

# U.S. CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE : 1959

Final Report—Vol. V—Part 3—Special Reports

*LEADING COUNTIES*

*LIVESTOCK and PRODUCTS*

*CROPS • FRUITS • VALUES*

## Ranking Agricultural Counties

*SPECIAL REPORTS*

*Prepared under the supervision of*  
**RAY HURLEY, Chief**  
Agriculture Division



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Luther H. Hodges, *Secretary*

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Richard M. Scammon, *Director (From May 1, 1961)*

Robert W. Burgess, *Director (To March 3, 1961)*





# BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

RICHARD M. SCAMMON, *Director*

A. ROSS ECKLER, *Deputy Director*  
HOWARD C. GRIEVES, *Assistant Director*  
CONRAD TAEUBER, *Assistant Director*  
    LOWELL T. GALT, *Special Assistant*  
    HERMAN P. MILLER, *Special Assistant*  
MORRIS H. HANSEN, *Assistant Director for Statistical Standards*  
    JULIUS SHISKIN, *Chief Economic Statistician*  
    JOSEPH F. DALY, *Chief Mathematical Statistician*  
CHARLES B. LAWRENCE, JR., *Assistant Director for Operations*  
WALTER L. KEHRES, *Assistant Director for Administration*  
CALVERT L. DEDRICK, *Chief International Statistical Programs Office*  
A. W. VON STRUVE, *Acting Public Information Officer*

**Agriculture Division—**

RAY HURLEY, *Chief*  
WARDER B. JENKINS, *Assistant Chief*  
ORVIN L. WILHITE, *Assistant Chief*

**Field Division—**

JEFFERSON D. MCPIKE, *Chief*  
IVAN G. MUNRO, *Assistant Chief*

**Machine Tabulation Division—**

C. F. VAN AKEN, *Chief*  
HENRY A. BLOOM, *Assistant Chief*

**Administrative Service Division—EVERETT H. BURKE, Chief**

**Budget and Management Division—CHARLES H. ALEXANDER, Chief**

**Business Division—HARVEY KAILIN, Chief**

**Construction Statistics Division—SAMUEL J. DENNIS, Chief**

**Decennial Operations Division—GLEN S. TAYLOR, Chief**

**Demographic Surveys Division—ROBERT B. PEARL, Chief**

**Economic Operations Division—MARION D. BINGHAM, Chief**

**Electronic Systems Division—ROBERT F. DRURY, Chief**

**Foreign Trade Division—J. EDWARD ELY, Chief**

**Geography Division—WILLIAM T. FAY, Chief**

**Governments Division—ALLEN D. MANVEL, Chief**

**Housing Division—WAYNE F. DAUGHERTY, Chief**

**Industry Division—MAXWELL R. CONKLIN, Chief**

**Personnel Division—JAMES P. TAFF, Chief**

**Population Division—HOWARD G. BRUNSMAN, Chief**

**Statistical Methods Division—JOSEPH STEINBERG, Chief**

**Statistical Reports Division—EDWIN D. GOLDFIELD, Chief**

**Statistical Research Division—WILLIAM N. HURWITZ, Chief**

**Transportation Division—DONALD E. CHURCH, Chief**

Statistics in this report supersede figures shown in Series AC59-1 and AC59-2,  
Preliminary Reports

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: A60-9482

SUGGESTED CITATION

U.S. Bureau of the Census. U.S. Census of Agriculture: 1959. Vol. V, Special Reports  
Part 3, Ranking Agricultural Counties  
• U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1962

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.,  
or any of the Field Offices of the Department of Commerce. Price 60 cents

## PREFACE

Volume V, Special Reports, comprises one of the volumes presenting final summaries and results for the 1959 Census of Agriculture. Part 3, Ranking Agricultural Counties, presents statistics for acres of specified crops, numbers of specified livestock, and selected items of agricultural production for the leading counties of the United States.

The 1959 Census of Agriculture was taken in conformity with the Act of Congress of August 31, 1954 (amended August 1957), which codified Title 13, United States Code.

The compilation of statistics and the preparation of this special report were under the supervision of Ray Hurley, Chief, Agriculture Division. James M. Lindsey and Virgil L. McClain, Jr., planned and supervised the preparation of the statistical tables. The maps were prepared under the supervision of William T. Fay, Chief, Geography Division.

# UNITED STATES CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1959

## FINAL REPORTS

**Volume I—Counties**—A separate part for each State. Statistics on number of farms; farm characteristics; acreage in farms; cropland and other uses of land; land-use practices; irrigation; farm facilities and equipment; farm labor; farm expenditures; use of commercial fertilizer; number and kind of livestock; acres and production of crops; value of farm products; characteristics of commercial farms, farms classified by tenure, by size, type, and economic class; and comparative data from the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

Volume I is published in 54 parts as follows:

Part	State or States	Part	State or States	Part	State or States
1	New England States:		West North Central—Continued		Mountain:
2	Maine.	19	South Dakota.	38	Montana.
3	New Hampshire.	20	Nebraska.	39	Idaho.
4	Vermont.	21	Kansas.	40	Wyoming.
5	Massachusetts.		South Atlantic:	41	Colorado.
6	Rhode Island.	22	Delaware.	42	New Mexico.
7	Connecticut.	23	Maryland.	43	Arizona.
8	Middle Atlantic States:	24	Virginia.	44	Utah.
9	New York.	25	West Virginia.	45	Nevada.
10	New Jersey.	26	North Carolina.		Pacific:
11	Pennsylvania.	27	South Carolina.	46	Washington.
12	East North Central:	28	Georgia.	47	Oregon.
13	Ohio.	29	Florida.	48	California.
14	Indiana.		East South Central:	49	Alaska.
15	Illinois.	30	Kentucky.	50	Hawaii
16	Michigan.	31	Tennessee.		Other Areas:
17	Wisconsin.	32	Alabama.	51	American Samoa.
18	West North Central:	33	Mississippi.	52	Guam.
	Minnesota.		West South Central:	53	Puerto Rico.
	Iowa.	34	Arkansas.	54	Virgin Islands.
	Missouri.	35	Louisiana.		
	North Dakota.	36	Oklahoma.		
		37	Texas.		

**Volume II—General Report.**—Statistics by Subjects, United States Census of Agriculture, 1959. Summary data and analyses of the data by States, for geographic divisions, and for the United States, by subjects, as illustrated by the chapter titles listed below:

Chapter	Title	Chapter	Title
I	Farms and Land in Farms.	VII	Field Crops and Vegetables.
II	Age, Residence, Years on Farm, Work Off Farm.	VIII	Fruits and Nuts, Horticultural Specialties, Forest Products.
III	Farm Facilities, Farm Equipment.	IX	Value of Farm Products.
IV	Farm Labor, Use of Fertilizer, Farm Expenditures, and Cash Rent.	X	Color, Race, and Tenure of Farm Operator.
V	Size of Farm.	XI	Economic Class of Farm.
VI	Livestock and Livestock Products.	XII	Type of Farm.

**Volume III—Irrigation of Agricultural Lands.** Western States (Dry Areas)—Data by States for drainage basins and a summary for the area, including number and types of irrigation organizations, source of water, expenditures for works and equipment since 1950, water used and acres served for irrigation purposes.

**Volume IV—Drainage of Agricultural Lands.** Data by States on land in drainage organizations, number and types of organizations, cost of drainage and drainage works.

**Volume V—Special Reports, Part 1.—Horticultural Specialties.** Statistics by States and a summary for the United States presenting number and kinds of operations; gross receipts and/or gross sales; sales of nursery products, flower seed, vegetables grown under glass, and propagated mushrooms; number of container-grown plants; inventory products; sales of bulb crops; employment; structures and equipment.

Titles of additional parts of this volume are not available as this report goes to press.

# RANKING AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES

## CONTENTS

	Page	
Introduction.....	VII	
Table--	Table page	Map page
1.—Totals for the 100 leading counties compared with the United States totals for specified items: Censuses of 1959 and 1954.....	1	...
2.—Value of all farm products sold—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	3	3
LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS		
3.—Horses and mules on farms—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	4	4
4.—Cattle and calves on farms—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	5	5
5.—Cattle and calves sold alive—100 leading counties in number sold, with value, 1959; with comparisons, 1954....	6	7
6.—Milk cows on farms—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	8	8
7.—Whole milk sold—100 leading counties in quantity sold, with value, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	9	10
8.—Value of dairy products sold—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	11	11
9.—Hogs and pigs on farms—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	12	12
10.—Hogs and pigs sold alive—100 leading counties in number sold, with value, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	13	14
11.—Sheep and lambs on farms—100 leading counties with wool production, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	15	16
12.—Sheep and lambs sold alive—100 leading counties in number sold alive, with value, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	17	18
13.—Chickens, 4 months old and over, on farms—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	19	19
14.—Chickens sold—100 leading counties in number sold, with value, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	20	21
15.—Chicken eggs sold—100 leading counties in dozens of eggs sold, with value, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	22	23
16.—Turkeys raised—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	24	24
17.—Turkey hens kept for breeding—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	25	...
18.—Value of poultry and poultry products sold—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	26	26
FIELD CROPS HARVESTED		
19.—Corn harvested for grain—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	27	28
20.—Sorghums for all purposes, except for sirup—100 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954....	29	29
21.—All wheat harvested—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954....	30	31
22.—Oats harvested—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	32	33
23.—Barley harvested—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	34	35
24.—Rice harvested—50 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	36	36
25.—Flax harvested—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	37	38
26.—Soybeans for all purposes—100 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	39	39
27.—Soybeans harvested for beans—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	40	40
28.—Peanuts harvested for picking or threshing—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	41	42
29.—Land from which hay was cut, excluding soybean, cowpea, peanut, and sorghum hays—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	43	43
30.—Alfalfa cut for hay and for dehydrating—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	44	45
31.—Irish potatoes harvested for home use or for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	46	47
32.—Sweetpotatoes harvested for home use or for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	48	...
33.—Cotton harvested—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	50	51
34.—Tobacco harvested—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	52	53
35.—Sugar beets harvested for sugar—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	54	55
VEGETABLES (except Irish and sweet potatoes)		
36.—Vegetables harvested for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, with value, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	56	57
37.—Snap beans (bush and pole types) harvested for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	58	...
38.—Green peas harvested for sale—50 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	59	...
39.—Sweet corn harvested for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	60	...
40.—Cabbage harvested for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	61	...
41.—Tomatoes harvested for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	62	...
42.—Dry onions harvested for sale—50 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	63	...
43.—Watermelons harvested for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	64	...
FRUITS, NUTS, AND HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES		
44.—Value of fruits, including berries and other small fruits, and nuts sold—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	65	65
45.—Apples—100 leading counties in number of trees of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	66	...
46.—Peaches—100 leading counties in number of trees of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	68	...
47.—Pears—100 leading counties in number of trees of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	70	...
48.—Plums and prunes—100 leading counties in number of trees of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	72	...

	Page	
Table—	Table page	Map page
49.—Cherries—100 leading counties in number of trees of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	74	...
50.—Oranges, including tangerines and mandarins—50 leading counties in number of trees of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	76	76
51.—Grapefruit—50 leading counties in number of trees of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	77	77
52.—Pecans—100 leading counties in number of trees of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	78	79
53.—Grapes—100 leading counties in number of grapevines of all ages, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	80	81
54.—Strawberries harvested for sale—100 leading counties in acreage, with quantity harvested, 1959; with comparisons, 1954.....	82	83
55.—Nursery and greenhouse products, flower and vegetable seeds and plants, and bulbs sold—100 leading counties, 1959, with comparisons, 1954.....	84	84
INDEX		
Counties included in Ranking Agricultural Counties, 1959.....		Page 85

# INTRODUCTION

## RANKING AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES

**Introduction.**—This report presents statistics for the leading counties in the United States for selected items. The position in rank is based upon data from the 1959 Census of Agriculture. Comparative data and rank for the 1954 Census also are shown for the leading counties.

The leading counties were determined by the size of the agricultural resource, or production item, selected as a basis for making the ranking. The data are given for the 100 leading counties for most selected items; however, if the commercial importance of an item was limited to only a few areas, the number was reduced to the 50 leading counties.

**Method of Ranking the Counties.**—The leading counties were determined by the size of the selected item of inventory, acreage, or production for the county. The county with the largest total for the selected item was ranked first; the county with the next largest total, second; et cetera.

More than half of the tables present two related items with the rank of each county for each item. For example, number sold and value of sales are given in the table for cattle and calves sold alive, and acres and bushels harvested are shown in the table for wheat. The 100 leading counties for one item are often not the same for the related item. For instance, Turner County, South Dakota, ranks 11th in acres of oats harvested for grain, but ranks 88th in bushels of oats harvested.

**Qualifications of Data and Rankings.**—Data for leading agricultural counties usually indicate agricultural areas of commercial importance. The group of 100 or 50 leading counties usually accounts for a significant part of the United States total, as indicated by Table 1. The data on leading counties are of special interest, not only to the residents and farmers of those counties, but to the residents and farmers of adjoining counties, and of the State as a whole.

Commercial production of specific agricultural commodities, such as rice or flax, is concentrated in two or three areas, while cattle sold and land from which hay was cut are dispersed over a wide area. The dot maps for the items presented indicate clearly the extent of, or lack of, concentration. Characteristics of the land, soil conditions, and climate, as well as mechanization, specialization, and improved farming practices such as disease control, seed selection, irrigation, and use of fertilizer, have been important factors affecting the degree of concentration and intensity in the production of many agricultural commodities.

It is important to note that the rank of counties is based on data for a single year. Unusual weather or economic conditions prevailing in a specific area in 1959 may have had a significant effect upon the ranking of counties in the area. Drought, a killing spring freeze, floods, storms, etc., may have had an abnormal influence upon agricultural production in some counties. Significant changes in rank of an individual county, or group of

counties, could result if data for several years were used as a basis for establishing rank.

Ranking of a county is influenced by the size (total land area or total farm area) of the county. It may be a leading county only because of its size, and due to the fact that a large portion of the land in the county was cropland from which predominantly one crop was harvested.

Table 2 presents the 100 leading counties based on the best available overall measure of farm production—the gross value of all farm products sold.

Ranking of counties for the different types of livestock was based on number on hand or on number sold. Selection of leading counties in livestock products was based on quantity sold or value of sales. For crops, the ranking was usually based on the number of acres harvested. The quantity harvested, for the counties ranked on the basis of acreage harvested, is usually given in the same table. The relative ranking of the county on the basis of production is shown provided the county was one of the leading 100 counties in production for that item, and provided it was one of the 100 leading counties in acreage for that item. The ranking of all tree fruits and grapes, for which acreage harvested data were not available, was based on the number of trees or vines of all ages.

**Definitions and Explanations.**—The definitions and explanations given here are limited to a few items. Complete and detailed definitions and explanations may be found in Volume I of the Reports for the 1959 Census of Agriculture.

**A Farm.**—Places of less than 10 acres in 1959 were counted as farms if the estimated sales of agricultural products for the year amounted to at least \$250. Places of 10 or more acres in 1959 were counted as farms if the estimated sales of agricultural products for the year amounted to at least \$50. Places having less than the \$50 or \$250 minimum estimated sales in 1959 were also counted as farms if they could normally be expected to produce agricultural products in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of the definition. This additional qualification resulted in the inclusion as farms of some places engaged in farming operations for the first time in 1959 and places affected by crop failure or other unusual conditions.

For the 1954 Census of Agriculture, places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms if the annual *value* of agricultural products, whether for home use or for sale but exclusive of home-garden products, amounted to \$150 or more. Places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms only if the annual *sales* of agricultural products amounted to \$150 or more. A few places with very low agricultural production because of unusual circumstances, such as crop failure, were also counted as farms if they normally could have been expected to meet the minimum value or sales criteria.