Women in Agriculture

Upper Midwest Region

According to 2012 Census of Agriculture 14% of the nation's 2.1 million farms had a female primary operator, down 2% since 2007.

Fast Facts

Upper Midwest Totals

- Average age of women primary operators is 61 years, the same as the national average
- -35% of women primary operators list "farming" as their primary occupation
- -Farms with women as primary operators were responsible for 1.72% of crop sales and 1.92% of livestock sales

Number of Farms with Female Primary Operators:

Iowa: 7,108 Minnesota: 6,370 North Dakota: 3,233 South Dakota: 2,333 Wisconsin: 7,346

Average Size of Farms with Female Primary Operators:

Iowa: 122 acres Minnesota: 144 acres North Dakota: 491 acres South Dakota: 769 acres Wisconsin: 91 acres

Total Number of Farms:

Iowa: 88,637 Minnesota: 74,542 North Dakota: 30,961 South Dakota: 31,989 Wisconsin: 69,754

Average Size of All Farms:

Iowa: 345 acres Minnesota: 349 acres North Dakota: 1,268 acres South Dakota: 1,352 acres Wisconsin: 209 acres



Top Crop Items

Spring wheat Soybeans Corn

Top Livestock Items

Cattle and calves Layers Broilers Horses and ponies

Women in Agriculture Organizations

American Agri-Women Association of Women in Agriculture

Women Food & Ag Network



This resource was developed by the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center using data from the 2012 Census of Agriculture.