

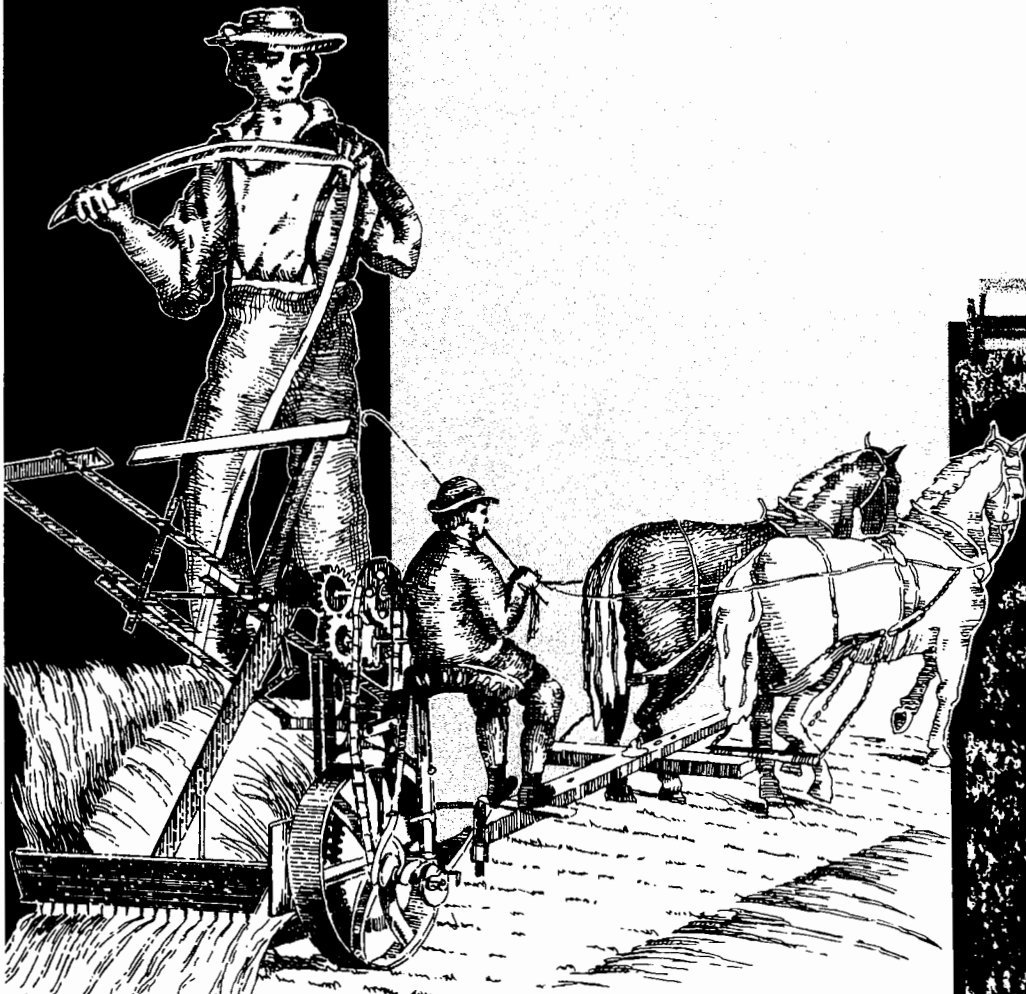
1974 Census of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Volume I Part 39

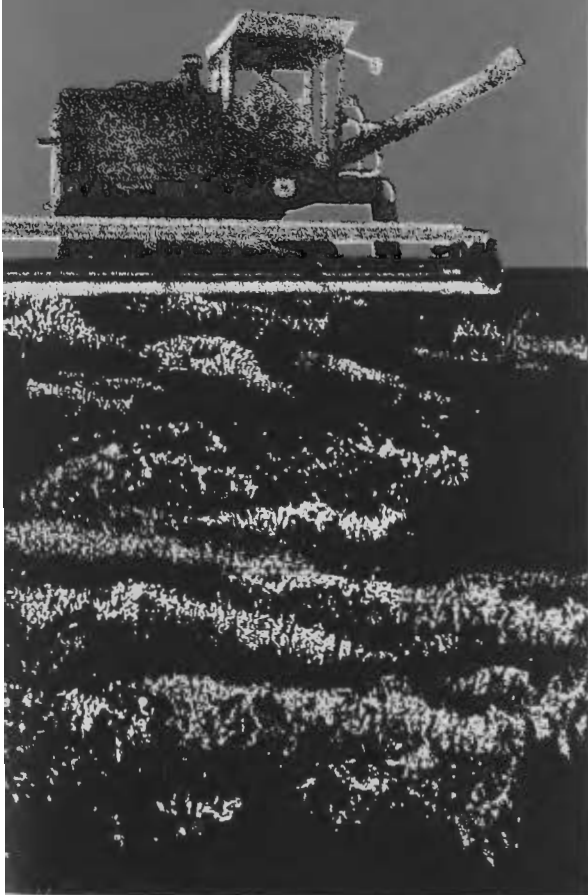
Rhode Island

State and
County Data



1974
Census
of
Agriculture

Volume I Part 39
**Rhode
Island**
State and
County Data



Issued April 1977



U.S. Department of Commerce
Juanita M. Kreps, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
Robert L. Hagan, Acting Director

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—Many persons participated in the various activities of the 1974 Census of Agriculture. Primary direction was by Shirley Kallek, Associate Director for Economic Fields. Her predecessor, James W. Turbitt, now Associate Director for Administration and Field Operations, directed the early stages of planning for the census.

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division under the general supervision of J. Thomas Breen, Chief (to February 1976), and Orvin L. Wilhite, his successor. Arnold L. Bollenbacher, assisted by Thomas D. Monroe, Donald R. Jahnke, John A. Blackledge, William A. Harlan, and John C. Womack, was directly responsible for review and analysis of the data and for clerical and computer edit and tabulation specifications. Kenneth R. Norell, assisted by Albert W. Graybill, coordinated the organization and content of the publication tables. Robert S. Taylor, assisted by John E. Adkins, Stephen M. Schobel, Loyd C. Brown, Jack H. Margolis, Edward J. James, and William R. Adams, was directly responsible for the operational aspects of data collection, processing, and tabulation, including preparation of control systems, clerical procedures, and computer programs. Janet W. Hall provided editorial services and coded the Linotron table formats of this report for publication via the Linotron computer system. J. Jack Ingram (to September 1974) and Charles E. Rogers, his successor, assisted by Darrell D. Prochaska and Harold V. Edwards, were directly responsible for mailing list acquisition and unduplication, design of sampling procedures for data collection, monitoring of processing, and evaluation of coverage. J. Thomas Miller, Consultant, assisted in the design and content of the data collection forms and followup letters, specifications for publication tables, and preparation of text. O. Bryant Benton, Chief, Data Preparation Division, Jeffersonville, Indiana (to March 1976), and Don L. Adams, his successor, assisted by Robert L. Allen, Rebecca Nesbit, and Darrell L. Farabee, were directly responsible for clerical and data-encoding operations.

The computer processing facilities used were under the general supervision of James R. Pepal, Chief, Computer Services Division (to May 1976), and Thomas C. DiNenna, his successor.

Forms design was accomplished under the general supervision of Cecil B. Matthews, Chief, Administrative Services Division (to September 1975), and Henry J. Husmann, his successor, assisted by Gladys S. Potts and Cathern S. Kline.

Within the Publications Services Division, many individuals made significant contributions in the areas of publication planning and design, editorial review, composition, and printing procurement.

Important contributions were made by the members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics in establishing data needs and priorities for collection and publication of the information. Other representatives of both public and private organizations also made significant recommendations and suggestions.

Members of various agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided advice and counsel during the planning, data collecting, and processing phases of the census and assisted farmers and ranchers who requested help in completing the report form.

The press, farm magazines, and radio and television stations, were most helpful in publicizing the census and encouraging cooperation of farm and ranch operators. Dean L. Quirin, Agriculture Division, and Dorothy W. Whitson, Public Information Office, were primarily responsible for developing and coordinating the public relations program.

Special tribute is paid to the millions of farm and ranch operators and other agriculture-associated people who furnished the information requested in the census. Only through their cooperation was it possible to collect and publish the data in this report.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

United States. Bureau of the Census.
1974 census of agriculture.

CONTENTS: v. 1. State reports. v.—v.2. Statistics by subject. v.—v. 3. Agricultural services. v.—v. 4. Special reports. v.

1. Agriculture—Economic aspects—United States—Statistics—Collected works. I. Title. II. Title: Census of agriculture.

HD1753 1974.B87 1977 338.1'0973

76-608387

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REPORTS OF 1974 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Preliminary Reports. Four pages of data published separately for each county having 10 farms or more, and for each State, the four geographic regions, and the United States. *The statistics printed in these reports are superseded by those in the final reports, Volumes I through IV.*

Volume I. State and County Data. One for each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, covering the area and its subdivisions. The reports for the States contain data for all farms and farms with sales of \$2,500 and over. *Chapter I* contains detailed data at the State level classified by size of farm, tenure and age of farm operator, type of organization, value of products sold, and major type of farm; *Chapter II*, county data summarized by subject; *Chapter III*, county data by subject for miscellaneous crop and livestock items found in relatively few counties; *Chapter IV*, county data by county.

Volume II. Statistics by Subject. Chapters containing total data for the United States, geographic regions and divisions, and States, for all farms and farms with sales of \$2,500 and over.

Volume III. Agricultural Services. Data by county for each State covering establishments whose primary activities are providing agricultural services. Data at the U.S., State, and county levels for all establishments are presented for selected four-digit standard industrial classification codes by size and type of organization. Data shown include dollar volume of business, gross receipts from products provided, gross receipts, labor and payroll by type of service performed, capital expenditures, and expenditures for electricity, gasoline, petroleum, and other fuels.

Volume IV. Special Reports.

Part 1. Graphic Summary. Profiles the Nation's agricultural system in a series of U.S. maps, a number of which are printed in color. The characteristics of America's farms in 1974 are illustrated for crops, livestock, and many other characteristics.

Part 2. Ranking Counties and States. Reports on the top ranking 100 counties and 10 States in descending order of importance for 88 selected items for 1974 with comparative data for 1969.

Part 3. Coverage Evaluation. Shows the completeness of the agriculture census for States, geographic divisions, and the United States. Data also show the characteristics of farms missed by value of sales and by selected standard industrial (type-of-farm) classifications. Sampling reliability of the estimate of coverage is shown by value of sales classifications.

Part 4. Procedural History. A comprehensive summary of the procedures used in conducting the 1974 Census of Agriculture in the 50 States, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The history explains the procedures used from early planning and testing through tabulation and publication of the final reports.

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INTRODUCTION

Authority, Area Covered, and History

The 1974 Census of Agriculture was taken in accordance with the provisions of Title 13, United States Code, reaffirmed by section 818 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-86). Sections 142(a) and 191 of Title 13 provide for a census of agriculture every 5 years in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

The 1974 census is the 20th nationwide census of agriculture and the second conducted primarily by mail. The first agricultural census data were collected in 1840 as part of the sixth decennial census. Since that time, a census of agriculture has been a part of each decennial census program, and since 1920 a national census of agriculture has been taken every 5 years.

Farm Definition

For each of the 20 censuses of agriculture except the first, taken in 1840, the agency responsible for conducting the census has established minimum criteria which define a farm for the purpose of the census. As the Nation has developed and grown, agriculture also has changed and grown, and from time to time the minimum criteria for the definition of a farm have been changed.

Prior to 1974, the eighth and most recent change in minimum criteria was for the 1959 Census of Agriculture, when the definition of a farm was based primarily on a combination of acres in the place and value of agricultural products sold.

The word "place" 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 or supervision of one person or partnership. Control may have been exercised through ownership or management or through a lease, rental, or cropping arrangement.

Places of less than 10 acres in the census year 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 the census year 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 the census year 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.

Using the 1959 definition, the 1969 census reported about 571,000 farms in the United States having sales of less than \$1,000; these farms comprised 20.9 percent of all farms but contributed less than 1 percent of total sales. In 1974 there were only about 152,000 such farms, accounting for less than 6 hundredths of 1 percent of total sales. Between censuses many of these small farms had ceased operations, while many others had sales of \$1,000 or more in the census year, either because of increased agricultural activity or because of increases in the per unit value of agricultural products sold.

In view of increases in price levels and other changes in the structure of agricultural operations, various individuals

and organizations, including members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, the Office of Management and Budget, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, agreed that a change in the definition of a farm was justified. The Department of Commerce announced on August 12, 1975, that the census definition of a farm, for purposes of publishing the 1974 census data, was any establishment which during the census year had or normally would have had sales of agricultural products of \$1,000 or more.

In the next 10 months, Congress held four hearings on the appropriateness of changing the definition. During this time, Public Law 94-229, enacted March 15, 1976, included a provision requiring the statistical classification of farms in effect on January 1, 1975, to be continued in effect through June 30, 1976, and that any statistical report issued on or before June 30, 1976, should reflect such classification, but could also include additional classifications as deemed appropriate by the Secretary of Commerce.

Definition for preliminary reports. Publication of the preliminary county reports began in April 1976, and these reports for all counties and States, the four regions, and the United States were tabulated and published in accordance with the same farm definition used for the 1959, 1964, and 1969 censuses.

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:

INTRODUCTION Continued

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 could normally be expected to produce agricultural products in sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of the definition.

Three tables in this report provide users with measures of the effect of the change in definition: The table following this introduction shows farms and sales, by county, for 1974 and 1969, for both the old and the new definitions, and also for those places excluded by the 1974 but not by the 1959 definition. In chapter II, table 33 presents data by county for 1974 showing comparisons between farms (1974 definition) and agricultural operations that would have been farms under the 1959 definition. The table that comprises appendix B presents data by State for 1974 and 1969 showing characteristics of 1974 agricultural operations excluded by the new definition and of 1969 farms having less than \$1,000 total value of sales.

The 1974 "all farms" data shown in State tables 1 through 9 and county tables 1 through 10 are for those agricultural operations with at least \$1,000 in total (or potential) sales of farm products. All other tables in this report are limited to farms with sales of \$2,500 or more (see the paragraphs in appendix A that describe the report forms and the enumeration method).

Comparability of Data

In general, data for 1974 and earlier

censuses are comparable with data from earlier censuses only for farms with \$2,500 or more total value of sales, because the data for farms with \$2,500 or more value of sales are not affected by the change in farm definition. Data for all farms for 1974 are based on the new definition so they are not directly comparable to earlier censuses. It is also important to note that in addition to the difference in farm definition used in this report from that in the preliminary version, this final report contains 1974 figures which will not agree with figures in the preliminary reports because of corrections, additions, and deletions.

Even for farms with \$2,500 or more value of sales, the difference in timing and the change from personal interview to mail enumeration affect the comparability between the data for 1974 and 1969 and that for earlier censuses. Both 1974 and 1969 censuses were taken by mail; all earlier censuses were taken by direct interview.

Dramatic changes in rates of farm expenditure and unit prices of products sold between the 1969 and 1974 censuses affect the comparability of some census data. During the period between the two censuses, prices paid by farmers greatly increased. Prices received by farmers also increased but with wide fluctuations among commodities at different times during the census year of 1974.

Crop and livestock production data are for the calendar year 1974, except for a few crops (such as citrus) for which the production year overlaps the calendar year. Expenditures, crops irrigated, usage of agricultural chemicals and fertilizers, and sale of farm products were all asked for the calendar year. Respondents were instructed to report inventory numbers of livestock, poultry, and other specified items as of December 31, 1974. The reporting period and inventory data are the same as for the 1969 census.

Censuses prior to 1969 were taken by enumerators, each assigned to a specific geographic area. Field work for the 1964 and 1959 censuses was completed largely in October, November, and December of the reference year. Livestock and poultry inventories for those two censuses were as

of the time of enumeration. Other variations in time of enumeration occurred in censuses prior to 1959.

Graphics

On the following pages, there is a graphic presentation of selected agricultural statistics for this State. The first four dot maps are being published for all States. The second four dot maps have been selected to present data of particular importance to this State.

Tabular Presentation

State data—In chapter I, State tables 1 through 27 show detailed State level data generally accompanied by historical data for one or more censuses. Tables 28 through 33 provide 1974 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

County summary data—A summary of selected data items for each county of the State is presented in chapter II of this publication. In these tables the counties are listed in alphabetical order with the State total at the beginning of each table.

County miscellaneous data—In chapter III, data for additional crop and livestock items not common to a large number of counties are reported in a separate set of tables by county for each State. Some of these items, even though reported in only a few counties of the State, are sufficiently important to account for a significant proportion of the agricultural production.

Counties not having the subject item of a given table, or with only a very limited number of farms reporting the item, are not listed separately; their data are combined with other counties and presented as "All other."

Final county data—Six pages of data are presented in chapter IV for each county with 10 farms or more in 1974. The tables include final data for each county and are more comprehensive than those in the preliminary reports. Data are for the year 1974 with inventory (on place)

INTRODUCTION Continued

figures as of December 31, 1974. Information covering all farms and farms with sales of \$2,500 and over are presented for both the 1974 and 1969 censuses. A State level six-page report like the county report is published at the beginning of the chapter.

Preliminary county data—Preliminary reports have been published separately for all counties in the United States with 10 farms or more in 1974. This four-page series provided, at the earliest possible date, usable information on a limited number of major data items, with comparative final figures from the 1969 census.

The reports were issued on a flow basis, with a State report following the release of the last county report for each State. Tables showing regional and U.S. totals were also prepared as a part of this series.

For all States, the same table format was used to present the data except data for six selected crops shown in table 7. These crops were varied by State depending upon their relative importance.

For major items at the county level differences between the preliminary and final figures are in general less than 5 percent. At the State level, differences are significantly less.

“See Text” Reference

The remark “See text” in the tables refers to explanations, definitions, and classifications in sections 5 and 6 of appendix A.

Abbreviations and Symbols

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Represents zero.
- D Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- X Not applicable.
- Z Less than half of the unit reported.
- NA Not available.

INTRODUCTION Continued

FARMS AND VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD BY 1974 AND 1959 DEFINITIONS, WITH COMPARABLE DATA FOR AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS EXCLUDED BY 1974 DEFINITION: 1974 AND 1969

COUNTY	BY 1974 DEFINITION				BY 1959 DEFINITION				AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS EXCLUDED BY 1974 DEFINITION BUT NOT BY 1959 DEFINITION			
	NUMBER		VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)		NUMBER		VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)		NUMBER		VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)	
	1974	1969	1974	1969	1974	1969	1974	1969	1974	1969	1974	1969
RHODE ISLAND, TOTAL . . .	597	523	22 219	15 905	726	700	22 250	15 963	129	177	32	58
BRISTOL	38	38	1 095	952	39	42	1 095	954	1	4	1	2
KENT	61	46	1 368	969	79	70	1 374	975	18	24	5	6
NEWPORT	120	118	6 361	4 461	131	144	6 365	4 474	11	26	4	13
PROVIDENCE	254	221	5 761	5 250	308	293	5 772	5 270	54	72	11	20
WASHINGTON	124	100	7 634	4 273	169	151	7 645	4 289	45	51	11	16

HIGHLIGHTS of the State's Agriculture: 1974 and 1969

	All Farms		Farms with sales of \$2,500 and over	
	1974	1969 ¹	1974	1969
Number of farms total.	597	700	419	462
Acres in farms total.	61 068	68 720	44 674	50 327
per farm.	102	98	107	109
Acres of harvested cropland total.	21 422	21 553	19 858	18 984
per farm.	36	31	47	41
Number of farms by size:				
1 to 49 acres	285	320	176	195
50 to 499 acres	295	368	229	256
500 acres and over	17	12	14	11
1,000 acres and over	2	1	0	1
Value of land and buildings total.	91 574 000	50 424 000	69 115 000	38 781 000
per farm.	153 391	72 034	164 953	83 942
Value of machinery and equipment on farms total.	11 378 000	6 594 000	9 513 000	5 578 000
per farm.	19 058	9 420	22 704	12 074
Machinery and equipment on farms—specified items (number):				
Automobiles	660	760	441	496
Motortrucks, including pickups	1 213	1 212	977	961
Tractors, excluding garden tractors and motor tillers	1 359	1 359	1 087	1 095
Value of all agricultural products sold total.	22 219 000	15 963 000	21 973 000	15 343 000
per farm.	37 217	22 804	52 440	33 209
Crops total.	12 121 000	7 306 000	11 986 000	7 131 000
per farm.	20 303	10 437	28 606	15 436
Livestock, poultry, and their products total.	10 074 000	8 636 000	9 972 000	8 193 000
per farm.	16 874	12 338	23 800	17 734
Number of farms, excluding abnormal farms, by value of agricultural product sold:				
Under \$2,500	184	253	9	19
\$2,500 and over	410	443	410	443
\$2,500 to \$9,999	124	147	124	147
\$10,000 to \$39,999	155	197	155	197
\$40,000 to \$99,999	85	72	85	72
\$100,000 to \$199,999	24	19	24	19
\$200,000 and over	22	8	22	8
Value of agricultural products sold by farms, excluding abnormal farms, having sales of—				
Under \$2,500	191 000	171 000	8 000	16 000
\$2,500 and over	21 965 000	15 327 000	21 965 000	15 327 000
\$2,500 to \$9,999	622 000	857 000	622 000	857 000
\$10,000 to \$39,999	3 618 000	4 360 000	3 618 000	4 360 000
\$40,000 to \$99,999	5 196 000	4 207 000	5 196 000	4 207 000
\$100,000 to \$199,999	3 373 000	5 903 000	3 373 000	5 903 000
\$200,000 and over	9 156 000		9 156 000	
Farm production expenses—specified items:				
Commercially mixed formula feeds	4 642 000	3 012 000	4 597 000	2 948 000
Commercial fertilizer	1 217 000	678 000	1 194 000	650 000
Gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil for the farm business	833 000	562 000	798 000	519 000
Farm labor, contract labor, machine hire and customwork	3 875 000	3 268 000	3 808 000	2 899 000

¹ Not fully comparable because of change in farm definition; see introduction.

CHART 1. Changes in the State's Agriculture: 1974 From 1969

FARMS WITH SALES OF \$2,500 AND OVER

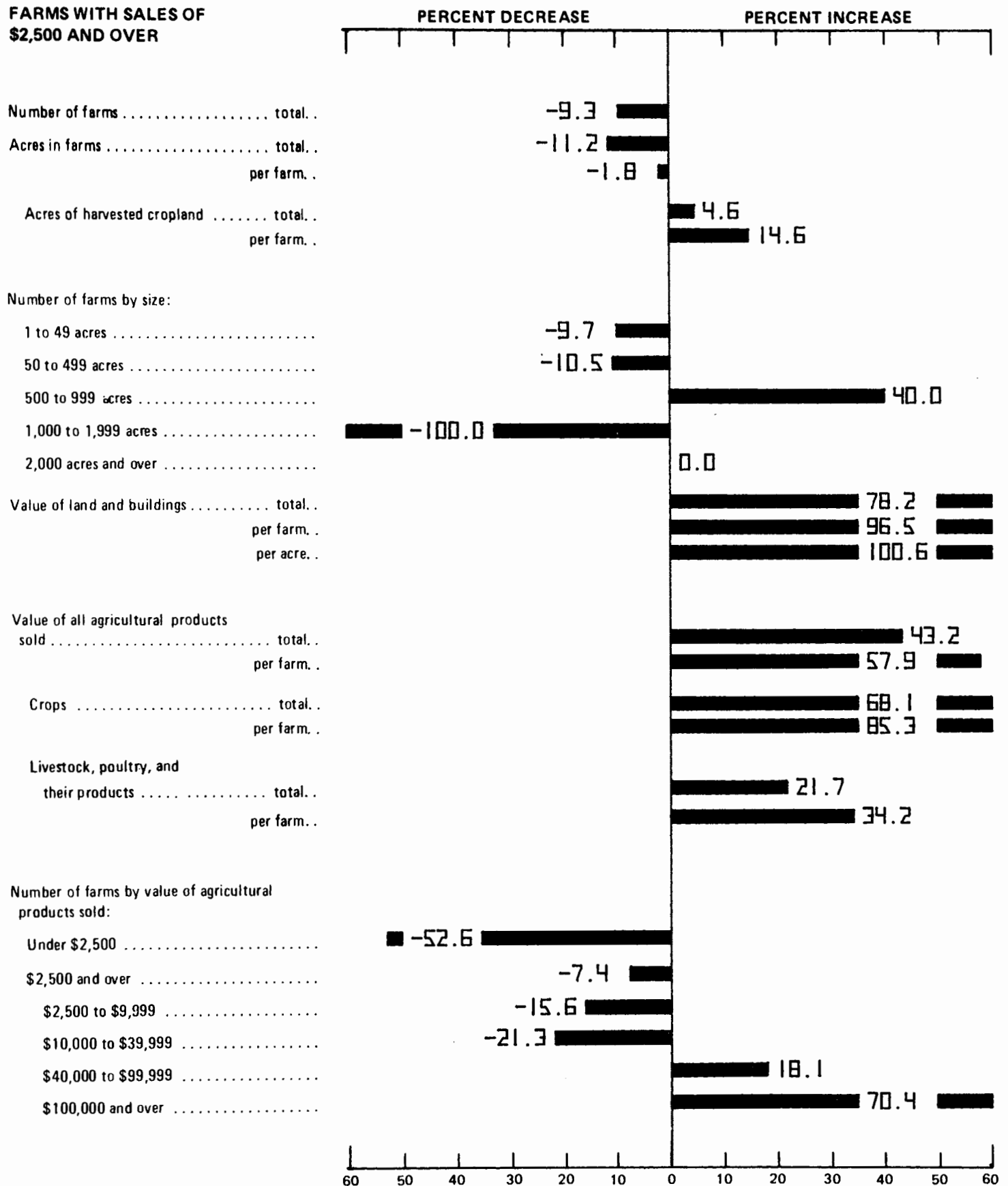


CHART 1. Changes in the State's Agriculture: 1974 From 1969—Continued

FARMS WITH SALES OF \$2,500 AND OVER

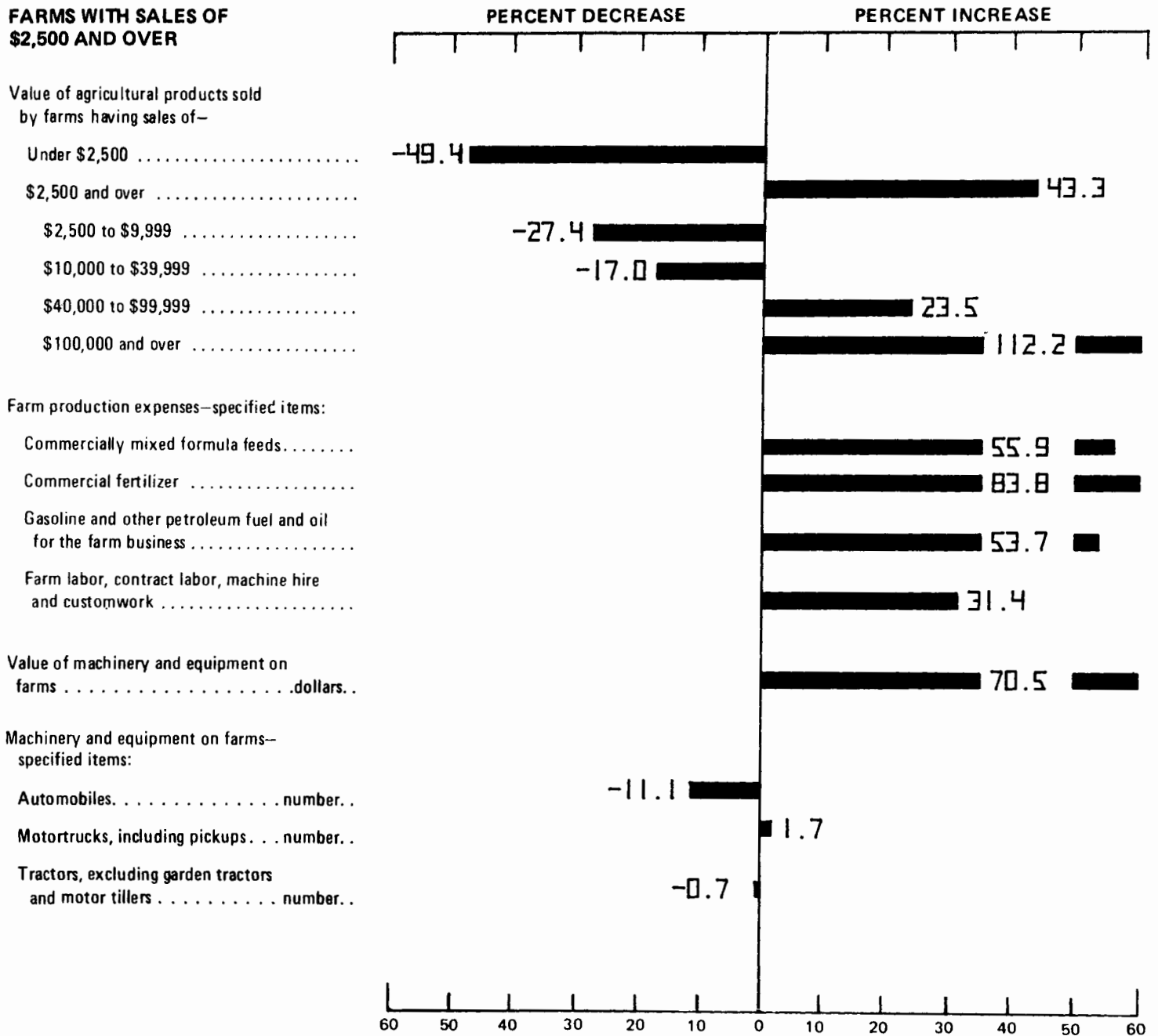
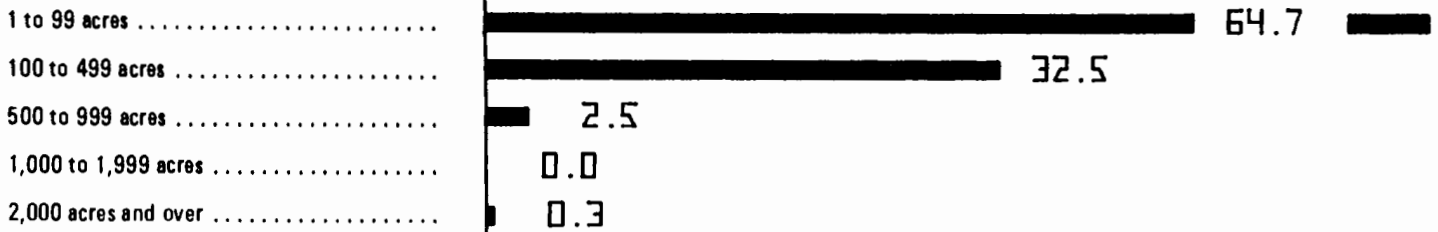


CHART 2. Profile of the State's Agriculture: 1974

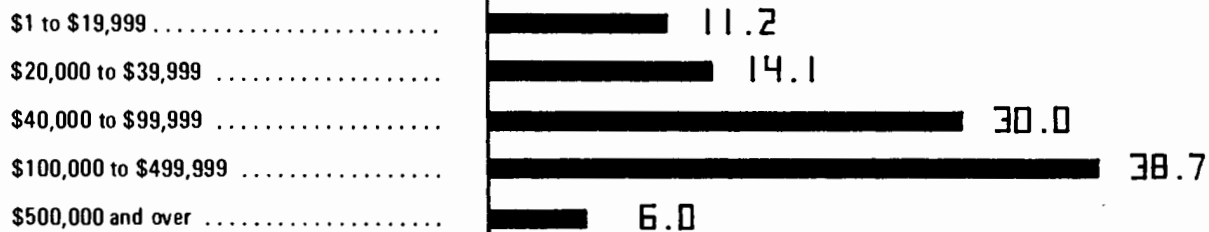
ALL FARMS

PERCENT OF TOTAL FARMS

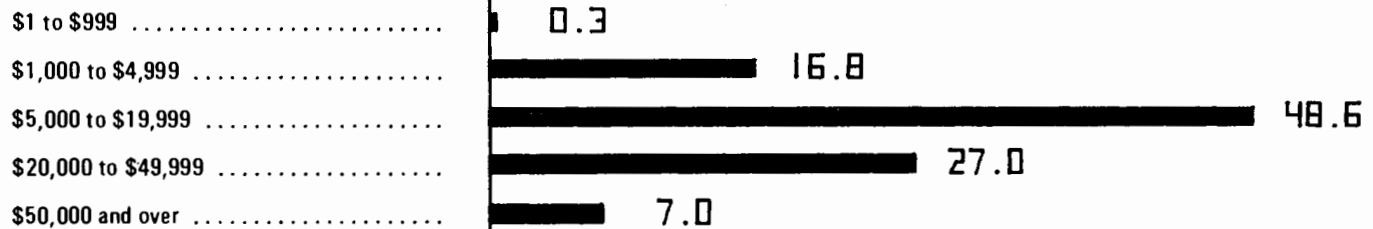
Farms by size:



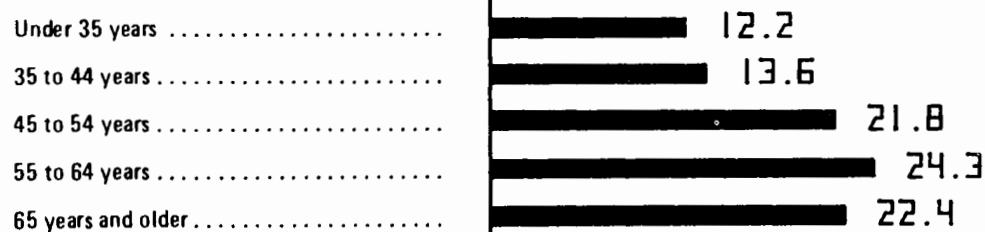
Farms by value of land and buildings:



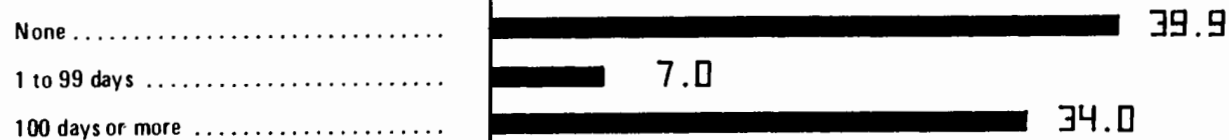
Farms by value of machinery and equipment:



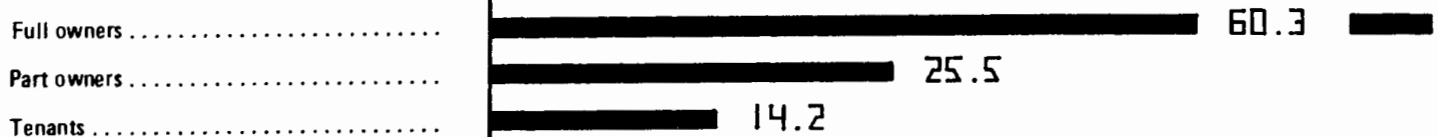
Farm operators by age:¹



Farm operators working off farm:¹

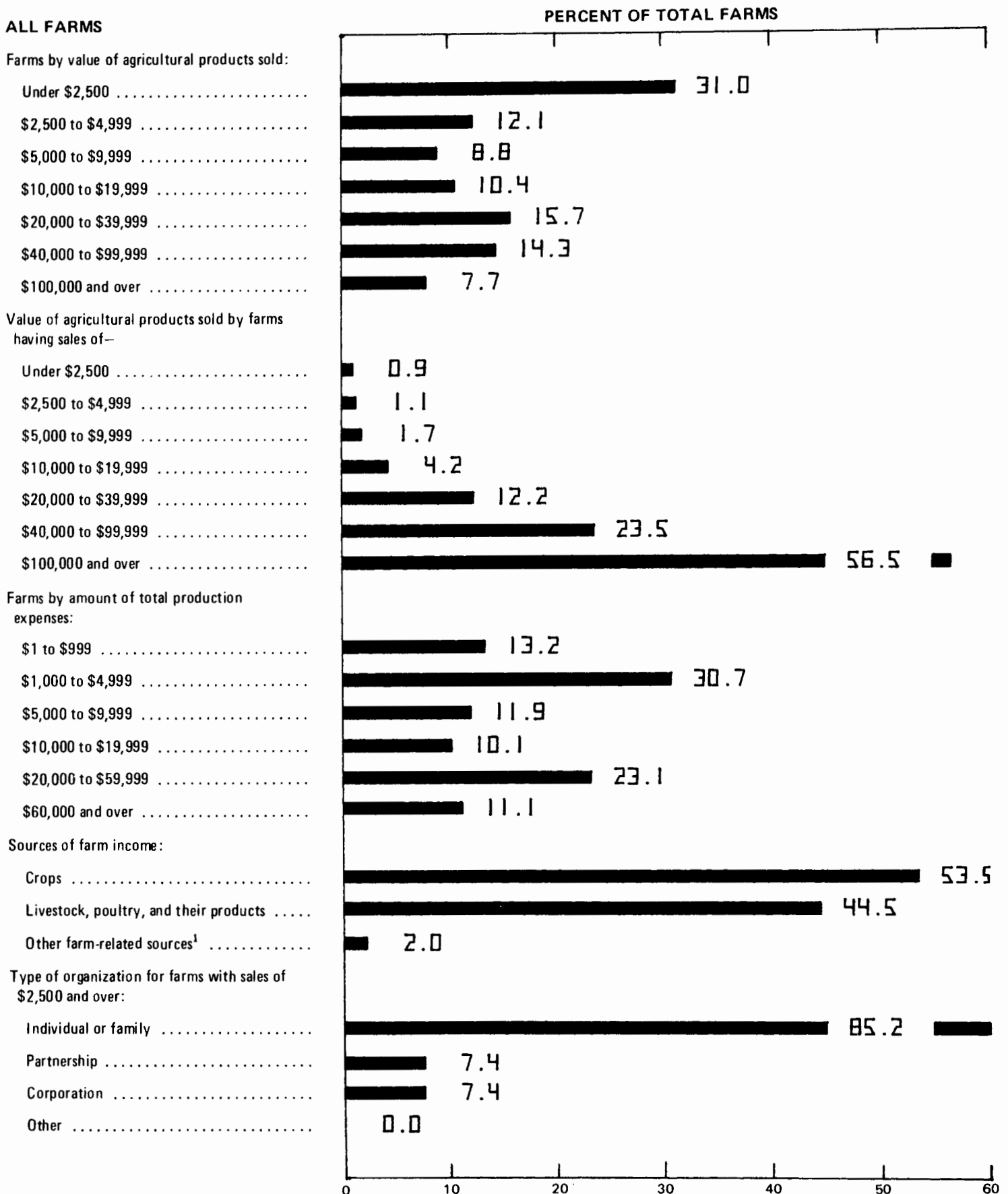


Farm operators by tenure:



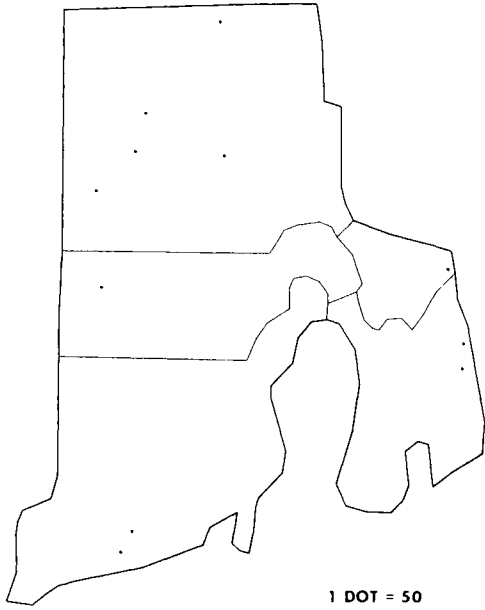
¹ Data apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorships) and partnerships.

CHART 2. Profile of the State's Agriculture: 1974—Continued



¹ Includes forest products sold, and income from customwork and other agricultural services, recreational services, participation in government farm programs, rental of farm property, and other miscellaneous sources closely related to the agricultural operation.

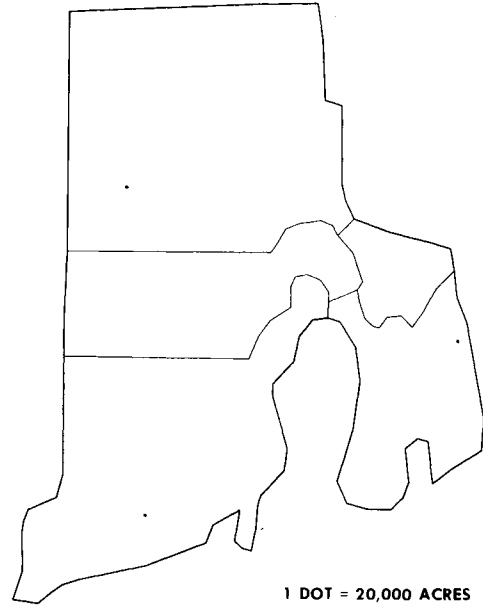
NUMBER OF FARMS: 1974



74 - 1RI

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

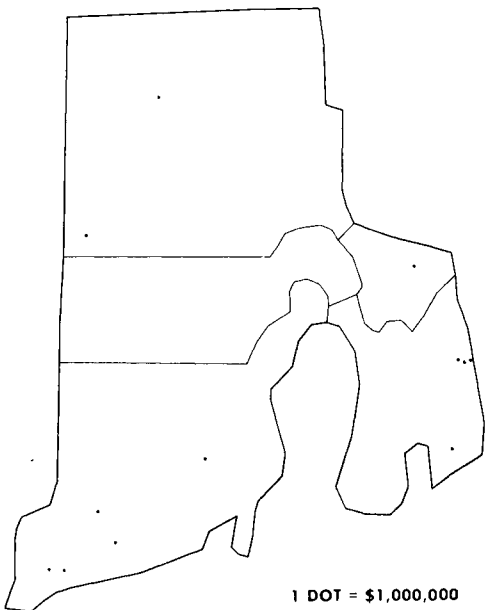
LAND IN FARMS: 1974



74 - 2RI

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

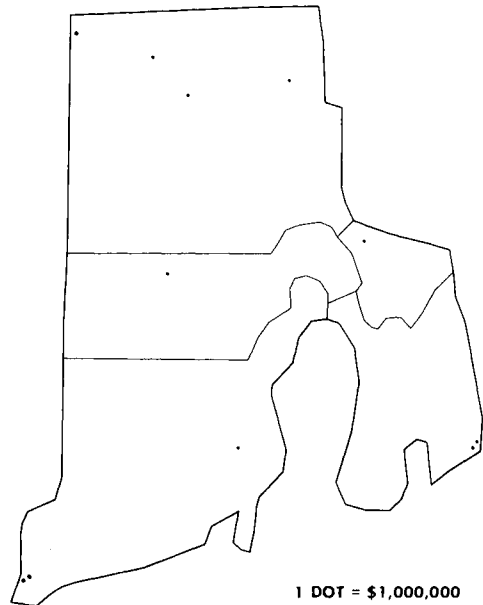
VALUE OF CROPS SOLD: 1974



74 - 3RI

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

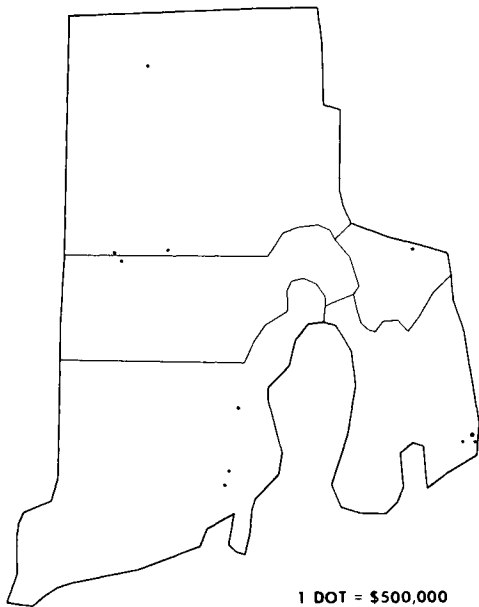
**VALUE OF LIVESTOCK, POULTRY,
AND THEIR PRODUCTS SOLD: 1974**



74 - 4RI

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

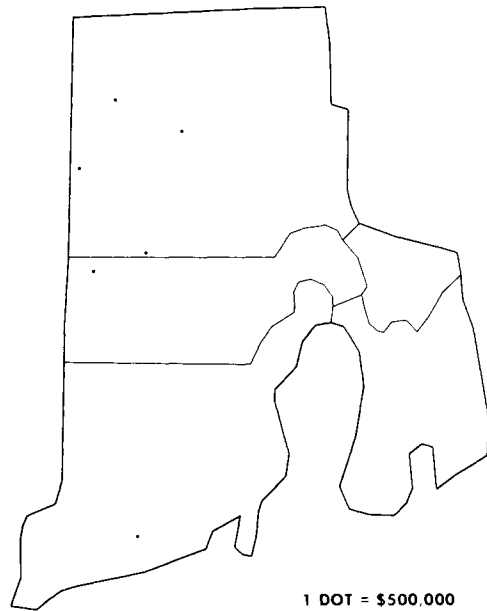
**VALUE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS SOLD: 1974
(FARMS WITH SALES OF \$2,500 AND OVER)**



74 - 6RI

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

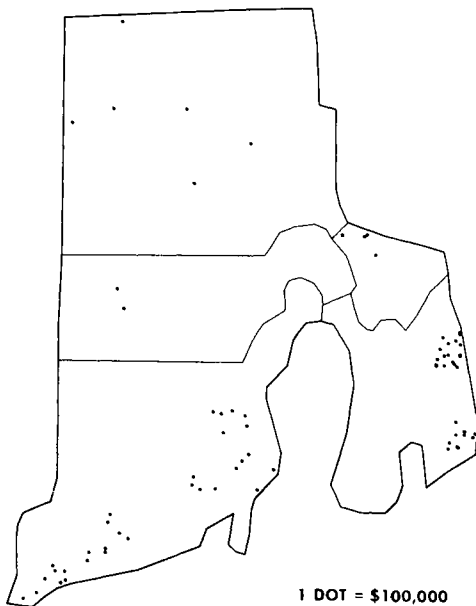
**VALUE OF POULTRY AND POULTRY
PRODUCTS SOLD: 1974**



74 - 7RI

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

**VALUE OF NURSERY AND GREENHOUSE PRODUCTS
HARVESTED FOR SALE: 1974**



74 - 18RI

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

IRISH POTATOES HARVESTED: 1974



74 - 20RI

U.S. Department of Commerce
Bureau of the Census

RHODE ISLAND

Counties, County Seats, and Rivers

