

CHAPTER I. Farm Expenditures

Background

The tremendous increase in the productivity of the Nation's agriculture has been largely the result of gains made in technology. This technology has allowed farmers to substitute capital inputs, such as fertilizer, chemicals, commercial feeds, and hybrid seeds, for land; and machines and other labor saving devices for labor. In 1974, the expenditures for inputs related to agricultural production, as measured by the agriculture census, amounted to \$61 billion.

In each of the 17 censuses since 1870, except for the 1935 census, data have been obtained for selected expenditure items. In 1950, 1954, 1959, and 1964, expenditure data were based on a sample of approximately 20 percent of the farms. For all censuses from 1954 to date, expenditures relate to the census year. For earlier censuses, expenditures covered the calendar year prior to the census year. The 1969 and 1974 censuses make available total expenditure data both for all farms and for farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. Data for institutional farms, grazing associations, and Indian reservations are included only in the tables for all farms.

Published Data

In addition to the expenditure information in this chapter, data concerning farms and production expenses are available in other 1974 census publications as indicated in table 1.

Definitions and Explanations

Change in Farm Definition

In 1969, places with 10 acres or more and sales of \$50 or more and all places with sales of \$250 or more, regardless of acres in the place, were counted as farms. For the 1974 census, the definition was

changed to count as farms only those places with \$1,000 or more of sales regardless of number of acres in the place. Had these excluded places been counted as farms, they would have increased the 1974 number of farms by 6.6 percent. Expenditures for farm production inputs by these places amounted to \$113 million

Table 1. Other Published Data for Farm Production Expenses: 1974

	Geographic area	Time period	Farm classification
VOLUME I			
State Tables			
All farms:			
5.....	State and United States..	1974, 1969, 1964	Production expenses, farms and dollars.
9.....	State and United States..	1974	All farms and farms with sales of under \$2,500 by occupation and age, and abnormal farms.
Farms with sales of \$2,500 and over:			
17.....	State and United States..	1974, 1969, 1964	Farms with sales of \$2,500 and over.
28.....	State and United States..	1974	By tenure of farm operator and type of organization.
29.....	State and United States..	1974	By age and principal occupation of farm operator.
30.....	State and United States..	1974	By size of farm.
31.....	State and United States..	1974	By value of agricultural products sold.
32.....	State and United States..	1974	By standard industrial classification of farms.
33.....	State and United States..	1974	By standard industrial classification of farms and by value of products sold.
County Summary Tables			
All Farms:			
9.....	County and State.....	1974	Farms by farm production expenses.
Farms with sales of \$2,500 and over:			
10.....	County and State.....	1974	Expenses by item purchased.
County Tables			
Total farms and farms with sales of \$2,500 and over:			
5.....	County and State.....	1974, 1969	Production expenses, farms and dollars.
VOLUME II			
Part 2.....	United States.....	1974	Farms by size.
Part 3.....	United States.....	1974	Farms by tenure and type of organization.
Part 7.....	United States.....	1974	Farms by value of sales group.
Part 8.....	United States.....	1974	Farms by standard industrial classification of farms.