

**Table 6.01-- LAND OWNERSHIP, COVER, OR USE: 1982 TO 2012**

[In thousands of acres, unless otherwise indicated. Based on sample data and subject to sampling variation. Small differences between reported values accordingly may not be statistically significant. Margins of error are available in the source. Margins of error involving values of zero are footnoted]

| Land ownership, cover, or use 1/                           | 1982    | 1987    | 1992    | 1997    | 2002    | 2007    | 2012    |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Land ownership   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Total surface area   | 4,123.0 | 4,123.0 | 4,123.0 | 4,123.0 | 4,123.0 | 4,123.0 | 4,123.0 |
| Federal land 2/  | 407.2   | 473.7   | 475.4   | 446.9   | 453.4   | 605.7   | 610.7   |
| Water area   | 23.0    | 23.1    | 22.9    | 22.9    | 23.0    | 23.1    | 23.1    |
| Nonfederal land  | 3,692.8 | 3,626.2 | 3,624.7 | 3,653.2 | 3,646.6 | 3,494.2 | 3,489.2 |
| Developed  | 166.4   | 171.0   | 193.5   | 200.9   | 217.2   | 224.4   | 241.9   |
| Rural  | 3,526.4 | 3,455.2 | 3,431.2 | 3,452.3 | 3,429.4 | 3,269.8 | 3,247.3 |
| Land cover or use 3/                                       |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Nonfederal rural land                                      | 3,526.4 | 3,455.2 | 3,431.2 | 3,452.3 | 3,429.4 | 3,269.8 | 3,247.3 |
| Cropland   | 284.6   | 280.3   | 259.5   | 229.6   | 146.4   | 100.2   | 85.7    |
| CRP land 4/  | (X)     | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       |
| Pastureland  | 59.9    | 50.6    | 52.0    | 53.7    | 84.1    | 87.2    | 87.4    |
| Rangeland  | 1,078.2 | 1,064.9 | 1,074.4 | 1,070.6 | 1,101.6 | 1,075.5 | 1,069.8 |
| Forest land  | 1,620.9 | 1,592.4 | 1,583.6 | 1,599.4 | 1,595.0 | 1,525.8 | 1,526.9 |
| Other rural land   | 482.8   | 467.0   | 461.7   | 499.0   | 502.3   | 481.1   | 477.5   |
| Cropland use   |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Total cropland   | 284.6   | 280.3   | 259.5   | 229.6   | 146.4   | 100.2   | 85.7    |
| Cultivated Cropland  | 261.5   | 247.6   | 217.6   | 183.8   | 99.7    | 69.1    | 53.1    |
| Irrigated  | 153.0   | 148.4   | 114.7   | 76.5    | 65.9    | 57.6    | 46.1    |
| Nonirrigated   | 108.5   | 99.2    | 102.9   | 107.3   | 33.8    | 11.5    | 7.0     |
| Noncultivated Cropland                                     | 5/ 23.1 | 32.7    | 41.9    | 45.8    | 46.7    | 31.1    | 32.6    |
| Irrigated  | 5/ 6.6  | 11.3    | 25.9    | 26.1    | 24.3    | 5/ 9.5  | 5/ 10.1 |
| Nonirrigated   | 5/ 16.5 | 5/ 21.4 | 5/ 16.0 | 19.7    | 5/ 22.4 | 5/ 21.6 | 5/ 22.5 |
| Prime farmland, by cover or use 6/                         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Total rural land   | 243.9   | 244.1   | 233.1   | 232.2   | 228.4   | 209.0   | 202.0   |
| Cropland   | 163.1   | 166.2   | 155.5   | 135.6   | 82.7    | 65.5    | 55.5    |
| CRP land 4/  | (X)     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     | 0.0     |
| Pastureland  | 34.4    | 30.8    | 30.5    | 30.4    | 44.8    | 40.2    | 47.0    |
| Rangeland  | 18.6    | 18.9    | 17.7    | 23.2    | 48.1    | 55.2    | 52.7    |
| Forest land  | 23.4    | 23.4    | 23.7    | 24.3    | 5/ 29.7 | 5/ 31.0 | 5/ 30.2 |
| Other rural land   | 4.4     | 4.8     | 5.7     | 18.7    | 23.1    | 17.1    | 16.6    |
| Sheet or rill erosion, tons per acre with margins of error |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Nonfederal rural land                                      |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Cropland   | 4.99    | 4.83    | 4.80    | 2.86    | 3.14    | 3.43    | 3.77    |
| Cultivated   | 5.25    | 5.21    | 5.26    | 2.94    | 3.46    | 4.13    | 4.97    |
| Noncultivated  | 5/ 2.11 | 5/ 1.97 | 5/ 2.45 | 2.53    | 2.45    | 1.86    | 1.81    |
| CRP land 4/  | (X)     | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       | -       |
| Pastureland  | 0.78    | 0.75    | 0.76    | 0.56    | 0.71    | 0.75    | 1.18    |

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**Table 6.01-- LAND OWNERSHIP, COVER, OR USE: 1982 TO 2012-- Con.**

| Land ownership, cover, or use 1/      | 1982 | 1987 | 1992   | 1997   | 2002   | 2007   | 2012   |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| On water areas & nonfederal land      |      |      |        |        |        |        |        |
| Total wetlands & deepwater habitats   | (X)  | (X)  | 80.6   | 82.7   | 83.7   | 83.7   | 83.6   |
| Palustrine & estuarine wetlands       | (X)  | (X)  | 65.6   | 67.8   | 68.8   | 68.7   | 68.6   |
| Palustrine                            | (X)  | (X)  | 57.4   | 59.6   | 60.7   | 60.6   | 60.5   |
| Estuarine                             | (X)  | (X)  | 8.2    | 8.2    | 8.1    | 8.1    | 8.1    |
| Other aquatic habitats                | (X)  | (X)  | 15.0   | 14.9   | 14.9   | 15.0   | 15.0   |
| Lacustrine                            | (X)  | (X)  | 2.1    | 2.0    | 2.0    | 2.1    | 2.1    |
| Other 7/                              | (X)  | (X)  | 12.9   | 12.9   | 12.9   | 12.9   | 12.9   |
| Total Palustrine & estuarine wetlands | (X)  | (X)  | 65.6   | 67.8   | 68.8   | 68.7   | 68.6   |
| Cropland, pastureland, CRP land 4/    | (X)  | (X)  | 5/ 1.9 | 5/ 1.9 | 5/ 1.9 | 5/ 1.9 | 5/ 1.9 |
| Rangeland                             | (X)  | (X)  | 5/ 2.7 | 5/ 2.7 | 2.7    | 2.7    | 2.7    |
| Forest land                           | (X)  | (X)  | 39.9   | 42.0   | 42.0   | 41.9   | 44.5   |
| Other rural land                      | (X)  | (X)  | 12.1   | 12.1   | 13.0   | 13.0   | 10.2   |
| Developed land                        | (X)  | (X)  | -      | -      | -      | -      | 0.1    |
| Water areas                           | (X)  | (X)  | 9.0    | 9.1    | 9.2    | 9.2    | 9.2    |

X Not applicable.

1/ The 2012 NRI provides nationally consistent data for the 30-year period 1982–2012. This current NRI database should be used to compare 2012 conditions with those for earlier years. Comparisons using NRI data published prior to 2012 can produce incorrect inferences. Statistical estimation and quality assurance procedures employed for the NRI survey program help ensure that trends reported using NRI data reflect true changes in resource conditions.

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/ Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 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/ These estimates are not reliable. The margin of error is equal to or greater than the estimate so the confidence interval includes zero.

6/ 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.

7/ Includes Estuarine deepwater, and all Riverine and Marine systems.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, *2012 National Resources Inventory Summary Report*, Tables 1, 2, 10, 14-16, 19 and 20

<<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/nri/>> accessed July 20, 2016.