

In 1945 Clallam County had 1,133 farms with 77,880 acres in agricultural production. Since then, agricultural production has dropped in both number of farms and number of acres in total production, as can be seen in Figure 1 and Figure 2 on page x. Since 1997 however, we see that the number of farms has started to increase again (Figure 1), while the average size of the farms has continued to decrease (Figure 3). We are seeing more farms, but they are smaller in acreage. Since 2002 the number of farms in the category “1 to 9 acres” has grown by 86 total farms, while the other categories have remained similar or decreased (Figure 4).

As of 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, Clallam County’s agricultural production was valued at \$10.6 million. This production value was based on 536 farms including 23,640 acres. (The USDA definition of farm being “any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold during the census year” (USDA 2012).) These farms employed 547 persons with a payroll of \$4.8 million.

Clallam County has designated and zoned approximately 6,198 acres of land as Agricultural Retention (AR), as the County’s GMA designated agricultural lands of long-term significance. All of this acreage is located in the Sequim-Dungeness Planning Region.

Clallam County continues to support agricultural land conservation, whether designated for long-term commercial significance or not, through property tax incentives (current use assessments). Participation in this program can provide landowners with lower property taxes. In 2016, there were 1,316 parcels in the Agricultural, Open Space tax incentive program, equating to approximately 11,873 acres. 741 out of the 1,316 parcels (56%) in the Agricultural, Open Space tax designation fall within a 200 foot buffer of Type 1 – 5 streams and designated wetlands.

Figure 1.

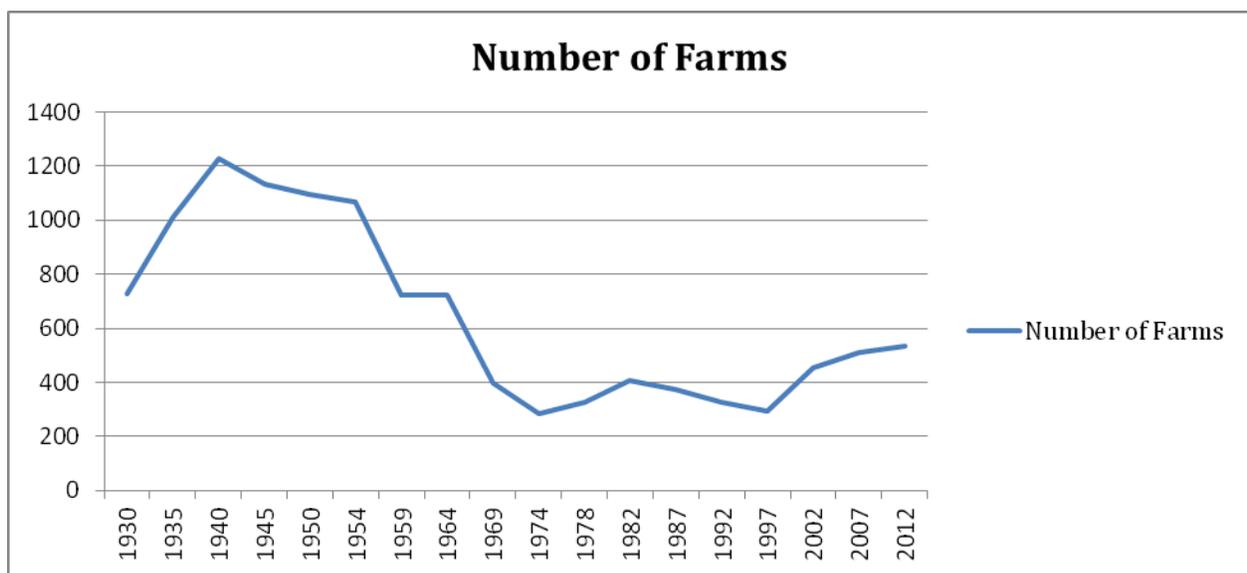


Figure 2.

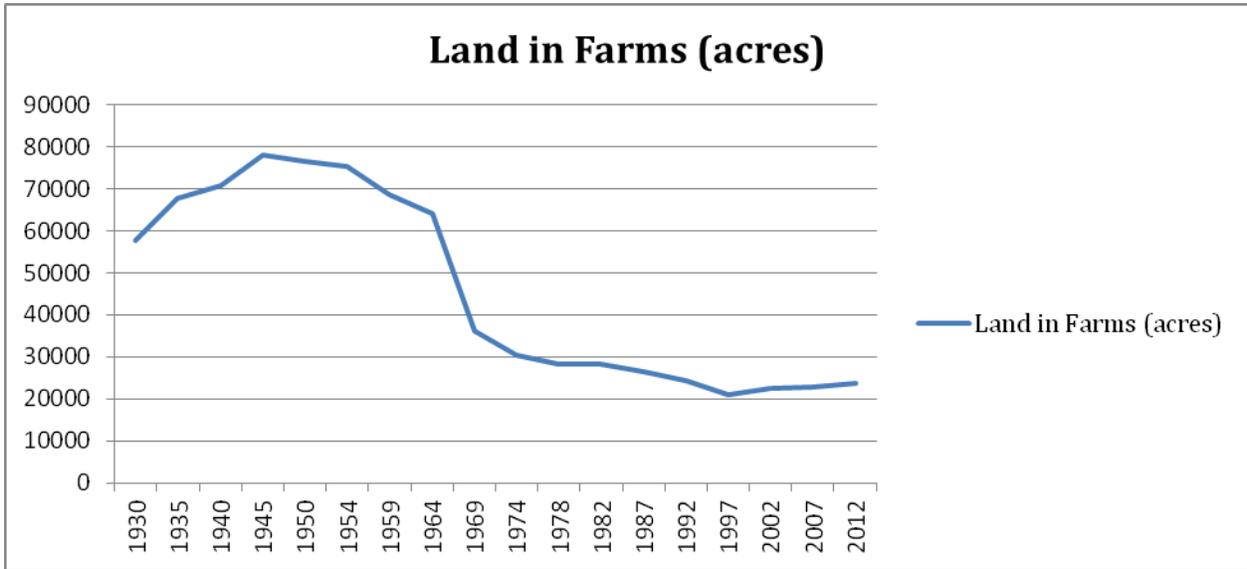


Figure 3.

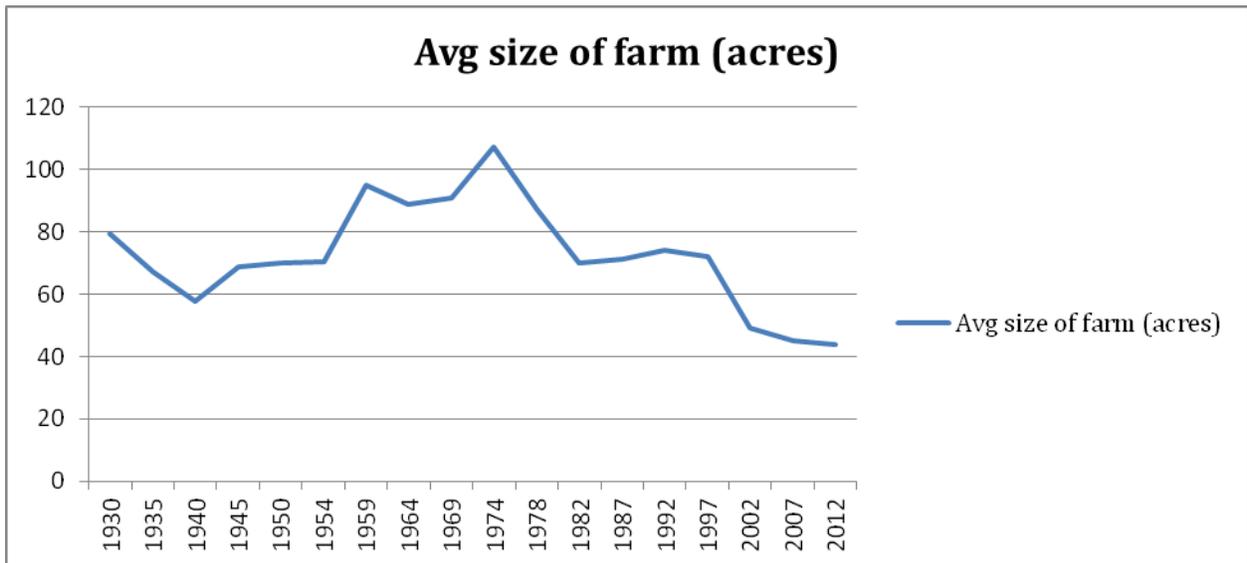


Figure 4.

