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SPECIAL REPORTS

Part 12

Methods and Procedures

Prepared under the supervision of

RAY HURLEY

Chief, Agriculture Division

**HOW THE CENSUS WAS TAKEN • DESCRIPTION OF
METHODS AND PROCEDURES •**



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PREFACE

Volume III, Special Reports, comprises one of the volumes presenting final summaries and results for the 1954 Census of Agriculture. The purpose of Part 12 is to outline the methods and procedures used in taking and compiling the results of the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

Since 1920, the Bureau of the Census has taken once each 5 years a Census of the Nation's farms and agricultural production. The increasing complexity of agriculture, and the accelerated rate of agricultural changes, resulting from increased technological developments and mechanization, have made the taking of a Nationwide Census of Agriculture a complex and difficult task. This report describes briefly the methods and procedures devised and used for meeting the many problems involved in the 1954 Census of Agriculture of the United States.

This report was prepared under the supervision of Ray Hurley, Chief, Agriculture Division, and with the assistance of Orvin Wilhite, J. Thomas Breen, and Henry A. Tucker.

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UNITED STATES CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1954

REPORTS

Volume I.—Counties and State Economic Areas. Statistics for counties include number of farms, acreage, value, and farm operators; farms by color and tenure of operator; facilities and equipment; use of commercial fertilizer; farm labor; farm expenditures; livestock and livestock products; specified crops harvested; farms classified by type of farm and by economic class; and value of products sold by source.

Data for State economic areas include farms and farm characteristics by tenure of operator, by type of farm, and by economic class. Volume I is published in 33 parts.

Volume II.—General Report. Statistics by Subjects, United States Census of Agriculture, 1954. Summary data and analyses of the data for States, for Geographic Divisions, and for the United States by subjects.

Volume III.—Special Reports

Part 1.—Multiple-Unit Operations. This report will be similar to Part 2 of Volume V of the reports for the 1950 Census of Agriculture. It will present statistics for approximately 900 counties and State economic areas in 12 Southern States and Missouri for the number and characteristics of multiple-unit operations and farms in multiple units.

Part 2.—Ranking Agricultural Counties. This special report will present statistics for selected items of inventory and agricultural production for the leading counties in the United States.

Part 3.—Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, District of Columbia, and U. S. Possessions. These areas were not included in the 1954 Census of Agriculture. The available current data from various Government sources will be compiled and published in this report.

Part 4.—Agriculture, 1954, a Graphic Summary. This report will present graphically some of the significant facts regarding agriculture and agricultural production as revealed by the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

Part 5.—Farm-Mortgage Debt. This will be a cooperative study by the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Census. It will present, by States, data based on the 1954 Census of Agriculture and a special mail survey conducted in January 1956, on the number of mortgaged farms, the amount of mortgage debt, and the amount of debt held by principal lending agencies.

Part 6.—Irrigation in Humid Areas. This cooperative report by the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Census will present data obtained by a mail survey of operators of irrigated farms in 28 States on the source of water, method of applying water, number of pumps used, acres of crops irrigated in 1954 and 1955, the number of times each crop was irrigated, and the cost of irrigation equipment and the irrigation system.

Part 7.—Popular Report—The American Farmer in 1954. This report is planned to be a general, easy-to-read publication for the general public on the status and broad characteristics of United States agriculture. It will seek to delineate such aspects of agriculture as the geographic distribution and differences by size of farm for such items as farm acreage, principal crops, and important kinds of livestock, farm facilities, farm equipment, use of fertilizer, soil conservation practices, farm tenure, and farm income.

Part 8.—Size of Operation by Type of Farm. This will be a cooperative special report to be prepared in cooperation with the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This report will contain data for 119 economic sub-

regions (essentially general type-of-farming areas) showing the general characteristics for each type of farm by economic class. It will provide data for a current analysis of the differences that exist among groups of farms of the same type. It will furnish statistical basis for a realistic examination of production of such commodities as wheat, cotton, and dairy products in connection with actual or proposed governmental policies and programs.

Part 9.—Farmers and Farm Production in the United States.

The purpose of this report is to present an analysis of the characteristics of farmers and farm production for the most important types of farms as shown by data for the 1954 Census of Agriculture. The analysis deals with the relative importance, pattern of resource use, some measures of efficiency, and problems of adjustment and change for the principal types of farms. The report was prepared in cooperation with the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The list of chapters (published separately only) and titles for each chapter are as follows:

Chapter I—*Wheat Producers and Wheat Production*

II—*Cotton Producers and Cotton Production*

III—*Tobacco and Peanut Producers and Production*

IV—*Poultry Producers and Poultry Production*

V—*Dairy Producers and Dairy Production*

VI—*Western Stock Ranches and Livestock Farms*

VII—*Cash-Grain and Livestock Producers in the Corn Belt*

VIII—*Part-Time Farming*

IX—*Agricultural Producers and Production in the United States—A General View*

Part 10.—Use of Fertilizer and Lime. The purpose of this report is to present in one publication most of the detailed data compiled for the 1954 Census of Agriculture regarding the use of fertilizer and lime. The report presents data for counties, State economic areas, and generalized type-of-farming areas regarding the quantity used, acreage on which used, and expenditures for fertilizer and lime. The Agricultural Research Service cooperated with the Bureau of the Census in the preparation of this report.

Part 11.—Farmers' Expenditures. This report presents detailed data on expenditures for a large number of items used for farm production in 1955, and on the living expenditures of farm operators' families. The data were collected and compiled cooperatively by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of the Census.

Part 12.—Methods and Procedures. This report contains an outline and a description of the methods and procedures used in taking and compiling the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

CONTENTS

	Page
Chapter I—Planning and Preparing for the Census.....	7
Chapter II—The Enumeration.....	19
Chapter III—Central Office Processing and Publication.....	51