



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
New England Field Office



**Maine:** Number of farms at 8,174 is up slightly from 2007 and leads the New England States for the number of farms. Land in farms at 1,455,304 is up 8 percent from 2007. The average farm size was 178 acres and the median farm size was 67 acres.

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS	2012 Total	2007 total	2012 as percent of 2007
Farms number	8,174	8,136	100%
Land in farms acres	1,455,304	1,347,566	108%
Average size of farm acres	178	166	107%
Median size of farm acres	67	65	

**Farms by size.** The number of farms with between 10 and 180 acres decreased. All other groups increased.

Farms by size:	2012 Total	2012 Percent of all farms	2007 total	2007 Percent of all farms	2012 as percent of 2007	Net Change
1 to 9 acres	1,239	15%	1,046	13%	118%	193
10 to 49 acres	2,278	28%	2,383	29%	96%	-105
50 to 179 acres	2,794	34%	3,019	37%	93%	-225
180 to 499 acres	1,318	16%	1,178	14%	112%	140
500 to 999 acres	332	4%	330	4%	101%	2
1,000 acres or more	213	3%	180	2%	118%	33

**Market value of sales.** Total Market value of sales increased 24 from 2007. Crop sales increased 46% while livestock sales were down less than 0.5 percent.

Market value of agricultural products	2012 Total	2012 Percent of total	2007 total	2007 Percent of total	2012 as percent of 2007
Total sold \$1,000	764,387		617,190		124%
Average per farm dollars	93,514		75,859		123%
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops \$1,000	475,177	62%	326,573	53%	146%
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000	289,210	38%	290,617	47%	100%
Government payments \$1,000	10,162		8,815		115%

**Farms by economic class.** The distribution of farms by economic class changed slightly from 2007. Farms with less than \$50,000 sales decreased 1 percent and accounted for 85% of all farms in 2012. Farms with \$1m or more of sales made up 2 percent.

Farms by economic class:	2012 Total	2012 Percent of all farms	2007 total	2007 Percent of all farms	2012 as percent of 2007	Net Change
Less than \$50,000	6,984	85%	7,026	86%	99%	-42
\$50,000 to \$249,999	743	9%	706	9%	105%	37
\$250,000 to \$999,999	322	4%	316	4%	102%	6
\$1,000,000 or more	125	2%	88	1%	142%	37

53 Pleasant Street · Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 227-9639 · (603) 225-1434 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

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### Demographics

Average age of the principal operator was 57.0 years compared to 56.4 years in 2007.

**Age group:** The number of principal farm operators less than 35 increased as did the number between 55 and 74. The number of principal farm operators between 35 and 55 decreased as did those 75 and over. The reason for the decrease in 45 to 54 may not be solely people leaving farming. Compare the number in 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 in 2007. I believe there were not enough farmers in the 34 to 44 group in 2007 to move into the 45 to 54 age group to show an increase.

Age group:	2012 Total	2012 Percent of total	2007 total	2007 Percent of total	2012 as percent of 2007	Net Change
Under 25 years	62	1%	46	1%	135%	16
25 to 34 years	489	6%	350	4%	140%	139
35 to 44 years	834	10%	991	12%	84%	-157
45 to 54 years	1,938	24%	2,277	28%	85%	-339
55 to 64 years	2,484	30%	2,351	29%	106%	133
65 to 74 years	1,652	20%	1,357	17%	122%	295
75 years and over	715	9%	764	9%	94%	-49

**Years on present farm.** This is the closest thing we have for estimating the number of beginning farmers. Beginning farmer is typically defined as a person who has been farming less than 10 years. In this table farmers that could have been farming on one farm and moved to a new farm should be counting only the years on the new farm. However, this occurrence should be low.

Beginning farmers made up 30 percent of all principal farm operators, the same as in 2007. The number of farmers with 2 years or less on the present farm increased while those with between 3 and 9 years declined.

Years on present farm:	2012 Total	2012 Percent of total	2007 total	2007 Percent of total	2012 as percent of 2007	Net Change
2 years or less	373	5%	250	3%	149%	123
3 or 4 years	620	8%	684	8%	91%	-64
5 to 9 years	1,432	18%	1,480	18%	97%	-48
10 years or more	5,749	70%	5,722	70%	100%	27

**Women Farmers.** Women principal farm operators accounted for 29% of the principal farm operators, up from 25 percent in 2007. The number of male principal farm operators decreased 5 percent from 2007.

Sex of operator:	2012 Total	2012 Percent of total	2007 total	2007 Percent of total	2012 as percent of 2007
Male	5,793	71%	6,093	75%	95%
Female	2,381	29%	2,043	25%	117%