

# 2012 | CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE RESULTS

Hubert Hamer  
Statistics Division Director  
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service  
May 30, 2014

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 | CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

# Key Developments in U.S. Agriculture

- U.S. agricultural sales and production expenses reached record highs in 2012.
- In 2012, 1 out of every 5 farmers in the U.S. operated a farm for less than 10 years.
- 57,299 U.S. farms produced on-farm renewable energy, more than double the 23,451 in 2007.

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

## U.S. Agriculture at a Glance

	2002	2012
Number of Farms	2,128,982	2,109,303
Land In Farms	938,279,056	914,527,657
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold ( <i>Thousands</i> )	200,646,355	394,644,481
Female Principal Operators	237,819	288,264
American Indian Principal Operators	15,494	37,851
Asian Principal Operators	8,375	13,669
Black or African American Principal Operators	29,090	33,371
Native Hawaiian Principal Operators	983	1,468
Hispanic Principal Operators	50,592	67,000
Age of Principal Operator Less than 25 Years	16,962	10,714
Age of Principal Operator 25–34 Years	106,097	109,119

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

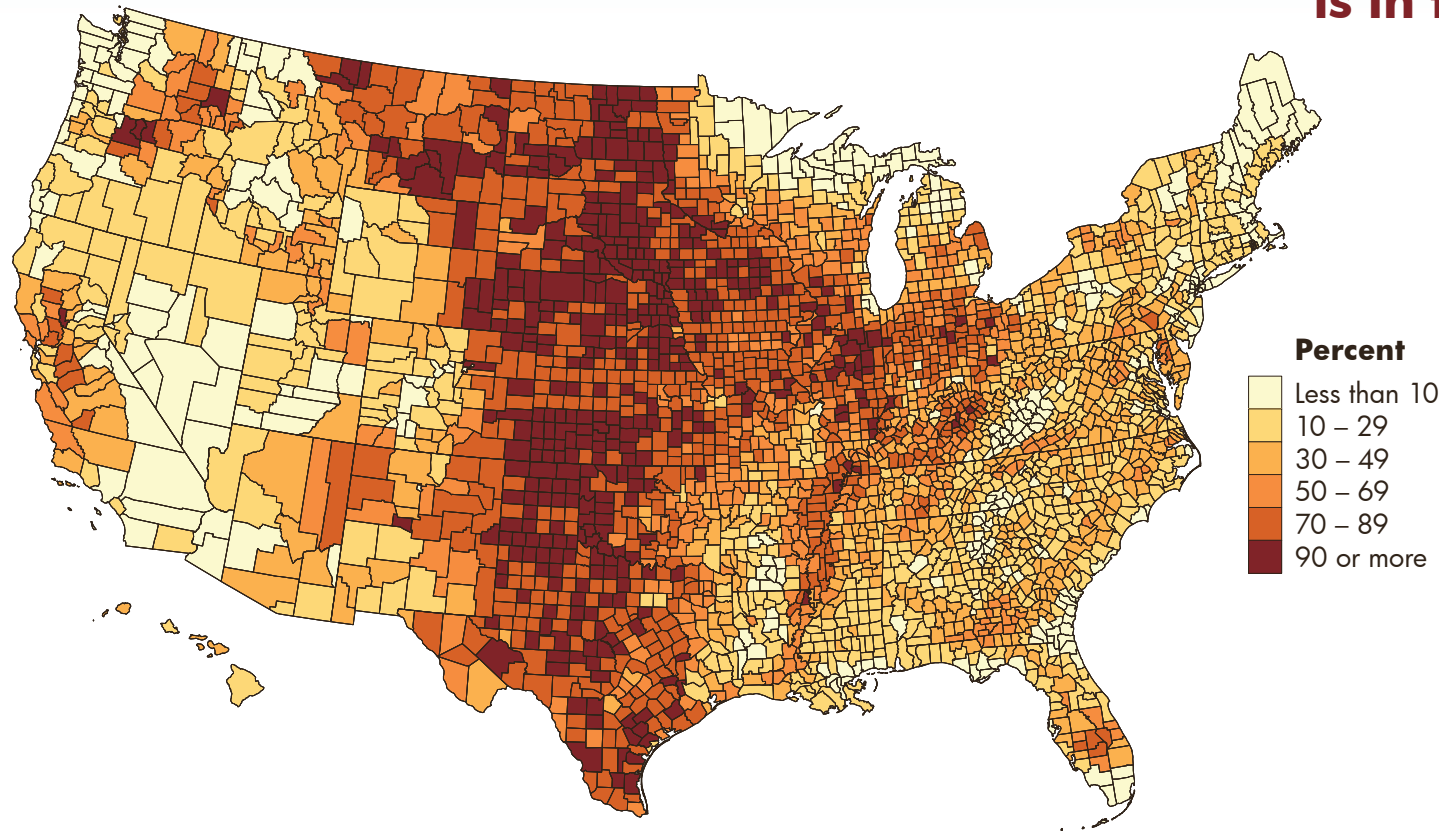
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Farmland as a Percent of Land Area, 2012

**40%**  
of all U.S. land  
is in farms.



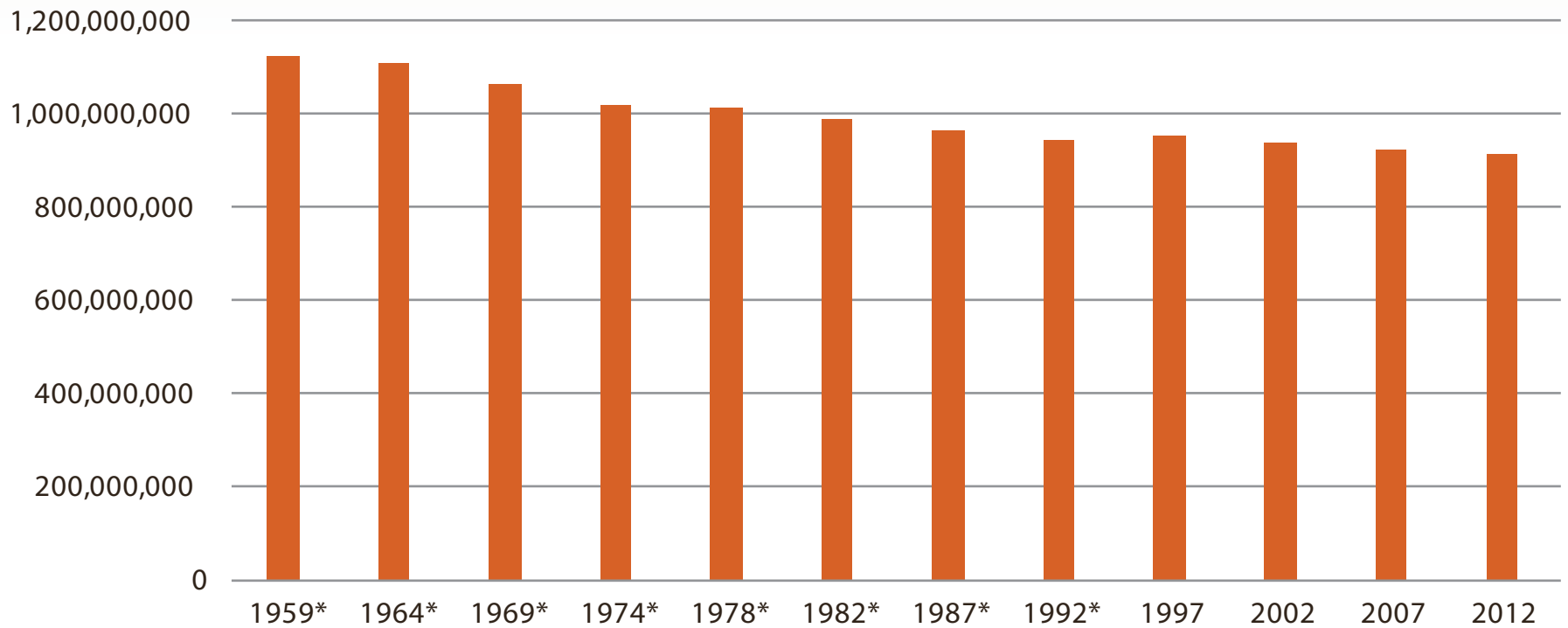
[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## U.S. Farmland in Acres



\* Not adjusted for coverage

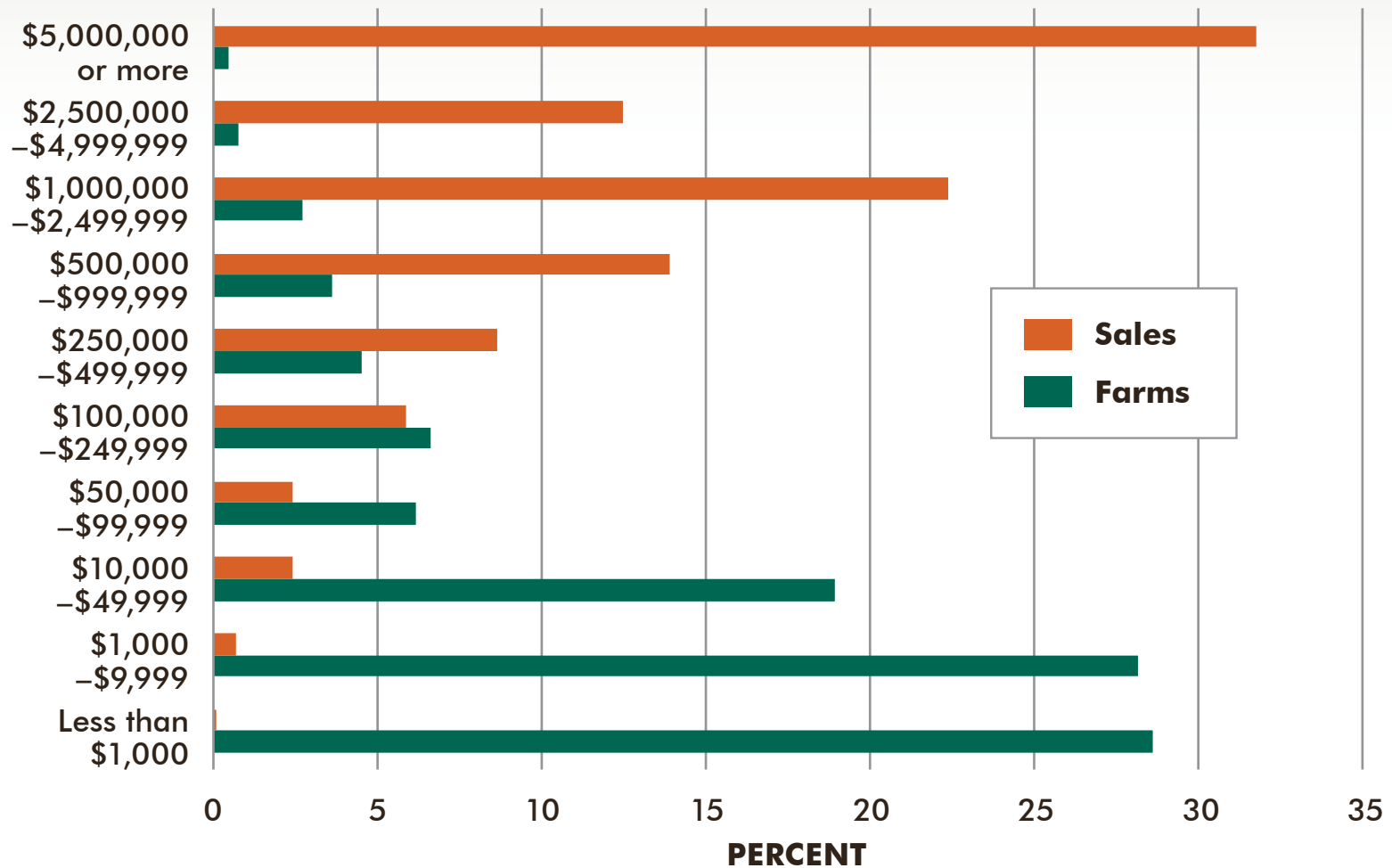
[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Percent of Total Farms and Sales, 2012



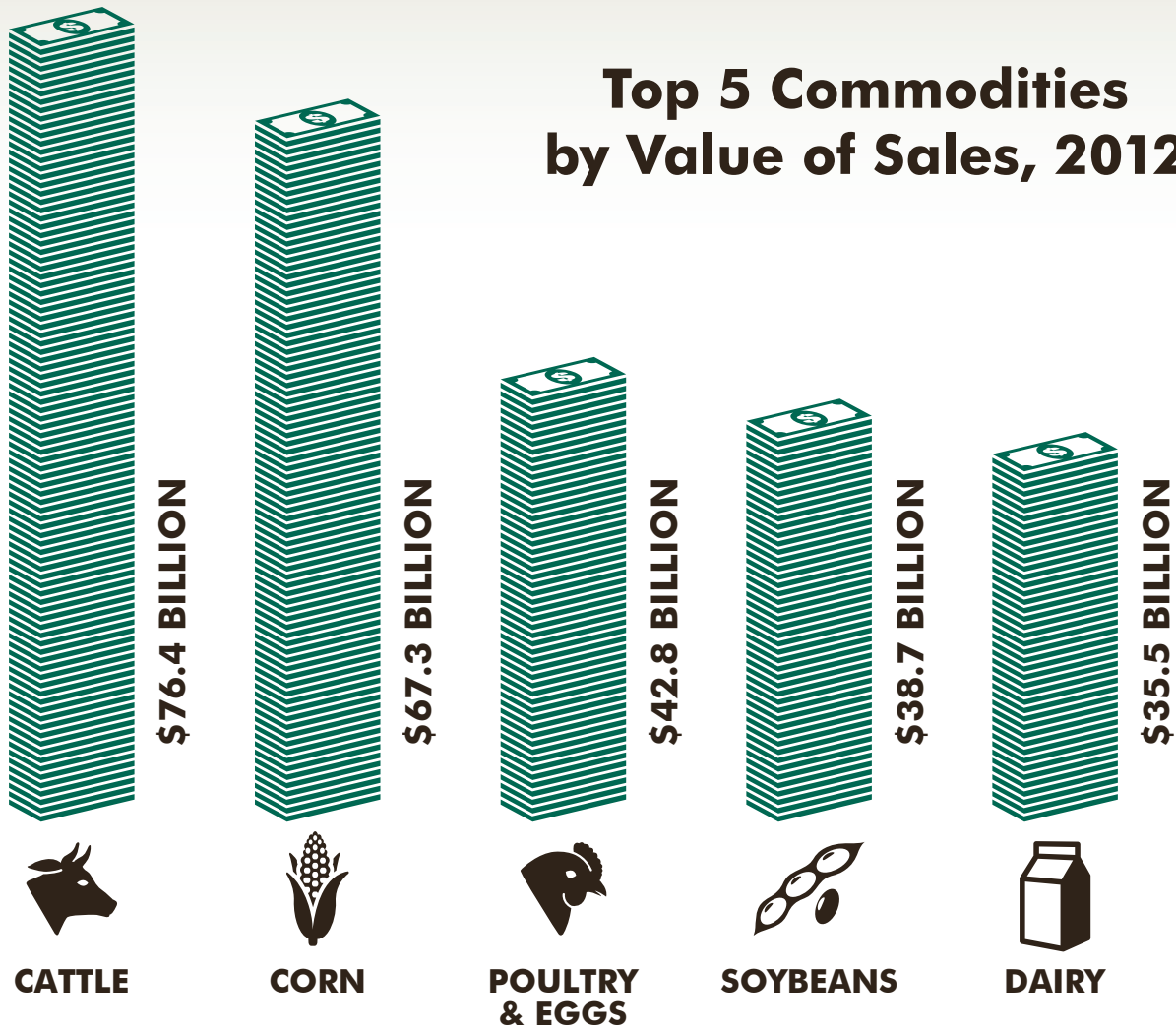
[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



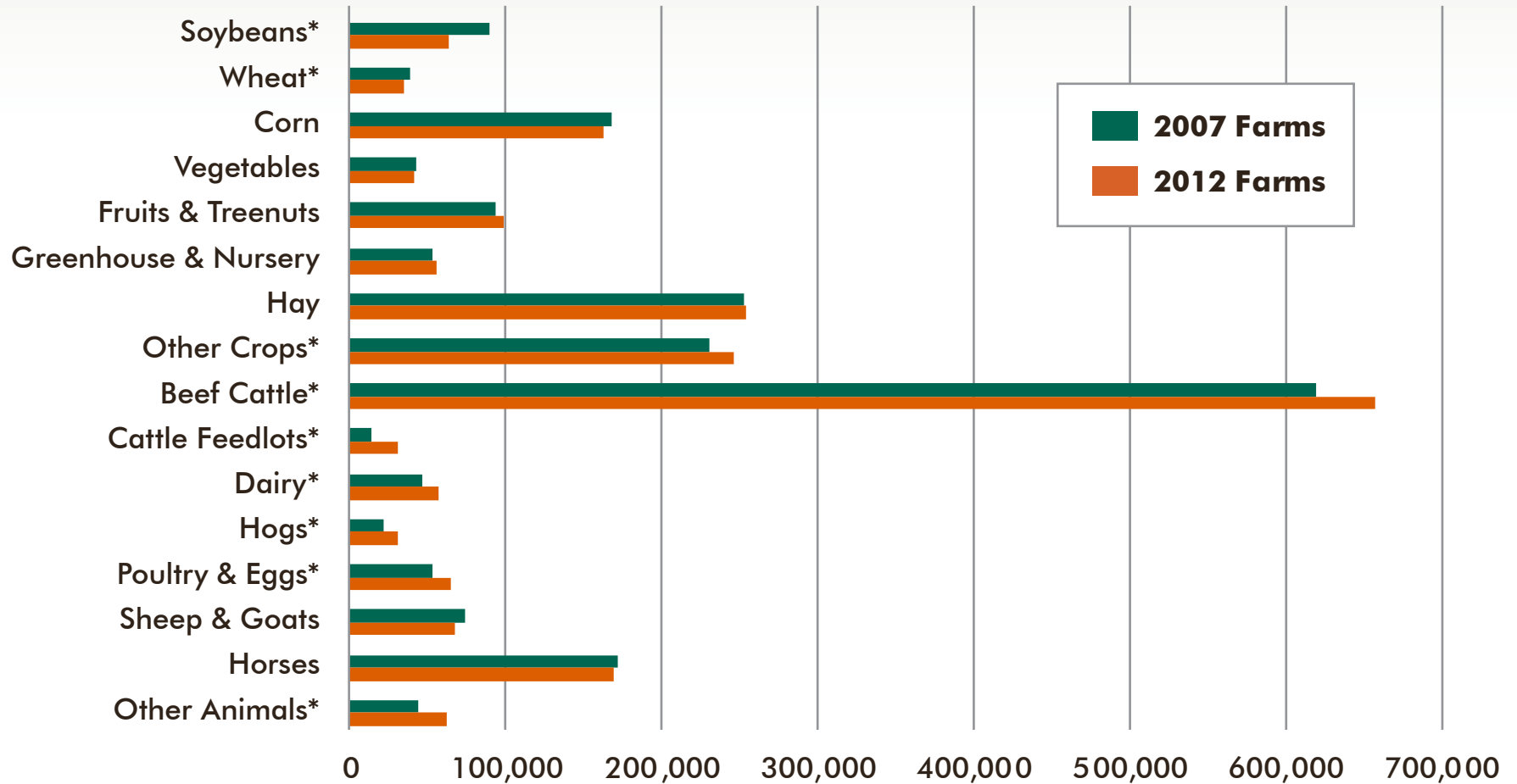
2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Top 5 Commodities by Value of Sales, 2012



TOP  
5

# Number of Farms by Commodity Specialization, 2012 and 2007



\* Indicates significant change

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE





## The Average Farm

	2002	2012
Land in farms	441 acres	434 acres
Sales	\$94,245	\$187,097
Government Payments	\$9,251	\$9,925
Age of Operator	55.3	58.3
Years on Operation	20.7	22.8
Years Farming	N/A	25

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Internet Access, 2012

	<b>2007</b> % OF ALL FARMS	<b>2012</b> % OF ALL FARMS
Farms with Internet access	56.5%	69.6%

	<b>2012</b> NUMBER OF FARMS	<b>2012</b> % OF FARMS
DSL service	584,384	39.8%
Satellite service	282,776	19.3%
Mobile broadband plan	267,804	18.2%
Cable modem service	225,917	15.4%
Dial-up service	139,677	9.5%
Fiber-optic service	75,982	5.2%
Broadband over power lines	37,580	2.6%

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

## Organic Agriculture, 2012

	Farms
Certified Organic or Exempt from Certification	16,525
Had acreage transitioning into Organic Production	3,240
Total organic product sales	\$3.1 billion



[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE



## Direct Sales To Consumers

	2007	2012	PERCENT CHANGE
Farms with Direct Sales to Consumers	136,817	144,530	5.6
Value of Direct Sales to Consumers	\$1.2 Billion	\$1.3 Billion	8.1
Market products through a CSA	12,549	12,617	0.5
Market products directly to retailers	N/A	49,043	N/A

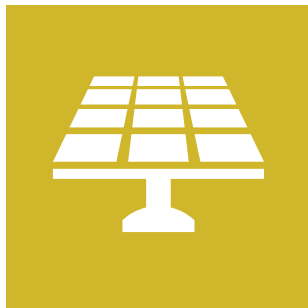
\* Indicates significant change

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



## Renewable Energy Production, 2012

	Farms
Solar Panels	36,331
Geoexchange Systems	9,403
Wind Turbines	9,054
Biodiesel	4,099
Ethanol	2,364
Small Hydro Systems	1,323
Methane Digesters	537

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2012 CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE