



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

# 2012 Census of Agriculture Preliminary Data Release

## Massachusetts

February 19, 2014



# CENSUS HISTORY

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- The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840 in 26 states and the District of Columbia.



# 170 YEARS LATER

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- NASS has conducted the Census of Agriculture since 1997 with the transfer of authority from the Census Bureau.
- Census of Agriculture encompasses 50 states and Puerto Rico  
(and Outlying Areas)
- Data are available for:
  - National, State and County levels
  - Congressional Districts
  - Watersheds
  - Organic, Irrigation, Horticulture, Specialty Crops and Aquaculture



# FARM DEFINITION

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- Any place from which \$1,000 of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally, would have been sold, during the Census year.
- This definition is unchanged since 1974.



# OUTREACH EFFORTS

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- NASS worked with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to assist in building the list of farm operations.
- NASS partnered with CBOs to provide hands-on assistance and support to producers in filling out census forms.
- NASS targeted media advertisements to improve census response rates.



# 2012 DATA COLLECTION

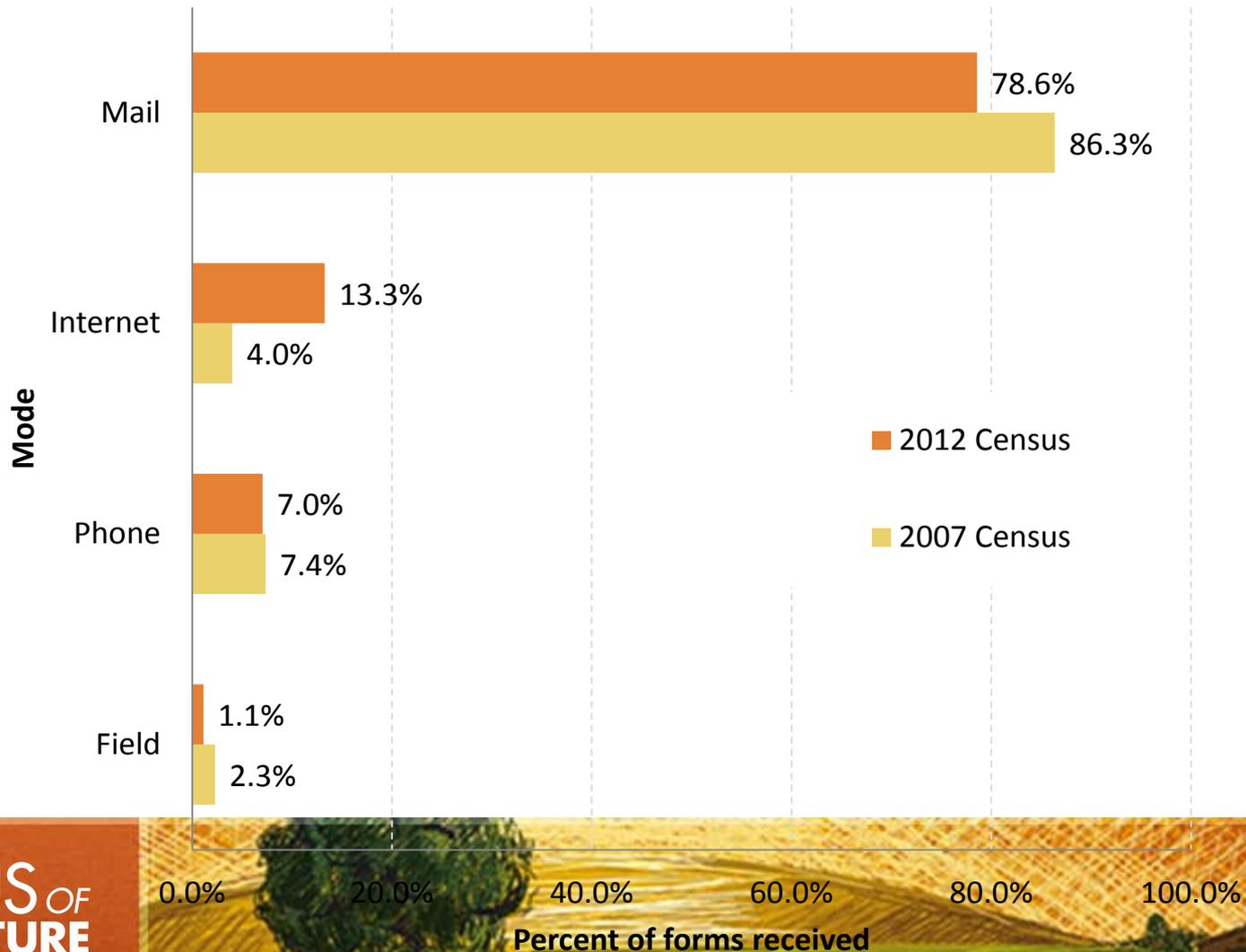
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- NASS mailed 3.0 million questionnaires for the 2012 Census of Agriculture to potential farm and ranch operators in late December 2012.
- All paper forms were mailed from and returned by mail to the Census Bureau's National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, IN.
- Data collection was conducted through:
  - Online responses
  - Mail questionnaires
  - Telephone Interviews
  - Face-to-face Interviews



# Distribution of Responses by Mode, 2012

## Forms by Mode of Data Collection



# PRELIMINARY REPORT

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- Census preliminary data provide a first look at national and state estimates. An earlier release was planned but the government shutdown and sequestration delayed progress during a critical time of data review.
- These preliminary estimates are subject to minor change when the final comprehensive census results are released.



# SNAPSHOT OF 2012 AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

## U.S. Drought Monitor Total U.S.

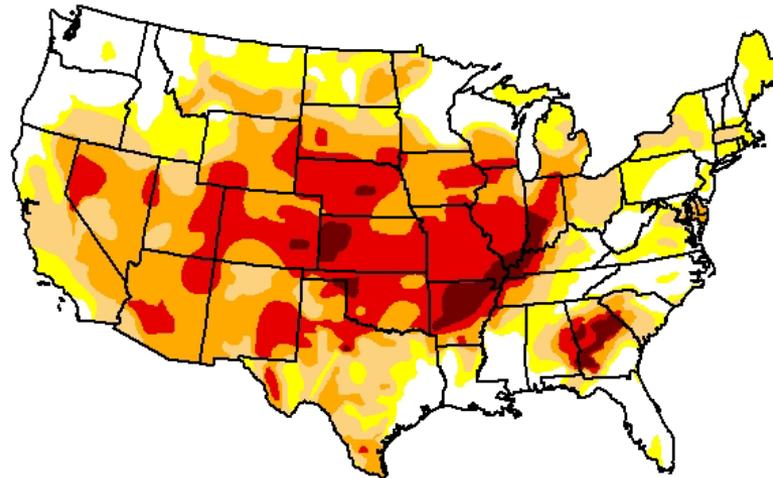
July 31, 2012

(Released Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	28.78	71.22	52.65	38.12	18.62	2.52
<b>Last Week</b> 7/24/2012	28.19	71.81	53.44	38.11	17.20	1.99
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 5/1/2012	50.33	49.67	31.98	17.10	5.80	1.61
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 1/3/2012	58.47	41.53	26.73	15.78	8.51	2.77
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 9/27/2011	63.45	36.55	24.42	19.61	14.87	9.50
<b>One Year Ago</b> 8/2/2011	60.03	39.97	27.06	21.04	15.28	9.13



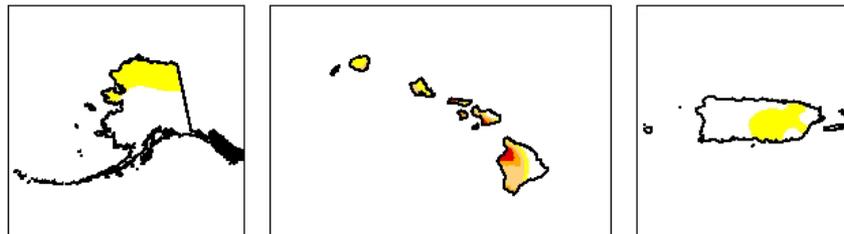
### Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

### Author:

Mark Svoboda  
National Drought Mitigation Center

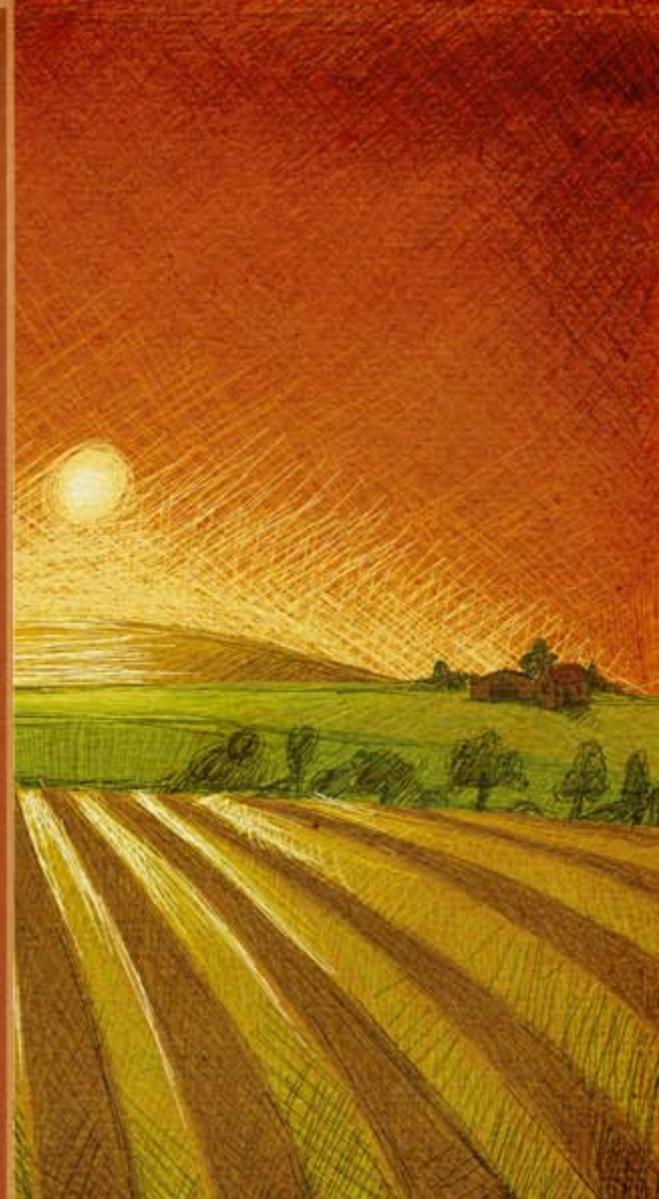


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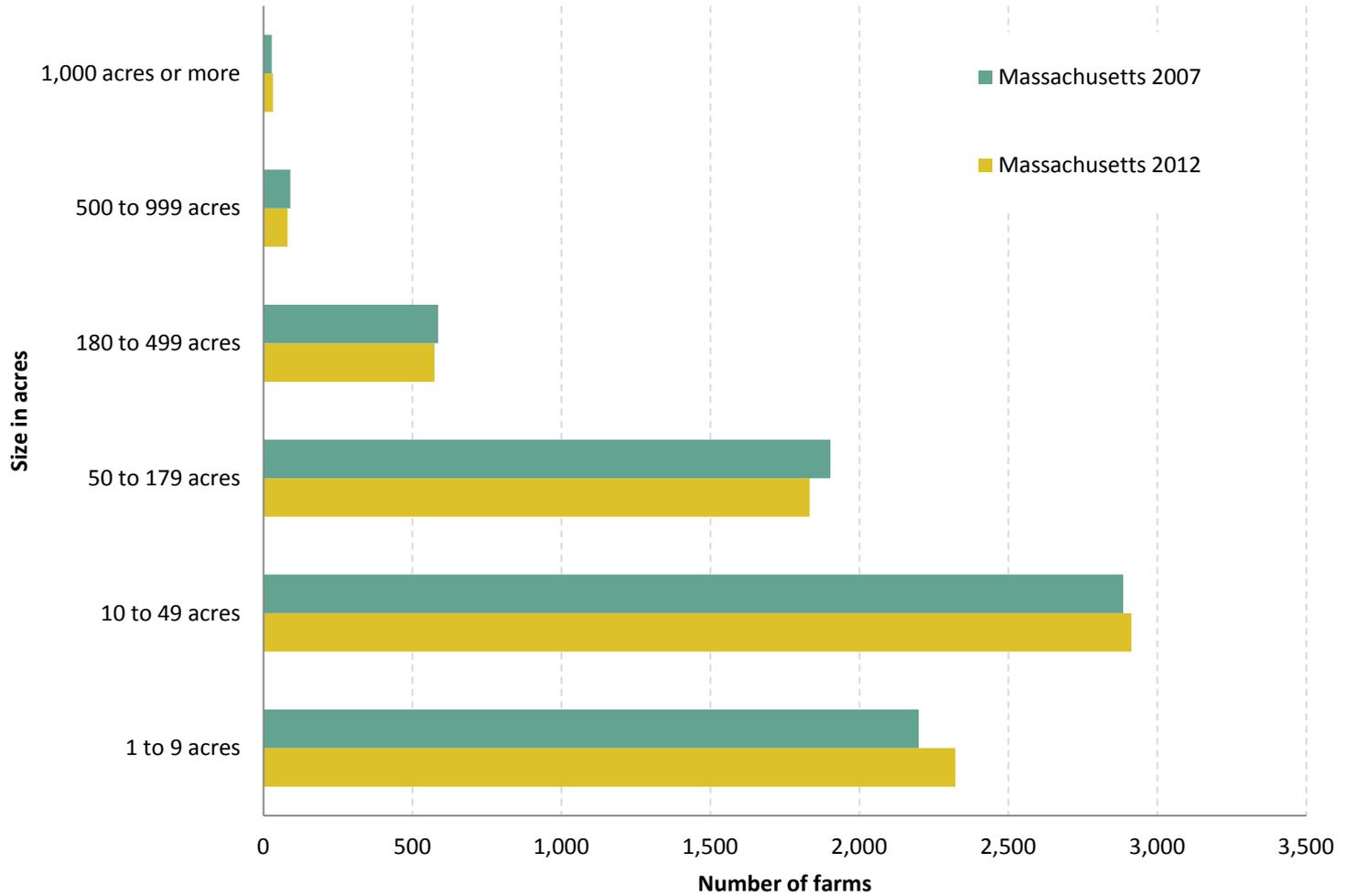
# NUMBER OF FARMS

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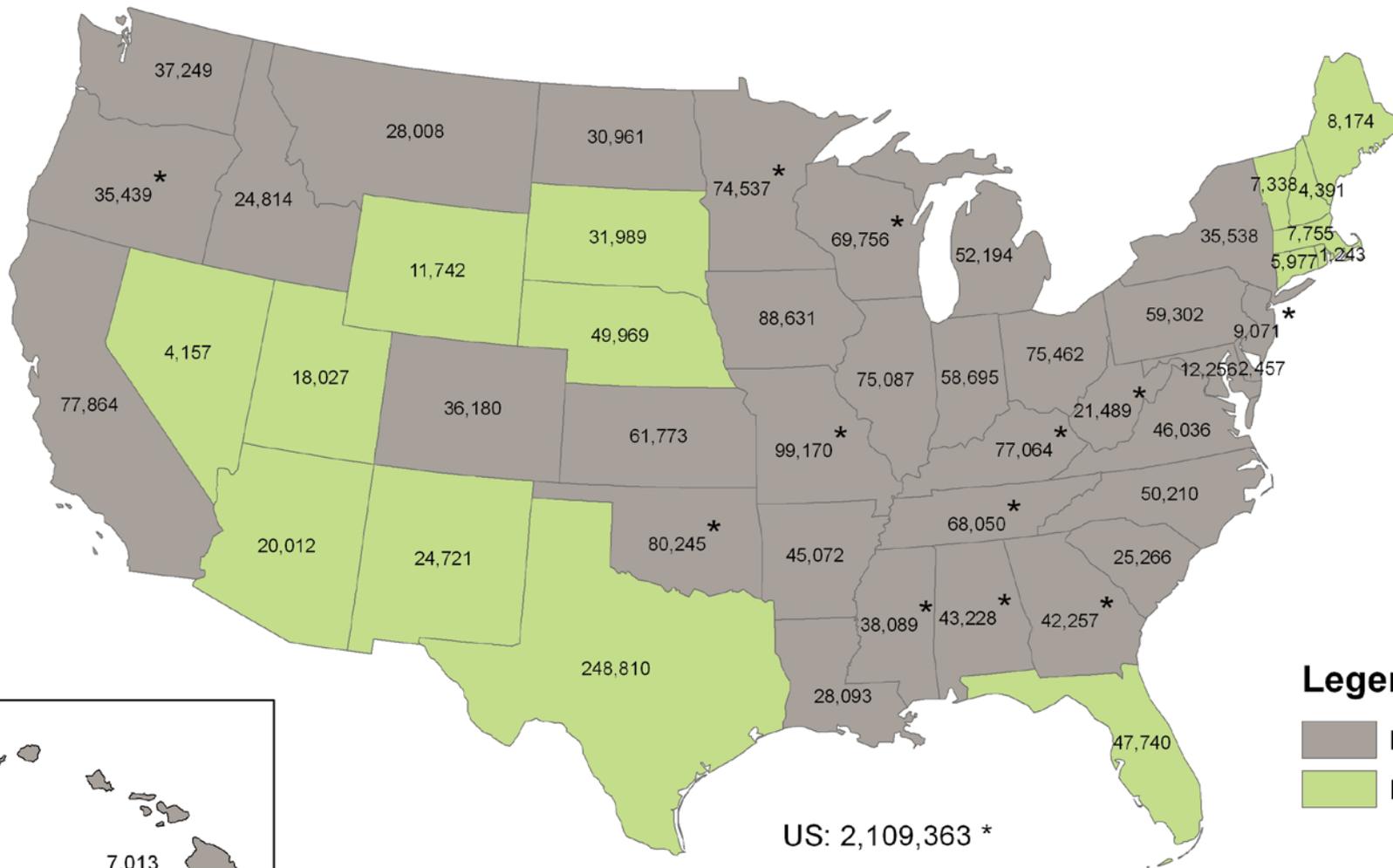
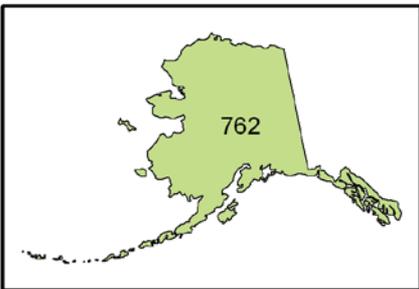
- 7,755 farms and ranches
- 1 percent more than 2007



# Farms by Size, 2007 and 2012



# Number of Farms: 2012 Census of Agriculture Change from 2007 Census of Agriculture



**Legend**

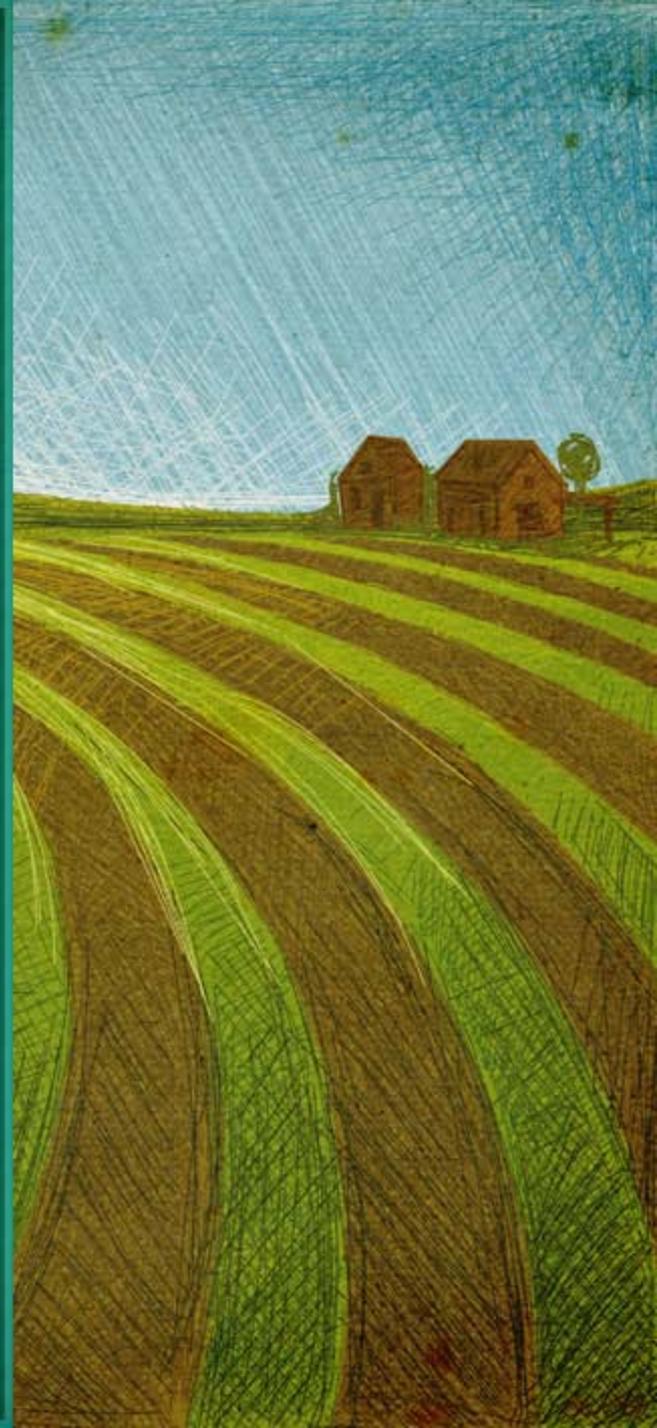
- Decrease
- Increase

\* Indicates significant change

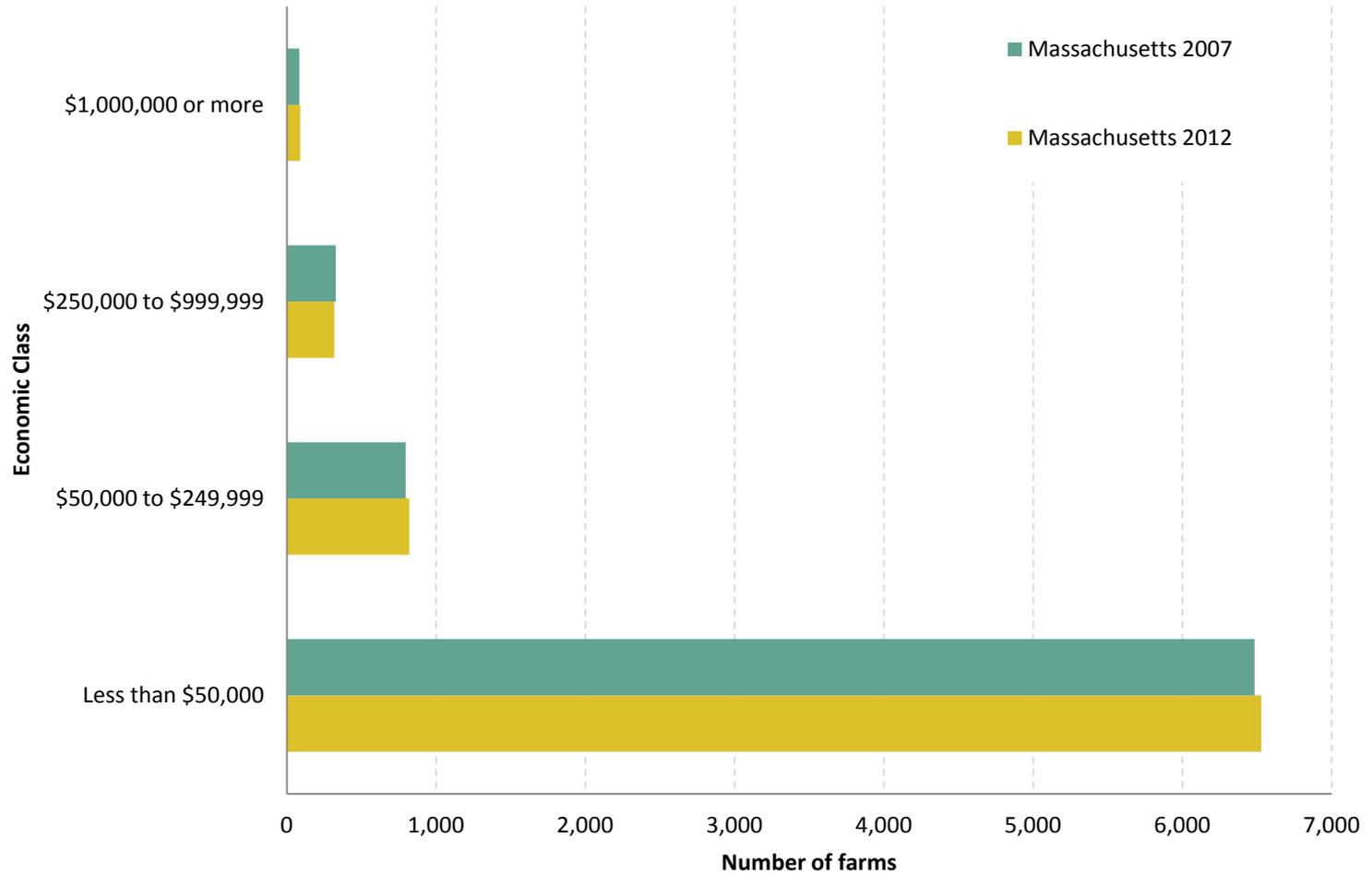
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# ECONOMICS

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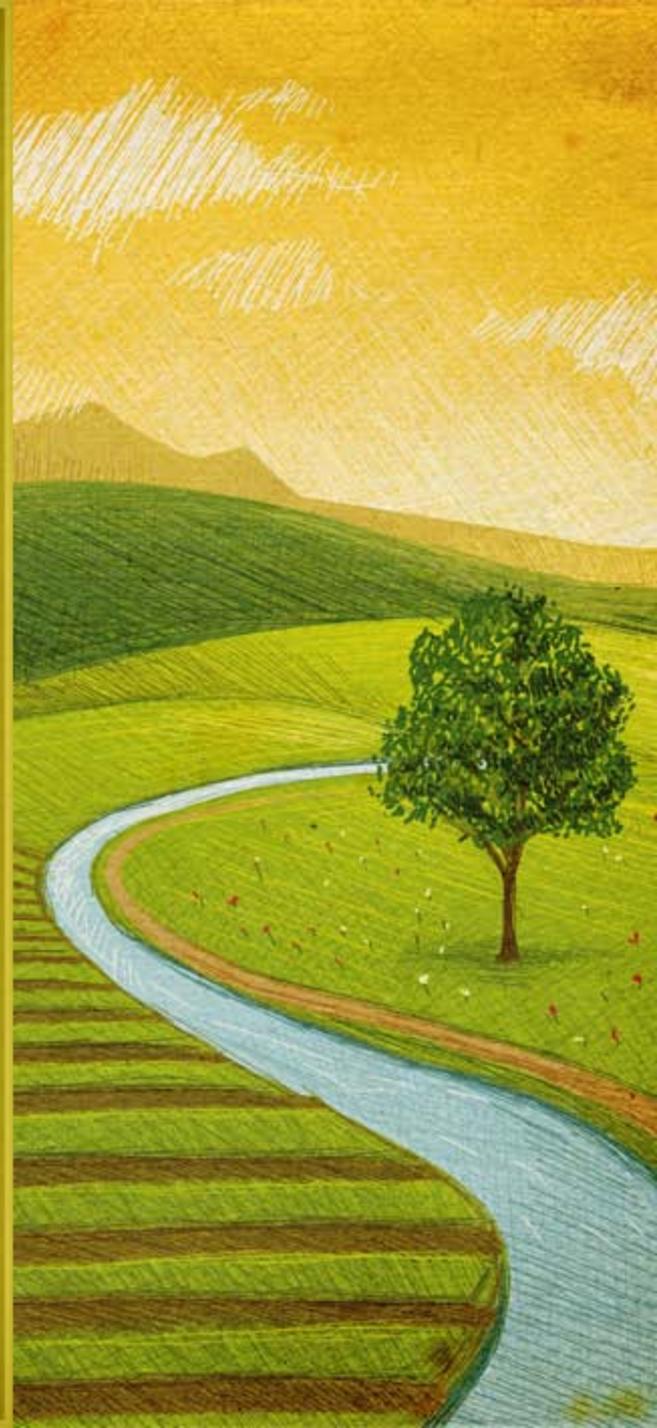
## Farms by Economic Class, 2007 and 2012



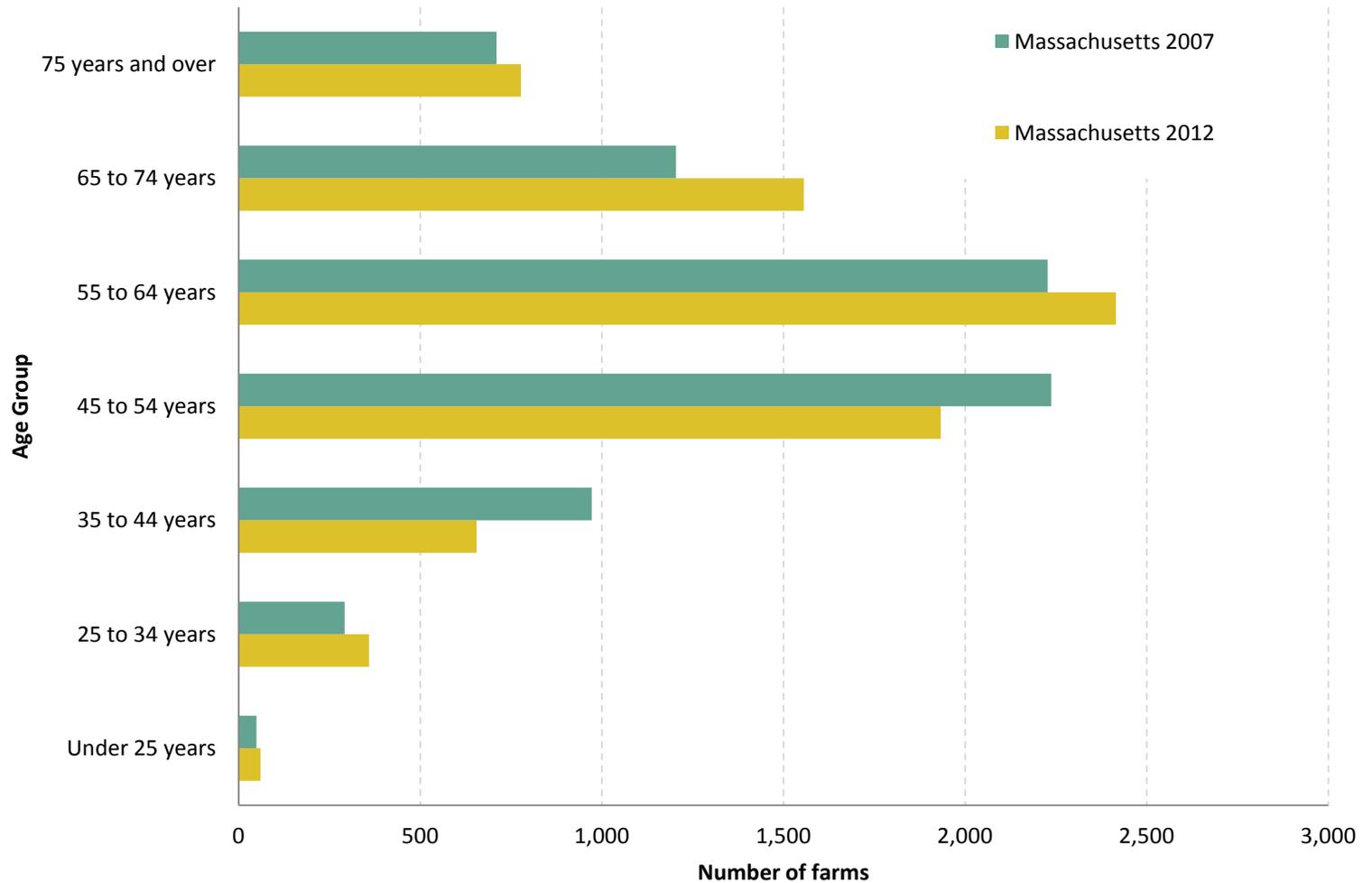
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# DEMOGRAPHICS

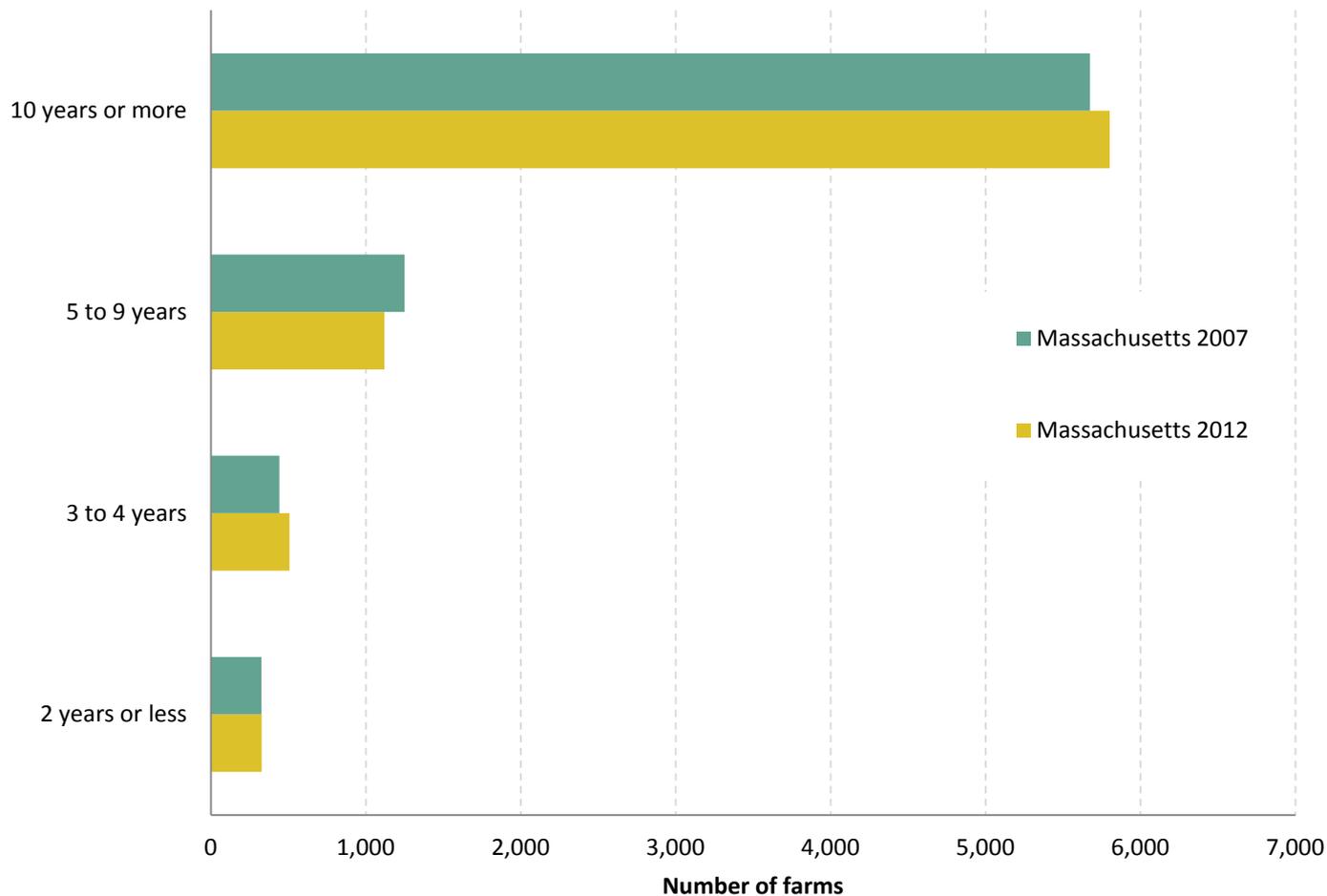
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# Principal Operators by Age Group, 2007 and 2012



## Principal Operators by Years on Current Operation 2007 and 2012



## Percentage of Farms with Women Principal Operators, New England States and U.S., 2002, 2007, and 2012 Censuses of Agriculture

