

Table 6.01-- LAND OWNERSHIP, COVER, OR USE: 1992 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/	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
Federal land 2/	475.4	446.9	453.4	605.7	610.7
Water area	22.9	22.9	23.0	23.1	23.1
Nonfederal land	3,624.7	3,653.2	3,646.6	3,494.2	3,489.2
Developed	193.5	200.9	217.2	224.4	241.9
Rural	3,431.2	3,452.3	3,429.4	3,269.8	3,247.3
Land cover or use 3/					
Nonfederal rural land	3,431.2	3,452.3	3,429.4	3,269.8	3,247.3
Cropland	259.5	229.6	146.4	100.2	85.7
CRP land 4/	-	-	-	-	-
Pastureland	52.0	53.7	84.1	87.2	87.4
Rangeland	1,074.4	1,070.6	1,101.6	1,075.5	1,069.8
Forest land	1,583.6	1,599.4	1,595.0	1,525.8	1,526.9
Other rural land	461.7	499.0	502.3	481.1	477.5
Cropland use					
Total cropland	259.5	229.6	146.4	100.2	85.7
Cultivated Cropland	217.6	183.8	99.7	69.1	53.1
Irrigated	114.7	76.5	65.9	57.6	46.1
Nonirrigated	102.9	107.3	33.8	11.5	7.0
Noncultivated Cropland	41.9	45.8	46.7	31.1	32.6
Irrigated	25.9	26.1	24.3	5/ 9.5	5/ 10.1
Nonirrigated	5/ 16.0	19.7	5/ 22.4	5/ 21.6	5/ 22.5
Prime farmland, by cover or use 6/					
Total rural land	233.1	232.2	228.4	209.0	202.0
Cropland	155.5	135.6	82.7	65.5	55.5
CRP land 4/	-	-	-	-	-
Pastureland	30.5	30.4	44.8	40.2	47.0
Rangeland	17.7	23.2	48.1	55.2	52.7
Forest land	23.7	24.3	5/ 29.7	5/ 31.0	5/ 30.2
Other rural land	5.7	18.7	23.1	17.1	16.6

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Table 6.01-- LAND OWNERSHIP, COVER, OR USE: 1992 TO 2012-- Con.

Land ownership, cover, or use 1/	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012
Sheet or rill erosion, tons per acre					
Nonfederal rural land					
Cropland	4.80	2.86	3.14	3.43	3.77
Cultivated	5.26	2.94	3.46	4.13	4.97
Noncultivated	5/ 2.45	2.53	2.45	1.86	1.81
CRP land 4/	-	-	-	-	-
Pastureland	0.76	0.56	0.71	0.75	1.18
On water areas & nonfederal land					
Total wetlands & deepwater habitats	80.6	82.7	83.7	83.7	83.6
Palustrine & estuarine wetlands	65.6	67.8	68.8	68.7	68.6
Palustrine	57.4	59.6	60.7	60.6	60.5
Estuarine	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.1
Other aquatic habitats	15.0	14.9	14.9	15.0	15.0
Lacustrine	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Other 7/	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9	12.9
Total Palustrine & estuarine wetlands	65.6	67.8	68.8	68.7	68.6
Cropland, pastureland, CRP land 4/	5/ 1.9	5/ 1.9	5/ 1.9	5/ 1.9	5/ 1.9
Rangeland	5/ 2.7	5/ 2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Forest land	39.9	42.0	42.0	41.9	44.5
Other rural land	12.1	12.1	13.0	13.0	10.2
Developed land	-	-	-	-	0.1
Water areas	9.0	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.2

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.