	37	231	370	1,696
1964	1,163	438	np	39	25	236	278	2,179
1965	1,391	525	np	70	18	224	235	2,463
1966	1,293	679	np	773	34	231	267	3,277
1967	865	731	np	932	29	237	284	3,078
1968	1,366	747	np	787	66	229	268	3,463
1969	1,643	858	np	828	61	204	199	3,793
1970	1,504	871	np	919	49	208	166	3,717
1971	1,054	878	np	822	69	173	149	3,145
1972	1,845	856	np	813	110	198	140	3,962
1973	1,142	474	np	718	65	72	136	2,607

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Table 3-8.

Direct Government payments, by program, 1950-95¹ (continued)

Year	Feed grains	Wheat	Rice	Cotton ¹	Wool	Conservation ²	Miscellaneous ³	Total
1974	101	70	np	42	⁴	192	125	530
1975	279	77	np	138	13	193	107	807
1976	196	135	⁴	108	39	209	47	734
1977	187	887	130	89	5	328	192	1,818
1978	1,172	963	3	127	27	239	499	3,030
1979	494	114	59	185	33	197	294	1,376
1980	382	211	2	172	28	214	276	1,285
1981	243	625	2	222	35	201	605	1,933
1982	713	652	156	800	46	179	946	3,492
1983	1,346	864	278	662	84	188	5,874	9,296
1984	367	1,795	192	275	118	191	5,493	8,431
1985	2,861	1,950	577	1,106	98	189	924	7,705
1986	5,158	3,500	423	1,042	112	254	1,325	11,814
1987	8,490	2,931	475	1,204	144	1,531	1,972	16,747
1988	7,219	1,842	465	924	117	1,607	2,306	14,480
1989	3,141	603	671	1,184	81	1,771	3,436	10,887
1990	2,701	2,311	465	441	96	1,898	1,386	9,298
1991	2,649	2,166	550	407	154	1,858	431	8,215
1992	2,499	1,403	512	751	188	1,899	1,916	9,168
1993	4,844	1,909	650	1,226	173	1,967	2,633	13,402
1994	1,447	156	337	826	202	1,978	1,933	7,879
1995	3,025	589	785	30	98	1,892	835	7,252

np = no program. ¹Components may not add due to rounding. Includes both cash payments and payments-in-kind (PIK). ²Includes Great Plains and other conservation programs.

³Through 1970, total amounts are for Soil Bank program, which was discontinued in 1971. Starting with 1971, amounts include all other programs. ⁴Less than \$500,000.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Rural Economy Division.

Table 3-9.

Number of farms and net cash income by value of sales class, 1995

Year	\$1,000,000 and over	\$500,000 to \$999,999	\$250,000 to \$499,999	\$100,000 to \$249,999	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$20,000 to \$49,999	Less than \$20,000	Thousands	
								Number of farms	Net cash income
	17	30	75	219	195	261	1,273		
				Million dollars					
Total:									
Gross cash income	59,011	26,750	32,389	44,967	18,951	11,308	9,948		
Cash receipts from marketings	56,391	24,683	29,455	40,490	17,134	9,762	7,277		
Crops	24,091	14,424	18,338	22,928	9,719	5,749	3,659		
Livestock	32,300	10,259	11,117	17,563	7,415	4,013	3,618		
Direct Government payment commodities	2,208	6,194	9,802	11,874	4,122	2,116	846		
Price support only commodities	543	1,871	3,455	4,619	2,076	1,117	536		
Nonsupported commodities	53,640	16,618	16,198	23,997	10,936	6,529	5,895		
Government payments	281	688	1,372	2,115	838	805	1,152		
Farm-related income	2,339	1,380	1,563	2,361	979	741	1,519		
Cash expenses	39,490	17,955	23,490	33,461	14,913	10,265	15,545		
Net cash income	19,521	8,795	8,900	11,506	4,039	1,043	(5,597)		
				Percent					
Percent of total:									
Number of farms	0.8	1.5	3.6	10.6	9.4	12.6	61.5		
Gross cash income	29.0	13.2	15.9	22.1	9.3	5.6	4.9		
Cash receipts from marketings	30.4	13.3	15.9	21.9	9.3	5.3	3.9		
Crops	24.4	14.6	18.5	23.2	9.8	5.8	3.7		
Livestock	37.4	11.9	12.9	20.4	8.6	4.7	4.2		

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Table 3-9 continued.

Number of farms and net cash income by value of sales class, 1995 (continued)							
Year	\$1,000,000 and over	\$500,000 to \$999,999 ¹	\$250,000 to \$499,999 ²	\$100,000 to \$249,999 ³	\$50,000 to \$99,999	\$20,000 to \$49,999	Less than \$20,000
Direct Government payment							
commodities	5.9	16.7	26.4	32.0	11.1	5.7	2.3
Price support only commodities	3.8	13.2	24.3	32.5	14.6	7.9	3.8
Nonsupported commodities	40.1	12.4	12.1	17.9	8.2	4.9	4.4
Government payments	3.9	9.5	18.9	29.2	11.6	11.1	15.9
Farm-related income	21.5	12.7	14.4	21.7	9.0	6.8	14.0
Cash expenses	25.5	11.6	15.1	21.6	9.6	6.6	10.0
Net cash income	40.5	18.2	18.5	23.9	8.4	2.2	-11.6
<i>Dollars</i>							
Per farm operation: ¹							
Gross cash income	3,392,377	883,252	429,923	205,008	97,324	43,324	7,813
Cash receipts from marketings	3,241,742	814,993	390,967	184,600	87,992	37,402	5,715
Direct Government payment commodities	126,935	204,531	130,101	54,136	21,168	8,107	664
Price support only commodities	31,208	61,769	45,862	21,060	10,661	4,279	421
Nonsupported commodities	3,083,600	548,693	215,004	109,405	56,163	25,016	4,629
Government payments	16,176	22,706	18,213	9,645	4,305	3,084	905
Farm-related income	134,458	45,554	20,743	10,763	5,027	2,839	1,193
Cash expenses	2,270,188	601,696	305,456	150,266	90,025	25,898	11,679
Net cash income	1,122,189	290,397	118,132	52,456	20,740	3,997	(4,396)