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# AgLink

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## Celebrating National Ag Week

National Ag Week is being celebrated this week across the United States.

In Minnesota, today (Tuesday, March 15) has been designated as National Ag Day. As we celebrate National Ag Week, it's a good time to reflect on all the traditions and advancements that help make the U.S. and Minnesota agriculture truly remarkable.

The following are some interesting statistics about today's agriculture industry:

### **The 2012 Census of Agriculture listed a total of 2.1 million farms in the U.S.**

- Overall, U.S. farm numbers have generally been declining since World War II. However, farm numbers have been more stable since 1992.

### **There was a total 915 million acres of land in farms across the U.S. in 2012.**

- Total farmland declined by less than one percent from 2007, which is the third smallest decline since 1950. The average U.S. farm size in 2012 was 434 acres.

### **A record total of \$394.6 billion in agricultural sales occurred in the U.S. in 2012.**

- Crop sales in 2012 totaled \$212.4 billion, while total livestock sales were \$182.2 billion. 2012 was only the second time in the history of ag census data (since 1840) that total U.S. crop sales exceeded total livestock sales. The other time was in 1974.

### **The average agricultural sales per farm in the U.S. in 2012 was**

#### **Kent Thiesse**

*Farm Analyst, Vice President*

*MinnStar Bank, NA*

*Lake Crystal, MN*

[kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com](mailto:kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com)

**(507) 381-7960**

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**\$187,093.**

- There were 57,292 farms with total sales above \$1 million per year in 2012, which was an increase of 42.5 percent from 2007. However, 1.6 million farms (75 percent) had total sales of less than \$50,000 annually.

**In 2015, over 5 billion bushels of corn were used for U.S. ethanol production.**

- There were 198 operating ethanol plants in the U.S. in 2015, producing just over 15 billion gallons of ethanol.

**Advanced biotechnology corn seed was used on 93 percent of U.S. corn acres in 2014.**

- The use of insecticides in corn production in the U.S. has been reduced by 65 percent in recent years, due to the use of biotechnology corn varieties. The use of biotechnology in crop production has also reduced the overall need for pesticides, while helping to protect the environment.

**The U.S. farmer of today produces enough food and fiber for approximately 160 people.**

- This number compares to 19 people in 1940; 46 people in 1960; and 115 people in 1980.

**Farmers receive just under 16 cents of every consumer dollar that is spent on food.**

- The other 84 cents is spent on processing, packaging, marketing, transportation, distribution, and other costs in the retail food supply.

**One acre of wheat will yield about 50 bushels per acre and will produce over 2,500 loaves of bread, or over 50 loaves of bread per bushel of wheat.**

- If a farmer is paid \$5.00 per bushel for wheat from the farm, the wheat cost in a two-pound loaf of bread is only about 11 cents per loaf. The estimated retail value of a loaf of bread is about \$2.79/loaf.

**The following is the farmer's share of common food products and the estimated retail value (as of February 2016, based on average USDA prices):**

- Bacon - \$0.59/lb. (\$4.33/lb.); Sirloin Steak - \$2.09/lb.

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(\$6.99/lb.); Boneless Ham - \$0.59/lb. (\$4.39/lb.); Milk - \$1.38/gal (\$3.89/gal.); Eggs - \$1.29/doz. (\$2.99/doz.); Breakfast Cereal - \$0.05/box (\$4.69/box); Potatoes - \$0.44/five lbs. (\$3.89/five lbs.); Tomatoes - \$1.08/lb. (\$3.29/lb.).

## A Snapshot View of Minnesota's Agriculture Industry

- Minnesota currently has a total of 74,800 farms, which compares to 80,992 farms in 2007.
- 88 percent of Minnesota's farms are family or individually-owned; six percent are partnerships, four percent are corporations; and two percent are under some other structure.
- There are about 27 million acres of land in production in Minnesota, with over 6,200 farms above 1,000 acres in size.
- The average farm size in Minnesota is about 350 acres.
- The Minnesota agriculture industry had total receipts of over \$22 billion in 2013, which ranked 5th in the U.S. in total receipts, trailing only California, Iowa, Texas, and Nebraska.
- Minnesota ranks first in the nation in sugar beet production, second in sweet corn production, and usually ranks third or fourth in corn, soybean, and wheat production. Minnesota also ranks first in turkey production and eighth in milk production.
- Minnesota ranks first in the U.S. in turkey production, usually ranks second or third in hog production, sixth in overall red meat production, and eighth in milk production.
- Minnesota's ag exports were valued at over \$8 billion in 2013, which ranked fourth nationally in the value of agricultural exports--trailing only California, Iowa, and Illinois. Top ag export products from Minnesota are soybeans, corn, feed, and pork, with exports of wheat, dairy products, and beef growing rapidly.
- Minnesota ranks fifth in the U.S. in ethanol production, with 21 ethanol plants producing over 1.1 billion gallons of ethanol per year. Minnesota also has three biodiesel plants producing over 63 million gallons per year from the state's soybean supply.

As we celebrate National Ag Week, everyone should take time to appreciate the abundant supply of safe and affordable food and energy that is provided by farmers and the U.S. agriculture industry!

Note: Facts listed in this article are from USDA, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, National Farmers Union, American Farm Bureau, National Corn Growers Association, and other sources.

For more information, contact Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst and Vice President, MinnStar Bank, Lake Crystal, MN. Thiesse is at [kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com](mailto:kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com) or 507-381-7960.

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