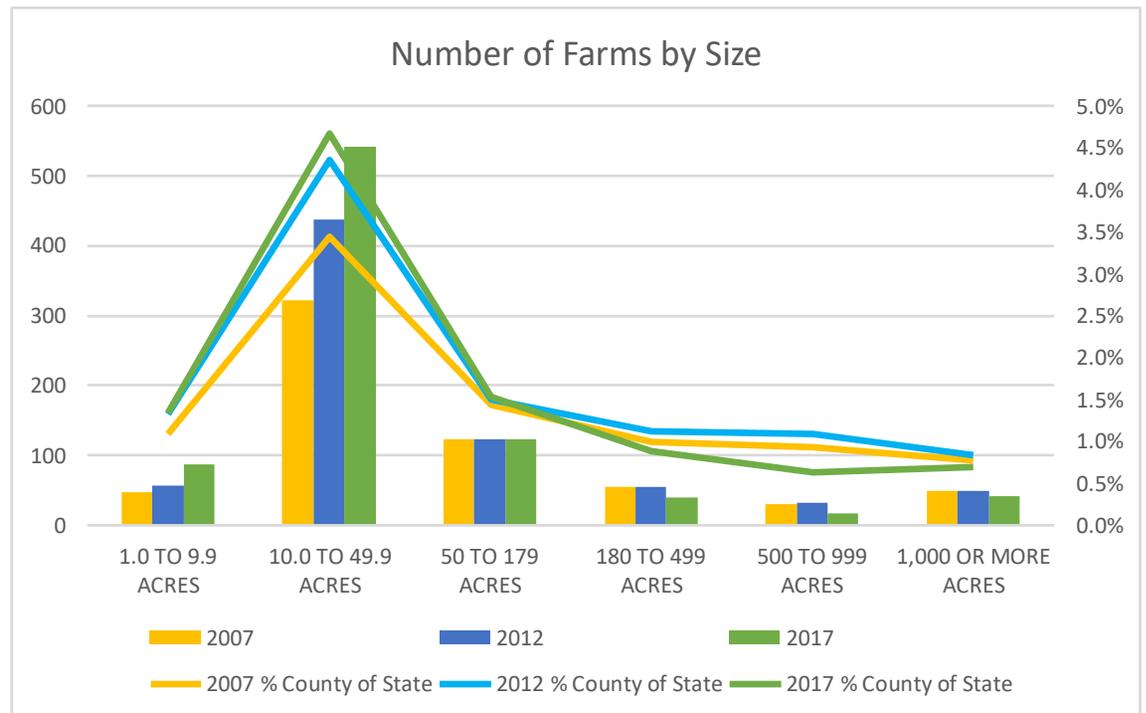




AGRICULTURE—2017

The U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts a census of farms every five years. In 2017, Arapahoe County had 851 farms, up from 755 farms in 2012. Farmland in the county in 2017 was estimated at 282,912 acres, a slight decrease of 300 acres from the 2012 estimate of 283,226 acres. In 2017, farmland in Arapahoe County comprised about 55 percent of the county’s total area. Statewide, 48 percent of Colorado’s total area was in farmland.

While the number of farms had increased between 2012 and 2017 while acres in farmland remained constant, the average size of a farm in Arapahoe County decreased from 375 acres in 2012 to 332 acres in 2017. The average farm in Colorado in 2017 was more than twice as large at 818 acres. While smaller, Arapahoe County farms had an average market value of \$2,260 per acre compared to the state average of \$1,608. As shown in the chart, Arapahoe County had over half of its farms in the 10- to 49-acre size. Statewide, only 28 percent of the farms fell into this category.



The data presented in this update is from the Department of Agriculture’s Census of Agriculture 2017.

The chart on the right shows the top four categories of farms by their North American Industrial Classification System category. The farms involved in beef cattle ranching continued their growth from 2012, totaling 305 farms in 2017. Other 2017 numbers were similar to 2007 and 2012.

Only 46 of the 851 farms in Arapahoe County had irrigated land in 2017, an increase of four farms from 2012. However, the irrigated acreage dropped by more than half from 2,460 in 2012 to 1,155 acres in 2017. Statewide, the number of irrigated farms increased over the time period by 1,600 farms and the acreage went up by 10 percent.

