

Farm Types

The 2012 Census of Agriculture farm typology report classifies all farms into unique categories based on three criteria: who owns the operation, whether farming is the principal operator's primary occupation, and gross cash farm income (GCFI). GCFI includes not just crop and livestock sales receipts, but also fees for delivering commodities under production contracts, government payments, and farm-related income.

Small Family Farms (GCFI <\$350,000). This category includes four subcategories:

- *Retirement.* Farms whose principal operator is retired but continues to farm on a small scale.
- *Primary occupation off-farm.* Farms whose principal operator has a primary occupation other than farming.
- *Primary occupation on-farm.* Farms whose principal operator's primary occupation is farming. These farms may be either *low-sales farms* (GCFI less than \$150,000) or *moderate-sales farms* (GCFI \$150,000 to \$349,000).

Midsized Family Farms (GCFI \$350,000 to \$999,999).

Large-scale Family Farms (GCFI \$1 million or more). This category includes two subcategories:

- *Large family farms.* GCFI is \$1,000,000 to \$4,999,999.
- *Very large family farms.* GCFI is \$5 million or more.

Nonfamily Farms. Principal operator and persons related to the operator do not own a majority of the business.