

Locational and Socio-Economic Characteristics of New Small Farms in Mid America

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ABSTRACT

With the two most recent Censuses of Agriculture showing a net increase in the number of small farms, many researchers have examined this phenomenon in recent years. These studies, however, have not examined the locational aspect of these new small farms, nor the socioeconomic characteristics of the individual small farmers. The assumption has been that these new "small farms" are not actual farms, but rural residences.

The purposes of this study were to determine if the new small farms tend to be located on rough land rather than flatter land, and if the new small farmers have distinct socioeconomic