

Trends in U.S. Agriculture

	Beginning of the 20th Century (1900)	Beginning of the 21st Century (2007)*
Number of Farms	5,739,657	2,204,792
Average Farm Acreage	147 acres	418 acres

Crops

Percent of Farms Growing:

Corn	82%	16%
Hay	62%	39%
Vegetables	61%	3%
Irish potatoes	49%	1%
Orchards ¹	48%	5%
Oats	37%	2%
Soybeans	- 0 -	13%

Livestock

Percent of Farms Raising:

Cattle	85%	44%
Milk cows	79%	3%
Hogs & pigs	76%	3%
Chickens ²	97%	8%

Farm Mechanization

Percent of Farms with:

Wheel Tractors ³	4%	84%
Horses	79%	26%
Mules	26%	5%

Government Payments	- 0 -	\$8 billion
Percent Population Living on Farms⁴	39.2%	1.1% (2000)
Percent Labor Force on Farms⁵	38.8%	1.4% (2007)

1/ 1929 Census of Agriculture.

2/ 1910 Census of Agriculture.

3/ 1920 Census of Agriculture.

4/ Bureau of the Census.

5/ Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*2007 Census of Ag