

Table 6.01-- LAND OWNERSHIP, COVER, OR USE: 1992 TO 2017

[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	2017
Land ownership						
Total surface area	4,123.0	4,123.0	4,123.0	4,123.0	4,123.0	4,123.0
Federal land 2/	465.3	436.8	443.2	603.8	607.8	610.2
Water area	22.0	22.1	22.2	22.2	22.3	22.5
Nonfederal land	3,635.7	3,664.1	3,657.6	3,497.0	3,492.9	3,490.3
Developed	190.6	198.0	215.0	221.8	244.7	251.8
Rural	3,445.1	3,466.1	3,442.6	3,275.2	3,248.2	3,238.5
Land cover or use 3/						
Nonfederal rural land	3,445.1	3,466.1	3,442.6	3,275.2	3,248.2	3,238.5
Cropland	263.3	233.8	155.5	109.3	94.2	78.7
CRP land 4/	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pastureland	58.7	60.5	94.5	102.7	107.4	118.3
Rangeland	1,168.5	1,163.3	1,188.9	1,144.3	1,144.2	1,144.1
Forest land	1,540.8	1,558.9	1,550.8	1,481.8	1,470.7	1,467.9
Other rural land	413.8	449.6	452.9	437.1	431.7	429.5
Cropland use						
Total cropland	263.3	233.8	155.5	109.3	94.2	78.7
Cultivated cropland	216.9	186.8	104.0	77.1	59.8	5/ 48.7
Irrigated	107.7	73.8	66.8	62.9	46.3	5/ 35.6
Nonirrigated	109.2	113.0	37.2	14.2	13.5	5/ 13.1
Noncultivated cropland	46.4	47.0	51.5	32.2	34.4	5/ 30.0
Irrigated	27.8	25.6	22.8	5/ 7.5	5/ 7.8	5/ 7.0
Nonirrigated	5/ 18.6	5/ 21.4	28.7	5/ 24.7	5/ 26.6	5/ 23.0
Prime farmland, by cover or use 6/						
Total rural land	230.6	229.4	224.3	203.5	193.0	187.0
Cropland	150.9	135.0	87.6	65.2	55.1	46.0
CRP land 4/	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pastureland	31.5	31.5	47.7	45.2	51.9	54.1
Rangeland	14.1	17.2	35.0	39.1	36.8	39.0
Forest land	31.5	34.5	39.0	38.7	33.9	32.5
Other rural land	5/ 2.6	11.2	5/ 15.0	5/ 15.3	5/ 15.3	5/ 15.4

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Table 6.01-- LAND OWNERSHIP, COVER, OR USE: 1992 TO 2017 -- Con.

Land ownership, cover, or use 1/	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012	2017
Sheet or rill erosion, tons per acre						
Nonfederal rural land						
Cropland	4.49	2.82	3.16	3.21	2.58	2.60
Cultivated	5.05	2.93	3.65	3.79	2.94	2.84
Noncultivated	1.86	2.60	2.17	1.84	1.96	2.22
CRP land 4/	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pastureland	0.66	0.50	0.63	0.74	0.82	0.77
On water areas & nonfederal land						
Total wetlands & deepwater habitats	94.3	96.4	97.1	97.2	97.2	97.4
Palustrine & estuarine wetlands	79.8	81.9	82.6	82.6	76.3	76.3
Palustrine	71.7	73.8	74.5	74.5	74.5	74.5
Estuarine	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	5/ 1.8	5/ 1.8
Other aquatic habitats	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.6	20.9	21.1
Lacustrine	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
Other 7/	12.5	12.5	5/ 12.5	5/ 12.5	18.9	19.1
Total Palustrine & estuarine wetlands	79.8	81.9	82.6	82.6	76.3	76.3
Cropland, pastureland, CRP land 4/ 5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.5
Rangeland	5.0	5.0	5/ 5.0	5/ 5.0	5/ 5.0	5/ 5.0
Forest land	58.1	60.1	60.0	60.1	60.5	60.4
Other rural land 5/	5.8	5.8	6.5	6.5	6.0	5.5
Developed land 5/	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Water areas	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.8	2.6	2.6

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1/ The 2017 NRI provides nationally consistent data for the 35-year period 1982–2017, with measures at 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and annually from 2000 to 2017. 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, *2017 National Resources Inventory Summary Report*, Tables 1, 2, 9, 13, 14, 18, and 19

<<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/nri/>> accessed March 11, 2022.