



The Small Family Farm

In 1935, at the peak of farming in this country, there were more than 6 million farms in the United States. By 2012, that number was down to two million, a dramatic decrease accounted for in large part by the continuing disappearance of small family farms. For this research project, you will identify some of the impacts of the decline of the small family farm on life in the United States. As you learn more about this subject, consider the following questions:

- What is a “small family farm?”
- Do small family farms still exist?
- Can a farm that is under contract to a major agricultural producer like Purdue or Tysons be considered a “small family farm?”
- What kinds of interactions have taken place between small American farmers and big agriculture during this period?
- What has been the effect of this decline on the economy, financial independence, health, diet, and the population of rural areas?

After conducting this general research, focus on one aspect of this issue that really interests you. What questions do you have about this aspect?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Conduct some additional research to answer your question. Take notes, and record your sources. Then write an explanatory paper about this aspect of the decline of small family farming in America.