



# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Ag Atlas Maps

The Census of Agriculture web site features an Ag Atlas section containing more than 250 maps available to view and download. The maps show characteristics of U.S. agriculture at the county level and are divided into five categories - crops and plants, economics, farms, livestock and animals, and farm operators.

Maps are presented in two different formats, choropleth maps and dot-density maps. The choropleth maps portray quantitative data as a color showing the density, percent or average value of an occurrence within the boundary of a geographic area. Each color represents a discrete range of data values.

The dot-density maps portray quantitative data as a dot which represents a number of the occurrence found within the boundary of a geographic area. The pattern of distributed dots reflects the general locations where the occurrence was most likely to happen. The pattern and number of dots within a geographic area reveal the density of the occurrence.

The dot value assigned to a dot represents a range of data values. Placement of dots utilized land use/cover files, weighting factors, customized statistical algorithms, and GIS software to allocate and randomly place dots within geographic areas.

Data users can also download the desktop data query tool from the Census web site, which can export all census tables in a format compatible with standard mapping products. Go to the Online Highlights page and click on the Desktop Data Query Tool — data are available for 1997, 2002 and 2007.

In addition, boundary files are available for the state- and county-level geographic areas for which 2007 Census of Agriculture data are reported. The boundary files can be used with Geographic Information System (GIS) software as a base for medium to small-scale thematic mapping. The boundary files are in ESRI™ shapefile format. Click on the 'Online Highlights' page and select the 'Ag Atlas Maps' to access the cartographic boundary files.

U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

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### 2007 Census Publications

#### Ag Atlas Maps

Ag Atlas Maps are available in the following areas for the 2007 Census of Agriculture:

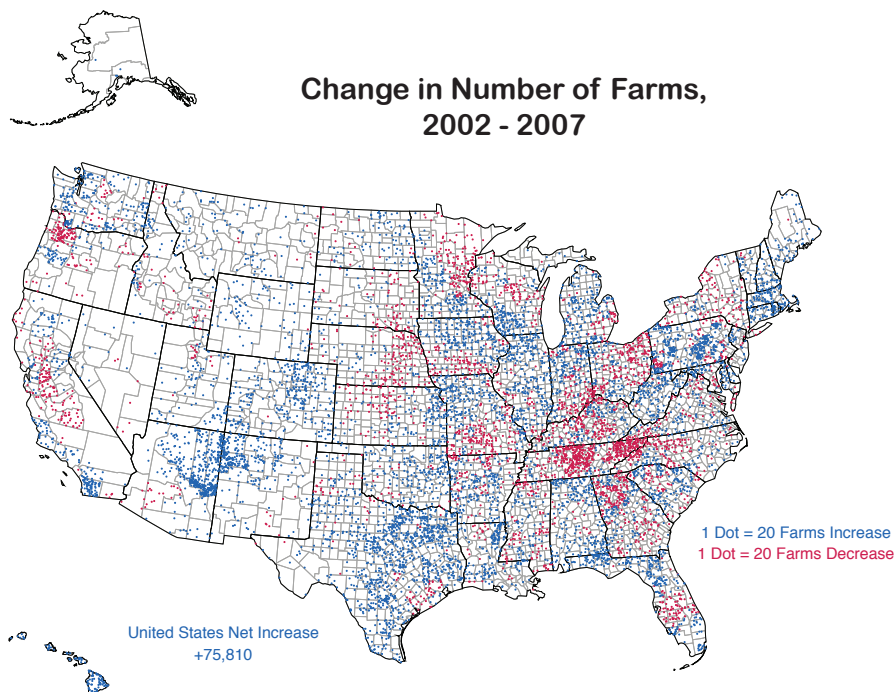
- Crops and Plants
- Economics
- Farms
- Livestock and Animals
- Operators

#### How the Maps Were Made

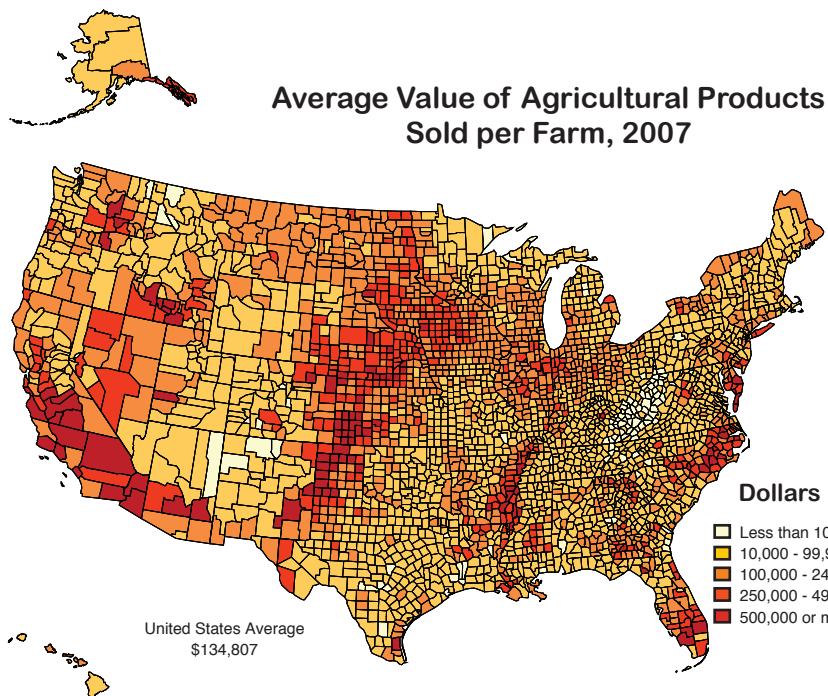
Geographic information system (GIS) and desktop publishing technologies were used in the production of maps for this atlas. NASS developed an automated map production system to generate digital map files based on statistical data from the 2007 and 2002 Censuses of Agriculture. The system utilized agricultural statistical data files, geographic area boundary files, land use/cover boundary files, map parameter data files, and customized GIS and statistical software to produce thematic choropleth and dot-density maps. The customized software performed statistical calculations to class the data into categories and to allocate the number of dots for a geographic area. The software also executed other cartographic functions including,

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Dot-Density Map



Choropleth Map



The Ag Atlas for the 2007 Census of Agriculture is available free, online at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

Click the 'Publications' tab on the top navigation bar and then select 'Online Highlights.' Once there, scroll down to 'Overviews and Comparisons' and click 'Ag Atlas Maps.'

For more information:

[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

Agricultural Statistics Hotline  
(800) 727-9540

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