

This Chapter Has Been Updated. Updates Are Available At: [www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems](http://www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems)

# Farmlands





**What Indicators Are Used To Describe Farmlands? Can we report trends? Are there other useful reference points?**

SYSTEM DIMENSIONS			
●	Total Cropland	How much land is used directly for production of crops and livestock?	Trends
●	The Farmland Landscape	How much of the farmland landscape is forest, grasslands and shrublands, wetlands, or urban and suburban?	Current data only, regional comparison
⊖	Fragmentation of Farmlands Landscapes by Development	How intermingled are croplands and urban and suburban development?	No data reported
⊖	Shape of "Natural" Patches in the Farmland Landscape	How much of the "natural" area in farmlands is in patches of different shapes?	No data reported

CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS			
●	Nitrate in Farmland Streams and Groundwater	How much nitrate is there in farmland streams and groundwater?	Current data only, federal standard, cross-ecosystem comparison
●	Phosphorus in Farmland Streams	How much phosphorus is there in farmland streams?	Current data only, federal guideline, cross-ecosystem comparison
●	Pesticides in Farmland Streams and Groundwater	How many pesticides are found in farmland streams and groundwater, and how often do they exceed federal standards and guidelines?	Current data only, federal standards and guidelines
⊖	Soil Organic Matter	How much organic matter is there in cropland soils?	No data reported
●	Soil Erosion	How much cropland is subject to erosion by wind or water?	Trends, national map
⊖	Soil Salinity	How much cropland soil has high salt levels?	No data reported

BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS			
⊖	Soil Biological Condition	What is the condition of the microscopic animal communities in cropland soils?	No data reported
?	Status of Animal Species in Farmlands Areas	What is the condition of wildlife in areas that are heavily dominated by farmlands?	No data reported
?	Native Vegetation in Areas Dominated by Croplands	In areas that are heavily dominated by croplands, is most of the remaining non-cropland vegetation native or non-native?	No data reported
?	Stream Habitat Quality	What is the quality of the habitat in farmland streams?	No data reported

HUMAN USES			
●	Major Crop Yields	How has the per-acre yield of major crops changed over time?	Trends
●	Agricultural Inputs and Outputs	How have farm output and the inputs (pesticides, fertilizers, labor, land, etc.) needed to produce that output, changed over time?	Trends
●	Monetary Value of Agricultural Production	What is the value of the nation's production of crops and livestock?	Trends, national map
⊖	Recreation on Farmlands	How much recreation takes place on farmlands?	No data reported

● All Necessary Data Available    ● Partial Data Available    ⊖ Data Not Adequate for National Reporting    ? Indicator Development Needed