

**Differences in Hispanic Agriculture before and after the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA)**

Historically, Hispanic farms were concentrated in a few "Gateway" states. Throughout the 1980s, 80% of Hispanics were concentrated in the border/coastal states from Texas to Washington, plus Colorado and Florida. However in the 1990s, the number of Hispanic farms outside this border region increased and the geographic distribution of Hispanic farms transformed from a regional to a national phenomenon.

Of 3,128 counties in the 50 States, 589 counties (19%) had Hispanic farm operators in 1982. By 1997, Hispanic farm operators had spread across the nation to 1,775 counties (57%). (Based on published Ag. Census counts, counties with less than three Hispanic farms may be shown as zero.) The top maps show the change in number of farms. The maps on the second row show the expansion of Hispanic operated farmland across the entire country. The percentage change in acreage is even greater than the change in number of farms.

One explanation for this change is the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986, which grants amnesty to undocumented workers who had been living in the U.S. since 1982. Traditionally, the agricultural sector relies heavily on migrant and seasonal workers, especially from Mexico. Some might have stayed in the country illegally. IRCA of 1986 allowed them to legalize their status. Once they established their permanent residence, not only would they come out from hiding and be accounted for in the Census, but also they could move around the country where they could purchase land and apply their farming skills.

In addition to the amnesty provision, IRCA has two other sets of provisions that are specifically for agriculture. One is the Special Agricultural Worker (SAW) Provision, which allows farm workers, who worked a minimum of 90 days in perishable crops during 1985, a chance to legalize their status under SAW. That in turn provides an opportunity for them to become permanent U.S. residence. The other is the Replenishment Agriculture Workers (RAW) Provision that took effect in 1990. RAW assures the agricultural sector to continue draw alien workers in case the SAWs decide to leave farm work. In the long run, we envision that these two provisions will facilitate to have even more Hispanics in the agricultural sector.

**NRCS Service to Hispanic Farmers**

To meet the requirements of the Government Performance Reform Act, NRCS established the performance tracking system called PRMS. This system is designed to capture the status of conservation assistance that the agency provides. Included in the system is information of each client's race or ethnicity. The table below is based on the First Time Customer Priority report data from PRMS, for FY2000. The second column in this table shows the number of Hispanic farm operators assisted by NRCS in FY 2000. NRCS has provided assistance to 8,265 Hispanic farm operators, which account for about 30% of all potential Hispanic clients (third column from the 1997 Ag. Census). The percentage of Hispanic clients served is the fourth column.

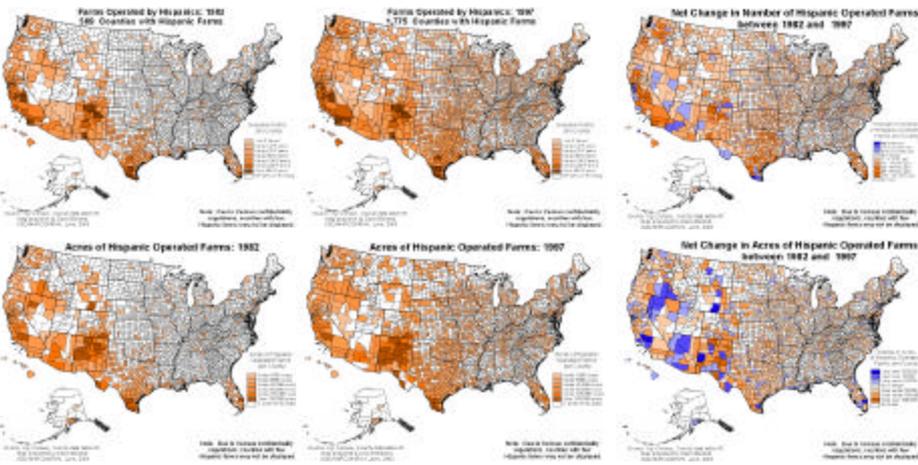
In FY2000, NRCS service to Hispanics exceeds the assistance rate of traditional clients in ten states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Texas. Seven of the eight Gateway States, which had 80% of the Hispanic farms in the 1980s, currently meet or exceed parity in outreach to Hispanic operators (using the 10 point parity buffer). Thirty-five of the other 42 states are under that 10 point parity buffer. In FY2001, again only ten states exceed the Parity ratio for Hispanic Clients. Outreach opportunities exist for these other states, which are receiving this recent wave of Hispanic operators.

A quick glance at the maps below shows definite opportunities for NRCS to increase assistance to Hispanic farmers, especially, since the post-IRCA era when Hispanic farmers' spreading across the nation happens to be consistent with the post-1985 Food Security Act (FSA) era. Since 1985, USDA has been providing financial incentives through conservation programs to promote land stewardship. The share of Hispanics participating in conservation programs is low, but increasing rapidly. How we can take the opportunity to develop outreach strategies and program policies to further increase their participation?

**Pre-IRCA : 1982 Ag. Census**

**Post-IRCA : 1997 Ag. Census**

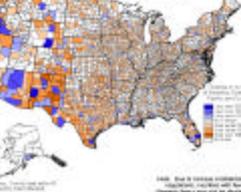
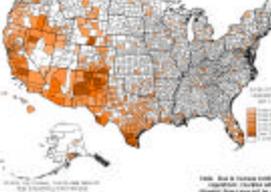
**Net Changes**



**Acres of Hispanic Operated Farms: 1982**

**Acres of Hispanic Operated Farms: 1997**

**Net Change in Acres of Hispanic Operated Farms between 1982 and 1997**



**Growth of Hispanic Farms by State, Pre and Post IRCA**

This table shows the Hispanic Farm Growth between the Pre and Post IRCA Era. During the 1982 to 1987 pre-IRCA period, 80% of the Hispanics lived in eight gateway states. From 1982 to 1987, ALL (104%) of the net increase in Hispanic farms was in these eight states, increasing their percentage of Hispanic farms from 79% to 81%. The number of Hispanic farms in the other 42 states actually went down during this period. The land owned by Hispanics in both gateway and non-gateway states declined slightly in this time period. The two left maps show the growth in Hispanic farms and land by state in this Pre-IRCA Era.

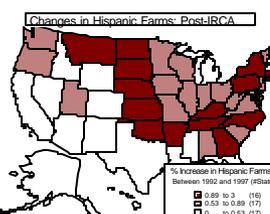
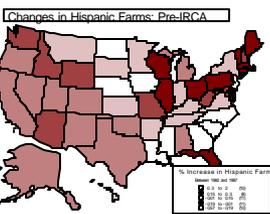
But in the Post-IRCA Era, from 1992 to 1997, most (54%) of the increase in Hispanic farms went to the other 42 states. The number of Hispanic farms in these 42 non-gateway states increased 77% between 1987 and 1997; compared with only a 19% increase in the eight gateway states. Land operated by Hispanics increased by 50% in the 42 non-border states. In the border states, only Arizona had a significant increase; the other seven 'Gateway' states had only a 6.5% increase in Hispanic operated farmland between 1992 and 1997.

**Hispanic Farm Growth in the Pre & Post IRCA Eras**

YEAR	Number of Hispanic Farms				Acres in Hispanic Farms			
	Pre-IRCA Era		Post-IRCA Era		Pre-IRCA Era		Post-IRCA Era	
	1982	1987	1992	1997	1982	1987	1992	1997
<b>The Eight Gateway States</b>								
TX	5,197	5,427	6,122	7,798	23,071.0	24,448.0	35,164.2	40,939.1
CA	3,031	3,471	3,863	4,515	11,070.0	10,900.4	12,006.9	10,916.8
NA	2,728	3,013	3,363	3,477	27,927.1	25,400.0	33,119.9	37,164.27
CO	452	710	863	945	3,650.6	4,024.0	6,048.4	6,314.8
FL	471	634	928	1,080	26,337.2	20,542.2	46,262.2	22,897.7
AZ	259	303	303	432	32,226.6	36,407.7	61,788.0	27,859.9
WA	259	325	378	625	7,134.4	6,016.2	8,779.8	13,949.2
OR	209	235	306	511	10,914.4	14,859.0	17,781.4	18,742.6
<b>States</b>	<b>12,246</b>	<b>14,124</b>	<b>15,124</b>	<b>19,143</b>	<b>7,296,476</b>	<b>7,330,204</b>	<b>9,943,206</b>	<b>12,726,246</b>
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>The Other 42 States</b>								
AK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AL	79	83	107	186	1,943.7	1,198.2	1,917.3	4,057.7
AR	52	75	131	259	1,765.2	1,336.9	2,951.1	9,200.7
CT	12	12	12	12	1,915.0	1,341.0	0	7,500.0
DE	3	6	13	13	451.2	2,450.0	1,038.1	1,745.0
GA	9	10	31	312	1,001.0	1,200.0	2,486.6	5,070.7
HI	125	110	154	176	830.2	21,738.0	6,389.9	8,049.0
IA	119	159	175	289	3,017.9	5,034.4	9,705.5	12,518.0
ID	150	174	282	328	11,919.6	17,115.0	8,823.3	17,115.0
IL	117	109	127	202	6,714.3	11,343.0	6,714.3	11,343.0
IN	117	99	127	232	24,469.0	18,643.0	34,522.2	67,242.0
KS	119	108	156	352	5,689.0	5,570.0	10,279.9	26,663.0
KY	176	143	207	405	2,900.5	2,006.1	2,604.0	6,549.2
LA	176	137	202	214	51,191.0	42,192.0	70,665.0	62,092.0
MA	13	24	31	37	1,428.0	1,913.0	4,620.0	6,420.0
MD	316	42	86	80	3,880.0	6,032.0	4,747.0	8,796.0
ME	10	10	9	9	1,676.0	70.0	774.0	774.0
MN	112	122	196	280	14,486.0	17,223.0	35,043.0	57,821.0
MO	119	104	141	260	30,942.0	29,622.0	59,759.0	97,572.0
MS	152	197	266	444	3,399.5	4,791.2	8,048.9	13,954.4
MT	46	42	90	173	57,771.0	56,110.0	124,646.0	52,206.0
NC	102	50	131	320	1,322.1	6,230.0	21,958.0	74,762.0
ND	38	32	66	156	6,919.7	24,034.0	5,071.9	10,914.2
NE	111	80	114	254	6,076.2	4,848.8	7,918.8	23,037.0
NH	7	14	15	15	1,959.0	1,984.0	1,959.0	1,984.0
NJ	37	29	69	112	4,862.0	2,434.0	4,967.0	6,718.0
NV	79	89	96	108	21,900.1	63,411.0	47,038.8	68,411.0
NY	103	93	105	210	1,600.1	16,448.0	23,529.0	45,930.0
OH	119	167	168	338	19,669.0	25,177.0	31,140.0	55,890.0
OK	128	143	270	551	41,798.0	41,560.0	81,203.0	194,187.0
PA	70	70	215	225	12,203.0	15,520.0	33,698.0	33,698.0
RI	4	2	2	2	418.0	0	0	348.0
SC	53	23	63	107	8,627.0	0	10,945.0	20,908.0
SD	39	32	66	158	6,919.7	42,694.0	12,502.0	22,604.0
TN	168	147	198	375	22,070.0	27,169.0	30,438.0	60,847.0
UT	49	77	89	147	12,764.7	67,926.0	12,764.7	67,926.0
VT	62	81	152	233	10,500.0	14,918.0	16,570.0	57,710.0
WA	13	24	33	45	3,349.0	5,479.0	6,658.0	12,237.0
WI	108	158	148	251	20,248.0	33,016.0	34,577.0	64,412.0
WV	19	167	168	338	442.0	6,838.0	8,861.0	15,567.0
WY	60	72	97	131	33,898.0	44,079.0	34,696.0	44,079.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,246</b>	<b>14,124</b>	<b>15,124</b>	<b>19,143</b>	<b>7,296,476</b>	<b>7,330,204</b>	<b>9,943,206</b>	<b>12,726,246</b>
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<b>Percent Increase</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>1,641%</b>	<b>25,062%</b>	<b>1,226,882%</b>				
<b>National Total</b>	<b>16,183</b>	<b>17,476</b>	<b>20,356</b>	<b>27,117</b>	<b>8,872,066</b>	<b>8,600,803</b>	<b>12,394,234</b>	<b>16,406,119</b>

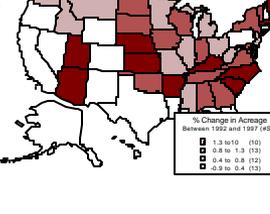
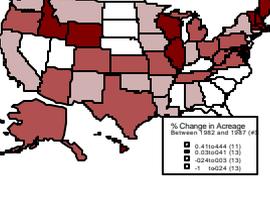
**Pre-IRCA Changes, 1982 to 1987**

**Post-IRCA Changes, 1992 to 1997**



**Changes in Acreage Operated by Hispanics: Pre-IRCA**

**Changes in Acreage Operated by Hispanics: Post-IRCA**



**Parity Report FY2000**

STATE	Hispanic Clients Served	Ag Census Served	Percent Served	Parity Difference
Alabama	81	196	41.3%	(115.2)
Alaska	5	6	83.3%	(11.0)
Am. Samoa	0	0	0.0%	0.0
AR	156	452	34.5%	(12.1)
Arkansas	10	299	3.1%	(35.1)
California	1,065	4,515	24.0%	9.3
Colorado	726	345	210.0%	(44.3)
Connecticut	3	28	10.7%	(10.0)
Delaware	3	13	23.1%	(10.0)
DC	0	0	0.0%	0.0
Florida	249	1,080	23.0%	1.6
Georgia	73	312	23.4%	(24.3)
Hawaii	1	1	100.0%	99.0
Hawaii	95	176	54.0%	37.5
Idaho	61	308	19.8%	(19.2)
Illinois	101	299	34.0%	(76.7)
Indiana	80	232	34.5%	(20.4)
Iowa	88	343	25.7%	(80.7)
Kansas	228	334	68.3%	(88.8)
Kentucky	51	405	12.6%	(44.2)
Louisiana	74	214	34.6%	(29.0)
Maine	24	38	63.2%	(13.8)
Marshall Islands	0	0	0.0%	0.0
Maryland	9	85	10.6%	(56.2)
Massachusetts	113	37	305.4%	(201.8)
Michigan	136	280	48.6%	(8.4)
Minnesota	90	290	31.0%	(83.3)
Mississippi	38	149	25.5%	(40.3)
Missouri	93	444	21.0%	(33.2)
Montana	30	173	17.3%	(34.1)
Nebraska	19	252	7.5%	(81.9)
Nevada	21	138	15.2%	(62.0)
New Hampshire	6	15	40.0%	(5.8)
New Jersey	6	112	5.4%	(15.6)
New Mexico	170	377	45.1%	(82.0)
New York	40	210	19.0%	(28.2)
North Carolina	41	300	13.7%	(40.0)
North Dakota	15	143	10.5%	(33.3)
Ohio	1	0	0.0%	(60.0)
Oklahoma	107	107	100.0%	(13.2)
Oregon	101	511	19.8%	(11.8)
Palaos	0	0	0.0%	0.0
Pennsylvania	87	215	40.5%	(30.8)
Puerto Rico	4724	197,228	2.39%	23.7
Rhode Island	11	7	157.1%	137.7
South Carolina	15	147	10.2%	(82.3)
South Dakota	10	168	6.0%	(78.2)
Tennessee	81	375	21.6%	(16.1)
Texas	6,058	7,798	77.7%	34.8
Utah	26	100	26.0%	(17.4)
Vermont	8	45	17.8%	(28.0)
Virginia	11	25	44.0%	(42.7)
Virgin Islands	62	233	26.6%	(13.2)
Washington	179	625	28.8%	(16.8)
West Virginia	34	84	40.5%	(52.6)
Wisconsin	38	267	14.2%	(58.7)
Wyoming	28	131	21.4%	(17.9)
Totals	17,379	47,471	36.6%	(27.8)

