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

- 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: 91 acres
Wisconsin: 91 acres

Average Size of All Farms:
Iowa: 345 acres
Minnesota: 349 acres
North Dakota: 1,352 acres
South Dakota: 209 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.