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.

- 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

**Total Number of Farms:**
- Iowa: 88,637
- Minnesota: 74,542
- North Dakota: 30,961
- South Dakota: 31,989
- Wisconsin: 69,754

**Average Size of Farms with Female Primary Operators:**
- Iowa: 122 acres
- Minnesota: 144 acres
- North Dakota: 769 acres
- South Dakota: 233 acres
- Wisconsin: 91 acres

**Average Size of All Farms:**
- Iowa: 345 acres
- Minnesota: 349 acres
- North Dakota: 1,268 acres
- South Dakota: 1,352 acres
- Wisconsin: 209 acres

**Fast Facts**

- 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

**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.