

Name _____

Exploring Farms

Commercial Farms sell the products they produce.

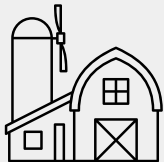
Subsistence Farms use nearly all of their crops or livestock to live. They are mostly found in developing countries.

Family Farms are owned and operated by individuals in a family. They can be any size.

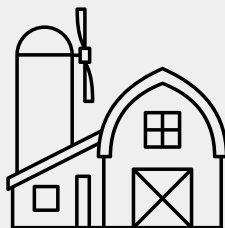
Farm Size is determined by the farm's GCFI (gross cash farm income).

Step 1: Explore the farm profile cards and sort them by size. Look for details like the number of animals or acres, the species of livestock, etc.

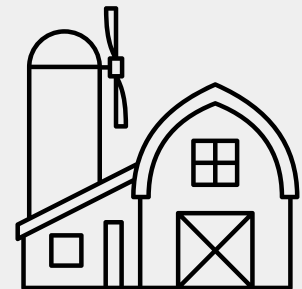
What does a SMALL farm look like?



What does a MIDSIZE farm look like?




What does a LARGE-SCALE farm look like?




Step 2: Explore the farm profile cards and sort them by ownership. Look for details about who owns and operates the farm to look for similarities, differences, and patterns.

What do family-owned farms look like?



A large, empty rectangular box with a light gray background, intended for notes or observations about family-owned farms.


What do non-family owned farms look like?



A large, empty rectangular box with a light gray background, intended for notes or observations about non-family owned farms.


Step 3: Explore the farm profile cards and sort them by farm type. Pay attention to where the farm is located.

What do commercial farms look like?



A large, empty rectangular box with a light gray background, intended for notes or observations about commercial farms.

What do subsistence farms look like?



A large, empty rectangular box with a light gray background, intended for notes or observations about subsistence farms.

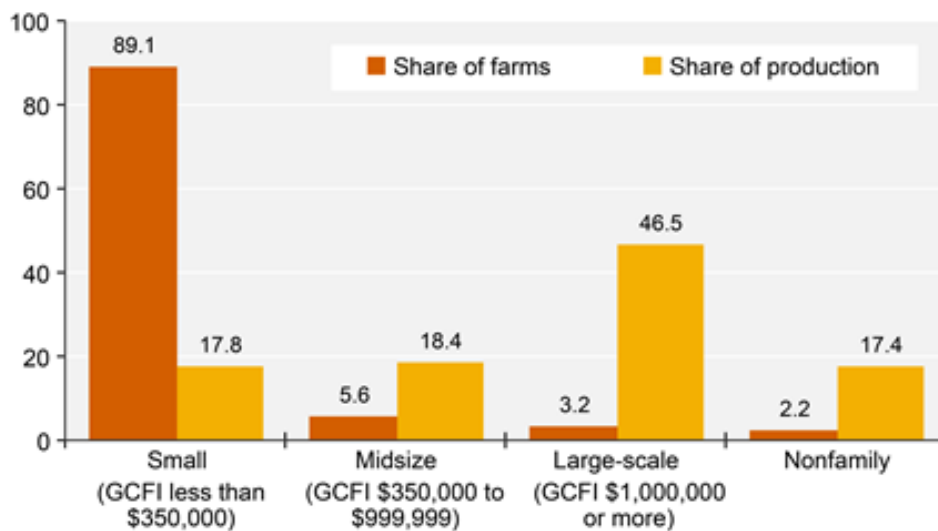
Reflection Questions:

1. What surprised you as you explored these farm profiles?

2. What questions do you have about farm size and ownership?

Farms and their value of production by farm type, 2021

Percent of U.S. farms or production



GCFI = annual gross cash farm income before expenses.

Note: Nonfamily farms are those where the majority of the operation is not owned by an operator and their relatives. Components may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service and USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Agricultural Resource Management Survey. Data as of December 1, 2022.

Farm Profile: Explanation Sheet

Owned by:

A family farm is when the majority of a business is owned by an operator and individuals related to them by blood, marriage, or adoption.

A nonfamily farm is owned or operated by an individual or group of individuals who are not related.

Gross Cash Farm Income

GCFI is the sales income from commodity cash receipts, farm-related income, and Government payments.

- **Small farms:**
<\$350,000 per year
- **Midsize farms:**
\$350,000- \$999,000
- **Large-scale:**
>\$1,000,000

Sales revenue is used as a measure of size because it's common in many businesses and it accounts for land quality—which varies widely. It could be misleading if farm acreage was the only factor evaluated.

Place farm
profile card
here

Commodity Produced:

A commodity is an agricultural product that can be bought or sold. Some farms have a single commodity and others have multiple.

A byproduct is a secondary product that is created in the process of producing something else.

Final Market for Commodity

If the final product is kept for use by the family or individual producing it, the farm is considered a subsistence farm. They are most common in developing countries.

If the final product is sold at market for a cash exchange, it is considered a commercial farm.