

# agriculture

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Minnesota is one of the nation's leading agricultural producers, with more than 50% of its land area dedicated to farmland and more than 79,000 farms. Minnesota's diverse soils, terrain, climate, and dedicated workforce make us a national leader in the production of many agricultural commodities. Agriculture also drives a robust agricultural equipment manufacturing sector, a skilled agriculture research and development community, and world-renowned food processing capability.

- *Greater Mankato is home to the largest soybean processing operations in North America.*
- *Farm Futures magazine ranked Nicollet County 75th on a list of the 100 most profitable farming counties in the nation (September, 2005).*

<b>Farms</b>	<b>Blue Earth County</b>	<b>Nicollet County</b>
Total Farms	1,125	730
Land in Farms (acres)	405,564	257,101
Average size of farm (acres)	361	352
Market value of production	\$210,330,000	\$148,335,000
Average per farm	\$186,960	\$203,199

## Farms by Value of Sales

Less than \$1,000	222	110
\$1,000 to \$2,499	45	25
\$2,500 to \$4,999	43	20
\$5,000 to \$9,999	45	27
\$10,000 to \$19,999	72	35
\$20,000 to \$24,999	40	4
\$25,000 to \$39,999	66	74
\$40,000 to \$49,000	36	27
\$50,000 to \$99,999	145	106
\$100,000 to \$249,999	194	164
\$250,000 to \$499,999	109	73
\$500,000 or more	108	65
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	\$36,992	\$35,092
Average per farm	\$32,999	\$48,071

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, 2002 Census of Agriculture