



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service



# Farm Computer Usage and Ownership

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# USDA





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## **Special Note**

The questions for the Farm Computer Usage and Ownership questionnaire have changed since the last publication in 2019 to reflect modern internet access and usage. Therefore, there may not be direct comparisons between certain data points. Some changes included reporting multiple types of internet access, consolidating redundant questions, and the addition of a precision agriculture question.

## **Farm Computer Usage and Ownership Highlights**

Nationally, 82 percent of farms reported having access to the internet with 98 percent paying for access. In 2021, 29 percent of farms used the internet to purchase agricultural inputs, which was an increase of 5 percent from 2019. Additionally, 21 percent of farms used the internet to market agricultural activities, which was an increase of 2 percent from 2019. Farms which conducted business with non-agricultural websites in 2021 decreased by 6 percent to 47 percent.

In 2021, 50 percent of internet connected farms utilized a broadband connection while 70 percent of internet connected farms had access through a cellular data plan. Additionally, 67 percent of farms had a desktop or laptop computer while 77 percent of farms had a smart phone.

## Farm Computer Usage – States and United States: 2019 and 2021

State	Farms				
	Own or use desktop or laptop computer <sup>1</sup>		Own or use smart phone	Own or use a tablet or other portable wireless computer	Own or use some other type of computer
	2019	2021	2021	2021	2021
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama .....	55	63	83	26	3
Arizona <sup>2</sup> .....	53	53	49	28	6
Arkansas .....	65	59	76	27	4
California .....	85	88	84	29	1
Colorado .....	79	71	75	26	2
Florida .....	65	65	78	26	4
Georgia .....	65	72	90	51	1
Idaho .....	87	79	81	37	5
Illinois .....	75	75	85	33	2
Indiana .....	75	65	58	24	1
Iowa .....	73	72	73	31	3
Kansas .....	74	81	85	39	6
Kentucky .....	64	55	74	37	(Z)
Louisiana .....	65	75	84	31	2
Maryland <sup>3</sup> .....	71	70	62	17	2
Michigan .....	67	74	79	37	2
Minnesota .....	75	67	76	28	(Z)
Mississippi .....	53	49	81	21	(Z)
Missouri .....	64	64	77	35	2
Montana .....	79	81	77	27	(Z)
Nebraska .....	75	74	80	35	2
New Hampshire <sup>4</sup> .....	84	88	70	46	5
New Jersey .....	80	84	72	33	(Z)
New Mexico .....	35	36	53	6	(Z)
New York .....	77	69	69	41	(Z)
North Carolina .....	69	69	88	38	5
North Dakota .....	76	73	72	42	4
Ohio .....	58	54	58	17	2
Oklahoma .....	62	57	80	18	4
Oregon .....	79	84	86	40	1
Pennsylvania .....	62	52	53	20	(Z)
South Carolina .....	45	66	84	19	(Z)
South Dakota .....	78	81	81	42	3
Tennessee .....	61	69	77	17	(Z)
Texas .....	71	65	89	22	(Z)
Utah .....	80	77	85	42	2
Virginia .....	62	63	71	19	3
Washington .....	86	78	63	33	5
West Virginia .....	58	54	56	21	(Z)
Wisconsin .....	73	65	67	26	1
Wyoming .....	85	76	90	39	(Z)
United States <sup>5</sup> .....	69	67	77	29	2

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> 2019 values are not directly comparable to 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Arizona and Nevada.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Delaware and Maryland.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>5</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

## Farm Internet Access – States and United States: 2019 and 2021

State	Farms			
	With internet access		Internet access by paying a cell phone company or internet service provider	Internet access without paying a cell phone company or internet service provider
	2019 (percent)	2021 (percent)	2021 (percent)	2021 (percent)
Alabama .....	74	83	100	(Z)
Arizona <sup>1</sup> .....	63	63	100	(Z)
Arkansas .....	76	76	96	4
California .....	85	90	99	1
Colorado .....	84	84	96	4
Florida .....	83	83	93	7
Georgia .....	86	94	99	1
Idaho .....	92	95	99	1
Illinois .....	79	90	97	3
Indiana .....	79	79	99	1
Iowa .....	75	82	96	4
Kansas .....	82	91	97	3
Kentucky .....	75	80	100	(Z)
Louisiana .....	77	85	96	4
Maryland <sup>2</sup> .....	77	80	99	1
Michigan .....	81	84	99	1
Minnesota .....	82	83	99	1
Mississippi .....	69	76	100	(Z)
Missouri .....	70	79	100	(Z)
Montana .....	83	88	97	3
Nebraska .....	84	85	98	2
New Hampshire <sup>3</sup> .....	94	97	93	7
New Jersey .....	91	91	100	(Z)
New Mexico .....	42	50	93	7
New York .....	81	81	92	8
North Carolina .....	76	83	100	(Z)
North Dakota .....	82	82	100	(Z)
Ohio .....	63	64	99	1
Oklahoma .....	75	80	99	1
Oregon .....	83	91	97	3
Pennsylvania .....	64	64	99	1
South Carolina .....	74	79	100	(Z)
South Dakota .....	82	90	100	(Z)
Tennessee .....	65	80	99	1
Texas .....	75	83	99	1
Utah .....	92	96	93	7
Virginia .....	70	74	100	(Z)
Washington .....	86	86	96	4
West Virginia .....	62	73	96	4
Wisconsin .....	82	82	100	(Z)
Wyoming .....	88	89	99	1
United States <sup>4</sup> .....	75	82	98	2

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Arizona and Nevada.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Delaware and Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

## Use of Internet – States and United States: 2019 and 2021

[Agricultural inputs include seed, fertilizer, chemicals, veterinarian supplies, feed, machinery, replacement parts, farm supplies, office equipment, etc. Agricultural marketing activities include direct sales of commodities, on-line crop and livestock auctions, on-line market advisory services, commodity price tracking, etc.]

State	Farms			
	Purchase agricultural inputs over internet		Conduct agricultural marketing activities over internet	
	2019 (percent)	2021 (percent)	2019 (percent)	2021 (percent)
Alabama .....	17	32	15	20
Arizona <sup>1</sup> .....	26	31	22	19
Arkansas .....	25	19	21	25
California .....	27	29	23	21
Colorado .....	40	33	30	26
Florida .....	29	37	20	20
Georgia .....	25	39	16	21
Idaho .....	29	38	22	23
Illinois .....	21	30	25	32
Indiana .....	19	27	20	20
Iowa .....	25	32	34	32
Kansas .....	33	38	25	26
Kentucky .....	17	19	17	12
Louisiana .....	25	23	11	18
Maryland <sup>2</sup> .....	36	32	31	35
Michigan .....	34	41	25	27
Minnesota .....	27	27	31	30
Mississippi .....	25	21	16	11
Missouri .....	21	28	12	16
Montana .....	29	32	26	22
Nebraska .....	25	31	26	31
New Hampshire <sup>3</sup> .....	41	45	33	30
New Jersey .....	44	35	27	19
New Mexico .....	16	13	12	11
New York .....	42	46	24	27
North Carolina .....	29	38	19	26
North Dakota .....	30	29	29	29
Ohio .....	16	18	15	16
Oklahoma .....	24	30	13	13
Oregon .....	42	42	29	28
Pennsylvania .....	24	28	14	18
South Carolina .....	15	26	18	23
South Dakota .....	28	27	26	27
Tennessee .....	24	30	19	20
Texas .....	15	18	10	8
Utah .....	34	45	38	36
Virginia .....	20	30	11	18
Washington .....	31	41	30	32
West Virginia .....	20	16	17	11
Wisconsin .....	23	28	22	22
Wyoming .....	27	25	30	23
United States <sup>4</sup> .....	24	29	19	21

<sup>1</sup> Includes Arizona and Nevada.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Delaware and Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.



## Internet Access of Reports, Services, and Websites – States and United States: 2019 and 2021

[Reference period for access and usage of USDA reports, research information, and services is the last 12 months prior to June 1 of survey year]

State	Farms					
	Access USDA/NASS reports over internet		Access other USDA reports/services over internet		Access other Federal government websites over internet	
	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama .....	6	17	13	22	12	17
Arizona <sup>1</sup> .....	10	9	20	27	27	31
Arkansas .....	18	19	24	26	24	18
California .....	17	16	27	31	32	40
Colorado .....	15	11	32	24	34	27
Florida .....	18	20	24	30	31	33
Georgia .....	8	22	20	25	23	31
Idaho .....	19	16	25	19	24	29
Illinois .....	18	17	26	28	22	20
Indiana .....	12	11	23	20	18	17
Iowa .....	17	20	25	28	19	23
Kansas .....	20	16	29	34	26	27
Kentucky .....	10	17	14	20	16	15
Louisiana .....	7	21	13	27	14	22
Maryland <sup>2</sup> .....	11	16	28	30	26	26
Michigan .....	13	21	17	25	24	29
Minnesota .....	16	15	25	25	22	18
Mississippi .....	9	9	18	16	17	15
Missouri .....	9	12	14	25	11	13
Montana .....	17	16	24	25	25	31
Nebraska .....	18	17	30	33	23	27
New Hampshire <sup>3</sup> .....	20	25	34	31	30	25
New Jersey .....	9	14	18	26	33	31
New Mexico .....	9	5	12	10	10	16
New York .....	9	9	16	25	27	27
North Carolina .....	10	11	20	17	20	27
North Dakota .....	20	22	34	32	29	25
Ohio .....	7	6	14	10	12	10
Oklahoma .....	10	9	24	19	15	23
Oregon .....	19	14	27	25	36	33
Pennsylvania .....	10	11	15	18	14	17
South Carolina .....	10	25	16	23	5	17
South Dakota .....	15	20	31	36	23	23
Tennessee .....	11	10	16	23	20	25
Texas .....	6	4	10	9	11	11
Utah .....	14	20	30	31	26	30
Virginia .....	8	5	15	11	21	17
Washington .....	13	15	21	24	30	32
West Virginia .....	7	7	15	13	20	15
Wisconsin .....	15	9	22	23	25	25
Wyoming .....	13	8	16	19	31	25
United States <sup>4</sup> .....	12	13	20	22	21	21

<sup>1</sup> Includes Arizona and Nevada.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Delaware and Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

## Conducting Business on the Internet – States and United States: 2019 and 2021

State	Farms					
	Conduct business with any USDA website		Conduct business with any other Federal government website		Conduct business with any non-agricultural website	
	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama .....	7	19	4	16	36	30
Arizona <sup>1</sup> .....	24	18	4	7	38	37
Arkansas .....	14	12	14	10	41	32
California .....	18	23	18	25	62	61
Colorado .....	14	18	18	14	62	53
Florida .....	11	16	13	12	54	38
Georgia .....	14	15	16	24	50	52
Idaho .....	14	16	15	13	68	64
Illinois .....	11	20	7	10	55	54
Indiana .....	10	12	6	8	47	39
Iowa .....	13	24	9	16	55	56
Kansas .....	16	22	13	20	61	53
Kentucky .....	7	10	7	11	46	53
Louisiana .....	10	16	7	19	40	32
Maryland <sup>2</sup> .....	14	15	12	18	51	43
Michigan .....	14	22	10	16	49	54
Minnesota .....	14	19	9	9	62	53
Mississippi .....	11	10	9	11	34	28
Missouri .....	8	14	5	8	50	43
Montana .....	14	13	12	14	68	61
Nebraska .....	15	26	11	18	57	50
New Hampshire <sup>3</sup> .....	16	23	10	10	62	53
New Jersey .....	7	11	11	14	64	51
New Mexico .....	6	6	5	10	28	20
New York .....	12	17	17	13	60	51
North Carolina .....	8	19	7	16	59	62
North Dakota .....	20	24	15	20	61	53
Ohio .....	6	9	5	6	39	32
Oklahoma .....	6	13	5	13	52	40
Oregon .....	17	16	12	18	67	52
Pennsylvania .....	10	12	7	9	41	33
South Carolina .....	4	16	3	14	22	26
South Dakota .....	15	23	12	17	61	54
Tennessee .....	10	17	7	13	46	50
Texas .....	5	9	3	4	56	48
Utah .....	17	24	7	18	68	61
Virginia .....	8	9	5	6	44	51
Washington .....	14	19	11	17	64	57
West Virginia .....	3	7	5	5	37	25
Wisconsin .....	11	16	12	8	59	48
Wyoming .....	7	16	11	10	68	53
United States <sup>4</sup> .....	11	16	9	12	53	47

<sup>1</sup> Includes Arizona and Nevada.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Delaware and Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

## Methods of Internet Access – States and United States: 2021

[Various methods of internet access for those operators who have access to the Internet. May not add to 100% due to operators with multiple types of internet access]

State	Farms				
	Dialup	Broadband (DSL, cable, fiber optic)	Cellular	Satellite	Other
	2021				
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama .....	3	48	67	17	(Z)
Arizona <sup>1</sup> .....	1	50	46	18	3
Arkansas .....	1	47	75	17	1
California .....	1	42	77	32	1
Colorado .....	3	40	67	23	1
Florida .....	4	57	64	18	2
Georgia .....	(Z)	60	86	20	3
Idaho .....	1	59	72	27	5
Illinois .....	3	51	76	27	1
Indiana .....	1	41	56	15	2
Iowa .....	6	49	67	17	2
Kansas .....	1	62	70	25	3
Kentucky .....	2	55	74	12	1
Louisiana .....	1	64	83	21	2
Maryland <sup>2</sup> .....	1	50	63	24	3
Michigan .....	3	39	77	21	4
Minnesota .....	3	50	71	18	1
Mississippi .....	1	39	75	14	(Z)
Missouri .....	4	42	78	14	2
Montana .....	6	61	63	18	2
Nebraska .....	1	52	72	21	3
New Hampshire <sup>3</sup> .....	2	72	81	11	1
New Jersey .....	(Z)	68	83	14	(Z)
New Mexico .....	(Z)	45	58	15	(Z)
New York .....	(Z)	63	58	11	(Z)
North Carolina .....	4	57	72	21	(Z)
North Dakota .....	3	70	61	14	1
Ohio .....	5	45	58	13	1
Oklahoma .....	2	31	76	21	3
Oregon .....	4	59	65	22	2
Pennsylvania .....	3	61	49	5	3
South Carolina .....	(Z)	44	82	19	(Z)
South Dakota .....	2	62	62	17	1
Tennessee .....	1	62	72	17	(Z)
Texas .....	2	40	80	29	1
Utah .....	3	68	71	14	1
Virginia .....	1	50	64	20	1
Washington .....	3	45	58	20	2
West Virginia .....	3	53	54	9	(Z)
Wisconsin .....	4	54	62	16	2
Wyoming .....	(Z)	43	79	20	(Z)
United States <sup>4</sup> .....	2	50	70	19	2

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Arizona and Nevada.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Delaware and Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

## Precision Agriculture Practices

Beginning in 2021, data were collected for precision agriculture practices with the question: “In the last 12 months, did this farm or ranch use precision agriculture practices to manage crops or livestock? This would include the use of global positioning (GPS) guidance systems, GPS yield monitoring and soil mapping, variable rate input applications, use of drones for scouting fields or monitoring livestock, electronic tagging, precision feeding, robotic milking, etc..” Results are presented in the following table.

### Farm Precision Agriculture Practices – States and United States: 2021

State	Farms	
	Using precision agriculture practices to manage crops or livestock	
	2021	
	(percent)	
Alabama .....		22
Arizona <sup>1</sup> .....		23
Arkansas .....		23
California .....		39
Colorado .....		23
Florida .....		8
Georgia .....		9
Idaho .....		24
Illinois .....		48
Indiana .....		31
Iowa .....		52
Kansas .....		46
Kentucky .....		9
Louisiana .....		31
Maryland <sup>2</sup> .....		27
Michigan .....		36
Minnesota .....		28
Mississippi .....		17
Missouri .....		20
Montana .....		28
Nebraska .....		51
New Hampshire <sup>3</sup> .....		24
New Jersey .....		27
New Mexico .....		12
New York .....		26
North Carolina .....		23
North Dakota .....		54
Ohio .....		30
Oklahoma .....		18
Oregon .....		20
Pennsylvania .....		20
South Carolina .....		10
South Dakota .....		53
Tennessee .....		31
Texas .....		13
Utah .....		31
Virginia .....		8
Washington .....		21
West Virginia .....		7
Wisconsin .....		15
Wyoming .....		33
United States <sup>4</sup> .....		25

<sup>1</sup> Includes Arizona and Nevada.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Delaware and Maryland.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>4</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

## Farm Numbers

To help equate the percentages published in this report to actual farm counts, a table showing "Number of Farms by States and United States" from the February 2021 NASS publication *Farms, Land in Farms* is included below. A farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year."

### Number of Farms – States and United States: 2019 and 2020

[2021 number of farms not available until February 2022]

State	Farms	
	2019 (number)	2020 (number)
Alabama .....	38,800	39,000
Arizona .....	19,000	19,000
Arkansas .....	42,300	42,200
California .....	69,900	69,600
Colorado .....	38,700	38,800
Delaware .....	2,300	2,300
Florida .....	47,400	47,500
Georgia .....	41,500	41,400
Idaho .....	24,600	24,600
Illinois .....	71,400	71,100
Indiana .....	56,000	55,500
Iowa .....	85,300	85,000
Kansas .....	58,500	58,300
Kentucky .....	74,800	74,500
Louisiana .....	27,400	27,400
Maryland .....	12,400	12,400
Michigan .....	47,000	46,500
Minnesota .....	68,000	67,500
Mississippi .....	34,500	34,400
Missouri .....	95,200	95,000
Montana .....	26,800	26,900
Nebraska .....	45,700	45,500
Nevada .....	3,350	3,350
New Hampshire <sup>1</sup> .....	32,300	32,300
New Jersey .....	9,900	9,900
New Mexico .....	24,800	24,800
New York .....	33,400	33,400
North Carolina .....	46,200	46,000
North Dakota .....	26,100	26,000
Ohio .....	77,800	77,800
Oklahoma .....	77,300	77,300
Oregon .....	37,200	37,200
Pennsylvania .....	52,700	52,700
South Carolina .....	24,600	24,600
South Dakota .....	29,600	29,600
Tennessee .....	69,700	69,500
Texas .....	247,000	247,000
Utah .....	17,800	17,800
Virginia .....	42,400	42,300
Washington .....	35,600	35,500
West Virginia .....	22,900	22,800
Wisconsin .....	64,900	64,400
Wyoming .....	12,000	12,000
United States <sup>2</sup> .....	2,015,050	2,010,650

<sup>1</sup> Includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey Procedures:** The June Agricultural Survey is conducted every year to provide estimates of farm numbers and land in farms, crop acres planted, grains and oilseeds in storage, livestock inventories, and land values. In the odd-numbered years since 1997, questions were added to the survey form that asked the operator about their access and use of computers. Some states were combined due to their low number of responses. When this occurs, it is footnoted in the tables. Estimates are revised periodically to provide a better foundation for current and future estimates. Revisions are made when sufficient data become available to check the accuracy of the original estimates.

**Estimating Procedures:** The computer use data are separated from the June Area dataset and summarized. Since all States conduct identical surveys, the State data can be pooled, and national survey results computed. The summary results provide point estimates and their standard errors for each data series being estimated. Once editing is complete, the data are summarized. Survey results are reviewed and State and National estimates are established.

Survey results are delivered to a subject matter specialist for review and acceptance. All review is performed in NASS's Washington, D.C. Headquarters. Current results are reviewed, in tabular form, against the historical data series for consistency and reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** For non-census years, computer use values are subject to a biennial revision. After the 5-year Census of Agriculture is completed, computer use estimates are subject to revisions.

**Reliability:** The 2021 computer usage estimates are based on responses from more than 15,000 agricultural operations, and represent all sizes and types of farms. Coefficients of variations (CVs) at the national level in 2021 were 11.7 percent or less.

**Published Estimates:** The Farm Computer Usage and Ownership State and National estimates are published in August in odd numbered years. While the June Area Survey is the primary source of data for the estimates, supplemental survey data and potential previous revisions are also considered, as described in the more detailed NASS Computer Use Methodology and Quality Measures publication.

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

Tony Dorn, Chief, Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch ..... (202) 720-6146

Adam Peters, Head, Environmental, and Demographics Section ..... (202) 720-0684

Andrew Brosier – Census of Agriculture, Organics..... (202) 690-3226

William Cumberland – Census of Agriculture, Irrigation, Farm Computer Use..... (202) 690-1348

Fred Granja – Census of Agriculture, Census of Horticulture, Census of PR and Outlying Areas ..... (202) 690-3233

Joe Hagedorn – Census of Agriculture, American Indian Reservations..... (202) 690-2284

Jannety Mosley – Census of Agriculture, CPAMS..... (202) 690-3226

Shirley Samson – Census of Agriculture, Local Foods, Agroforestry ..... (202) 690-4572

Irvin Yeager – Census of Agriculture, Local Foods, Census of PR and Outlying Areas ..... (202) 720-7492

## Access to NASS Reports

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