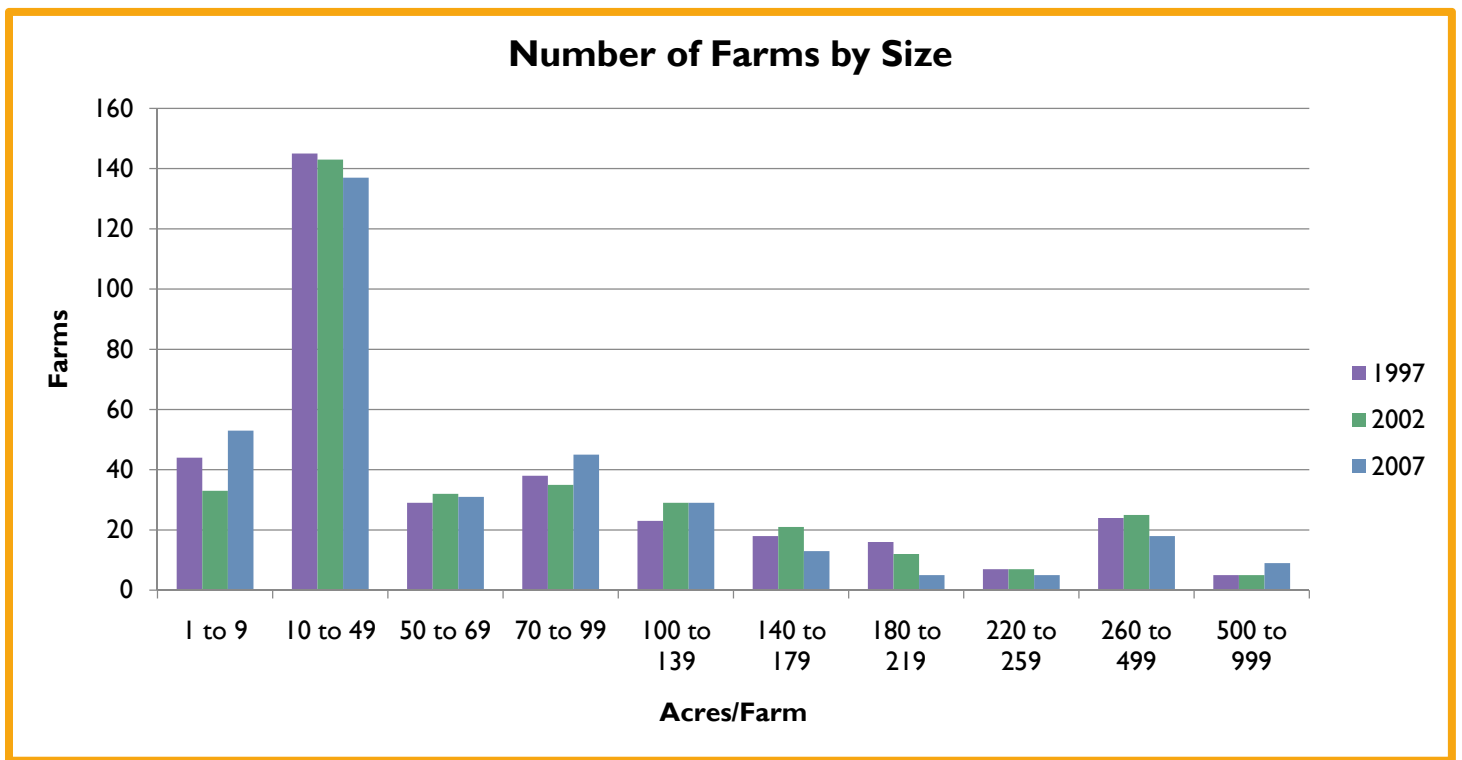


## The majority of farms in Roanoke County are 10 to 49 acres in size.

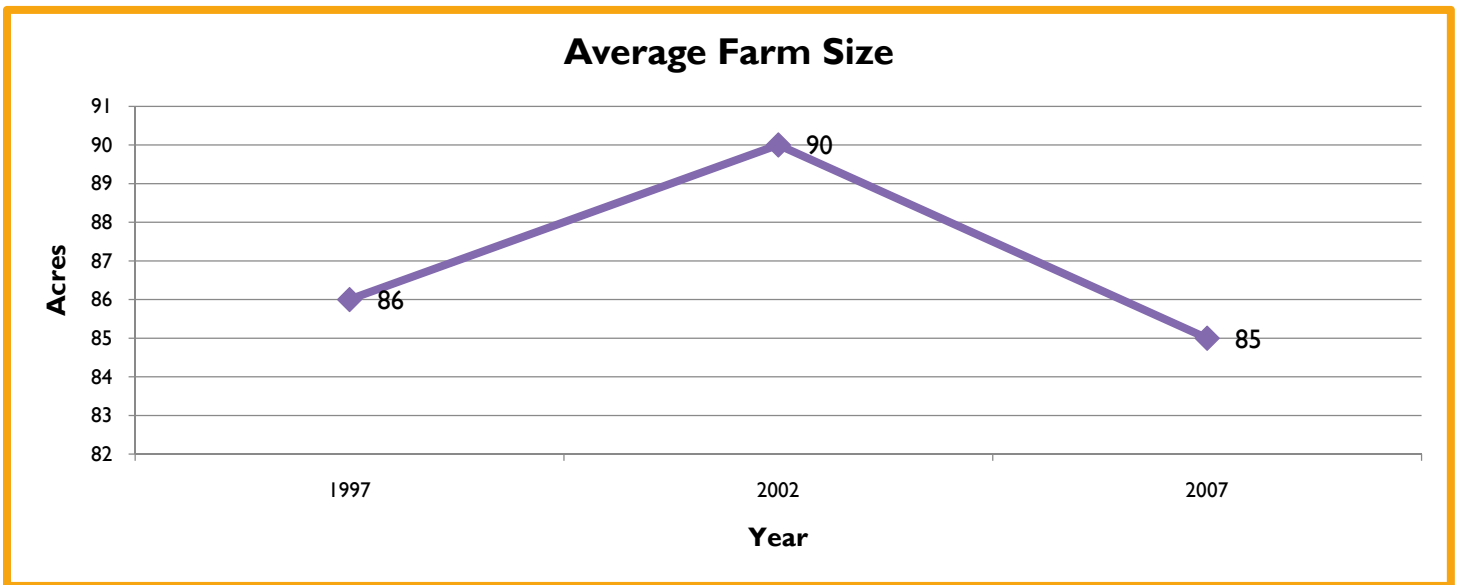


Source: 2007, 2002 and 1997 USDA Census of Agriculture

For the past decade, the majority of farms in Roanoke County have been between 10 to 49 acres in size. The number of farms this size, however, is continuously decreasing. In 1997, 145 farms or 41.5% of farms in Roanoke County were between 10 and 49 acres. The number decreased to 143 in 2002 and again to 137 in 2007. Although the number of farms 10 to 49 acres in size dropped, smaller farms measuring between 1 and 139 acres in size increased between 1997 and 2007. Larger farms of 140 to 499 acres decreased in size over the same period and the largest farms in the County, between 500 and 999 acres, increased.

The majority of farms in Virginia, like in Roanoke, are between 10 and 49 acres in size. While the majority of farms in both Roanoke County and Virginia are smaller, Virginia had over 360 farms, or approximately 1% of farms, in 2002 and 2007 that were 2,000 acres or more in size; illustrating the small scale of Roanoke County's agriculture. Adjusted 1997 data was not available for comparison.

## Farms in Roanoke County are becoming smaller.



Source: 2007, 2002 and 1997 USDA Census of Agriculture

Average farm size in Roanoke County also decreased in the last 5 years from 90 acres in 2002 to 85 acres in 2007; slightly lower than the 1997 average of 86 acres per farm. Farms across the state follow the same trend and average double Roanoke County's farm size at 177 acres in 1997, 181 in 2002 and 171 in 2007.