Use the following website: <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/index.asp> You will be analyzing and comparing reports under the “State and County Profiles.”

**Part I:** Use the Boone County profile to answer the following questions **(10pts)**

1. What are the 2 highest state rankings, and identify the most raised or sold items. (4pts)
2. What makes the column for State Rank and the column for Universe different? (1pt)
3. Which of the commodities found in Boone County is the rarest in Illinois counties? (1pt)
4. Identify 2 commodities, crops or livestock where Boone County is ranked in the *lower 50% of U.S. counties*. (2pts)
5. In 2002, the average age of principal operators of farms in Boone County was 54.5 years. When compared to the average age in 2007, what can we infer about the population of farmers in Boone County? (1pt)
6. What do you infer about the gender roles in farming populations based on the census data? (1pt)

**Part II:** **(2pts)** You will need to choose **4 counties** from different regions of the U.S. to compare to Boone County. To get the information you need, click on a state on the map and then choose a county from the state map. You need to choose counties that represent each of the different types of agriculture found in the U.S. Boone County will represent Mixed Crop and Livestock so you need to choose 3 counties to represent 3 of the following: ***Dairy, Grain, Livestock ranching, Mediterranean and Commercial Gardening***. List the Counties you choose in the table below along with the state they are found in.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agriculture Type** | **County, State** |
| Mixed Crop and Livestock | Boone, Illinois |
| Dairy |  |
| Grain |  |
| Livestock Ranching |  |
| Mediterranean |  |
| Commercial Gardening |  |

Complete the following table using the information from the County Profiles. Fill in the names of your counties across the top. **(14pts)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Data | Boone, IL |  |  |  |  |
| % Change in Number of Farms | +13 |  |  |  |  |
| % Change in Acreage | -7 |  |  |  |  |
| % Change in Average Size of Farm | -18 |  |  |  |  |
| %Crop Sales/Livestock Sales | 86/14 |  |  |  |  |
| Most Common Farm Size | 10-49 Acres |  |  |  |  |
| #1 Commodity Group in Sales | Grain, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas |  |  |  |  |
| #2 Commodity Group in Sales | Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture & sod |  |  |  |  |
| #3 Commodity Group in Sales | Milk and other dairy products |  |  |  |  |
| #1 Use of acres | Corn for grain |  |  |  |  |
| #2 Use of acres | Soybeans for beans |  |  |  |  |
| #3 Use of acres | Forage |  |  |  |  |
| % Principal Operators w/Other primary occupation | 44% |  |  |  |  |
| Average Age of Principal Operator | 57.6 years |  |  |  |  |

**Part III:** **(4pts)** When you have finished compiling all the information in the table, use the information to write a free response regarding the current status of agriculture. *Focus on the similarities and differences between regions and what they indicate for the future of agriculture in the U.S.*