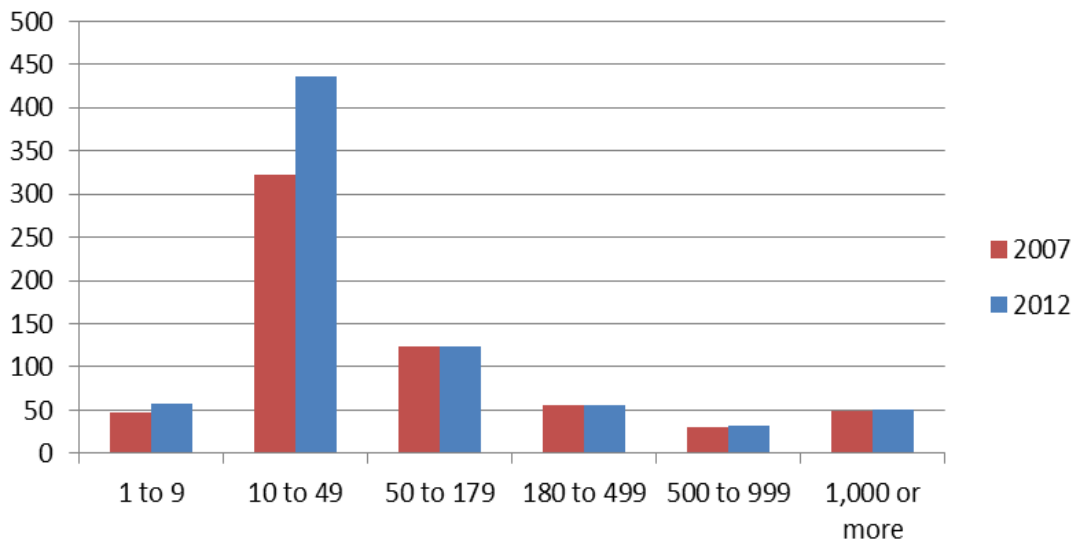




Agriculture

**Arapahoe County Farms by Size,
2007 and 2012**



The U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts a census of farms every five years. In 2012, Arapahoe County had 755 farms, up from 627 farms in 2007. Farmland in the County in 2012 was estimated at 283,226 acres, an increase of more than 30,000 acres from the 2007 estimate of 251,812 acres. Farmland in the County now totals about 55 percent of the County’s total area, up from 49 percent in 2007. Statewide, farmland made up 48 percent of Colorado’s total area.

While the numbers of farms and total farmland had increased in the past five years, the average size of a farm in the County decreased from 402 acres to 375 acres. The average farm in Colorado was more than twice as large at 881 acres. While smaller, Arapahoe County farms had an average market value of \$1,685 per acre compared to the state average of \$1,280. As shown in the chart, Arapahoe County has over half of its farms in the 10 to 49 acre size. Statewide, only 28 percent of the farms fall into this category.



Arapahoe County Colorado Demographics

Over 60 percent of the farms had 2012 sales of less than \$2,500. Five percent (35) had sales of more than \$100,000. Statewide, almost 16 percent of farms had sales of more than \$100,000, suggesting that many farms in Arapahoe County are “hobby” farms and not the major source of income for the farmer.

The table on the right shows the top four categories of farms by their North American Industrial Classification System category. Only the farms that were primarily engaged in hay farming had shown a reduction in the number of farms. The farms involved in beef cattle ranching nearly doubled in number, from 137 to 240.

Only 42 of the 755 farms in Arapahoe County had irrigated land in 2012, a decline of five farms from 2007. However, the irrigated acreage increased by 46 percent from 1,688 to 2,460 acres. Statewide, the number of irrigated farms decreased by 127 farms and the acreage went down by over 10 percent.

