

2. Farmers and Farmland

In 2005, about 1.96 million were engaged in commercial farming (i.e., had 30 and over ares of land in cultivation, or an annual income of at least 500,000 yen from the sale of farm produce). Of these commercial farm households, 22.6 percent were "engaged exclusively in farming" for their livelihoods; 15.7 percent were "mainly in farming" (had income from other sources in addition to farming, although their main income came from farming); and 61.7 percent were "mainly in other job" (had non-farm income that exceeded their farm income).

Of the commercial farm household members, 3.35 million people were actually engaged in farming (commercial farmers) in 2005, of whom 58.2 percent were aged 65 years and over.

In 2005, the total income per commercial farm household was 5.03 million yen, down 1.1 percent from the previous year. Of that amount, 1.24 million yen was from farm income, 2.19 million yen from non-farm income, and 1.60 million yen from pension benefits and other sources.

Table 5.4
Commercial Farm Households and Commercial Farmers

(Thousands)						
Year	Commercial farm households				Commercial farmers	Aged 65 years and over (%)
	Total	Engaged exclusively in farming	With other job			
			Mainly farming	Mainly other job		
1990	2,971	473	521	1,977	4,819	33.1
1995	2,651	428	498	1,725	4,140	43.5
2000	2,337	426	350	1,561	3,891	52.9
2005	1,963	443	308	1,212	3,353	58.2

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.