

Trends in U.S. Agriculture

	Beginning of the 20th Century (1900)	Beginning of the 21st Century (2012)*
Number of Farms	5,739,657	2,109,303
Average Farm Acreage	147 acres	434 acres

Crops

Percent of Farms Growing:

Corn	82%	17%
Hay	62%	37%
Vegetables	61%	3%
Irish potatoes	49%	1%
Orchards ¹	48%	5%
Oats	37%	2%
Soybeans	- 0 -	14%

Livestock

Percent of Farms Raising:

Cattle	85%	43%
Milk cows	79%	3%
Hogs & pigs	76%	3%
Chickens ²	97%	9%

Farm Mechanization

Percent of Farms with:

Wheel Tractors ³	4%	79%
Horses	79%	24%
Mules	26%	5%

Government Payments	- 0 -	\$8.1 billion
Percent Labor Force Living on Farms ⁵	38.8%	1.6%

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.

*2012 Census of Ag