

DESCRIPTION OF THE CENSUS Continued

**Definition for final reports**—For all final reports, the 1974 statistics are in accordance with the 1974 definition, which differs from the earlier definition in only two respects:

1. The criterion for number of "acres in place" has been deleted.
2. The criterion for minimum value of agricultural products sold has been changed to \$1,000.

Thus for 1974, a farm was defined to include all land on which agricultural operations were conducted at any time in the census year under the day-to-day control of an individual management, and from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold during the census year. Control may have been exercised through ownership or management, or through a lease, rental, or cropping arrangement. Places having less than the minimum \$1,000 sales in the census year were also counted as farms if

they normally could be expected to produce agricultural products in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of the definition. About 286,401 farms or 12.4 percent were retained as farms based on their potential to sell \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in most years.

To provide users with measures of the effect of the change in definition, several special tabulations were made showing characteristics of farms for both the old and new definitions. Tables were published in volume I showing data for each State and its counties. Data are shown in this report for both the 1974 and 1959 definitions along with characteristics of places which would have qualified as farms in 1969 but were excluded under the 1974 definition. Table 6 shows data for both definitions by State, and table 7 presents characteristics of excluded places for the United States.

The 1974 "all farms" data shown in volumes I and II are for those agricultural

operations with at least \$1,000 in total (or potential) sales of farm products. Data shown for all farms for 1969 and earlier censuses reflect the definition in effect for those years. Tables limited to farms with sales of \$2,500 or more are not affected by the change in definition and thus are historically comparable.

**New Data Collected**

A number of data inquiries were asked on the regular census report form for the first time in 1974, and several other items were modified by increasing the detail of the inquiries. Many of these items historically had been included in follow-on surveys in prior censuses. They were included in the 1974 census because of an urgent need for the data, and because the delay in planning for the census occasioned by the lack of appropriated funds precluded collecting data through follow-on surveys.

**Agricultural Operations Excluded by 1974 Farm Definition as a Percent of All Farms: 1974 (All Farms—County Unit Basis)**

