

Table 6.01-- LAND OWNERSHIP, COVER, OR USE: 1982 TO 1997

[In thousands of acres. Based on sample data and subject to sampling variation. Small differences between reported values accordingly may not be statistically significant]

Land ownership, cover, or use	1982	1987	1992	1997 1/
Total surface area	4,158.4	4,158.4	4,158.4	4,158.4
Land ownership				
Federal land 2/	321.5	388.0	389.7	361.2
Water area	52.5	52.6	52.4	52.4
Nonfederal land	3,784.4	3,717.8	3,716.3	3,744.8
Developed	149.2	153.1	172.9	179.7
Rural	3,635.2	3,564.7	3,543.4	3,565.1
Land cover or use 3/				
Nonfederal rural land	3,635.2	3,564.7	3,543.4	3,565.1
Cropland	303.1	294.7	274.4	246.3
Cultivated	268.2	252.6	228.6	198.0
Irrigated	169.2	162.9	134.7	101.6
Nonirrigated	99.0	89.7	93.9	96.4
Noncultivated	34.9	42.1	45.8	48.3
Irrigated	8.6	11.0	23.9	21.8
Nonirrigated	26.3	31.1	21.9	26.5
Conservation Reserve Prog. land 4/	-	-	-	-
Pastureland	41.0	33.8	36.1	35.9
Rangeland	1,006.1	996.4	1,011.7	1,008.7
Forest land	1,663.2	1,633.6	1,621.3	1,635.2
Other rural land	621.8	606.2	599.9	639.0
Prime farmland, by cover or use 5/				
Total rural land	269.7	257.9	248.8	249.1
Cropland	185.9	180.6	169.6	150.0
Conservation Reserve Prog. land 4/	-	-	-	-
Pastureland	19.5	15.0	15.6	15.5
Rangeland	38.1	37.4	36.6	43.6
Forest land	25.1	23.4	24.3	25.1
Other rural land	1.1	1.5	2.7	14.9

1/ Annual NRI surveys were conducted in 2001, 2002 and 2003 but only covered the 48 contiguous states. Future estimates will also cover Hawaii, Alaska, the Caribbean, and selected Pacific Basin islands. See the National Resources Inventory 2003 Annual NRI <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/land/nri03/nri03landuse-mrb.html>> for discussion.

2/ Includes ceded land; excludes leased land and submerged land.

3/ Land cover is the vegetation or other kind of material that covers the land surface. Land use is the purpose of human activity on the land; it is usually, but not always, related to land cover. The NRI uses the term land cover/use to identify categories that account for all the surface area of the United States.

4/ Land under a federal program established under the Food Security Act of 1985 to assist private landowners to convert highly erodible cropland to vegetative cover for 10 years.

5/ Prime farmland has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service), *1997 National Resources Inventory* (revised December 2000)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/1997/summary_report> accessed June 5, 2006.