

USDA Statistics Worksheet

Due January 26, 2007

This assignment will familiarize you with Agricultural statistical data that is available on the web. Using the links provided, answer the following questions .

1. Go to National Agricultural Statistics Service at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
Click on Charts and Maps link. Use the Farms and Land in Farms Charts to answer these questions:
 - a. What region of the U.S. has seen a decrease in the number of farms?
 - b. View the U.S. Average Size Farm by Sales Class , U.S. Number of Farms by Sales Class, and Percent of Total by Economic Sales Class charts and write a one paragraph summary of the data shown.

Return to Charts and Maps link to answer:

How many pounds of fresh apples does the U.S. typically have in Cold Storage in the Fall (October) of the year? And Frozen potatoes?

How do Farm and NonFarm wages compare since 1981?

Using the county maps, briefly summarize the harvest or yield data for one of the featured crops.

2. Go back to the main NASS page and follow the Census of Agriculture link.
 - a. Use QuickFacts link to answer:
 1. What is the definition of an agricultural operation?
 2. Select two of the charts/graphs or brochures at the bottom. Print it off and attach to this homework. Include a brief interpretation of the facts presented.
 - b. Select a State and access the Census by State information (right side). You can select your hometown or any region of your choice.
 1. Review and print the Market Value of Ag Products Table.
 2. Select State and County profiles, and select a county to view County Profile.
 3. Briefly discuss what you found in both reports. Was it what you expected? Why?
3. Use data already found as well as information under the U.S. Agricultural Atlas Maps, and Quick Facts section of the Ag Census page to support or rebuke the general statement that “Corporate Farming is growing.” Be sure to reference all statistics used.