

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 1

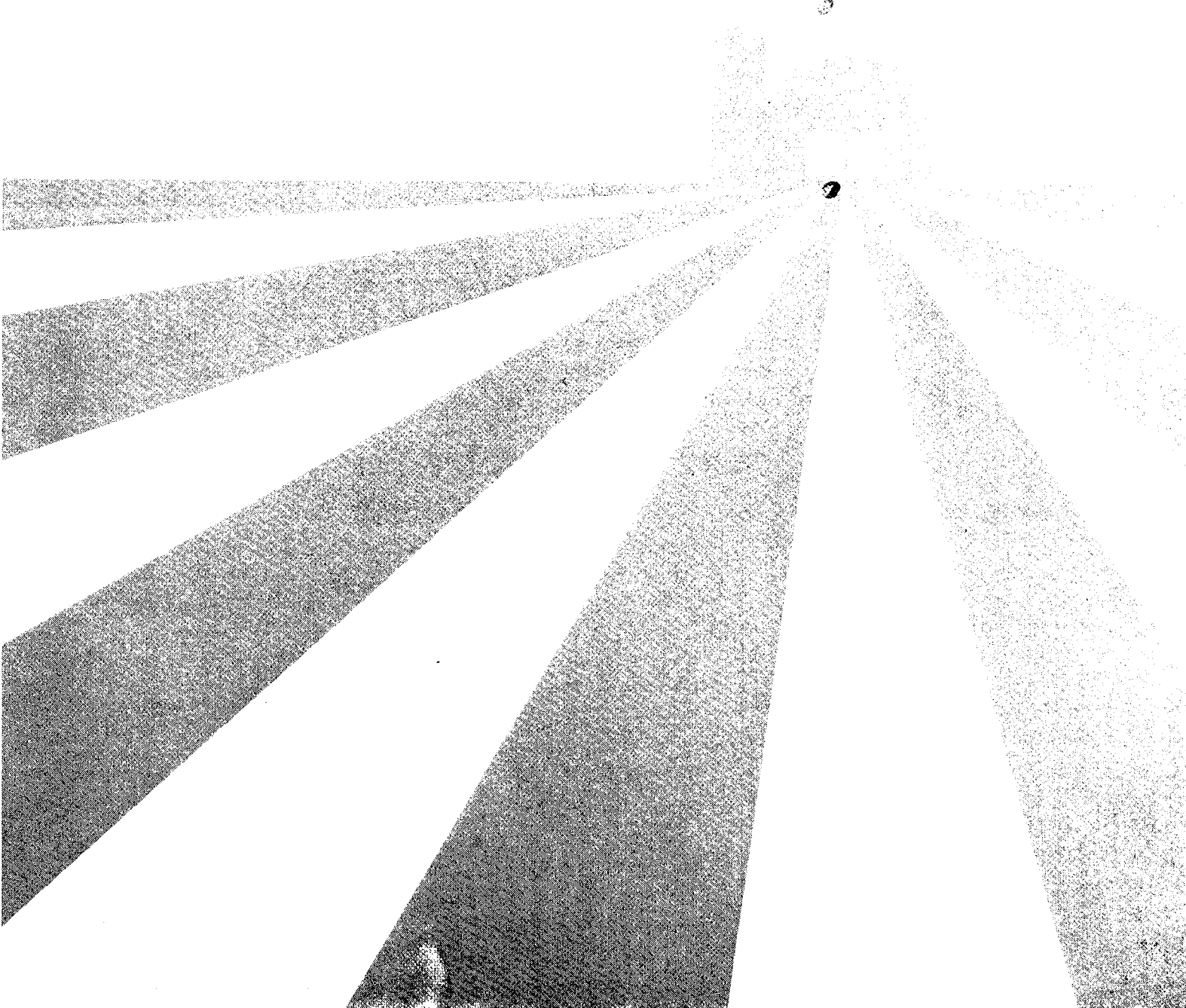
Alabama

AC78-A-1

1978

CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

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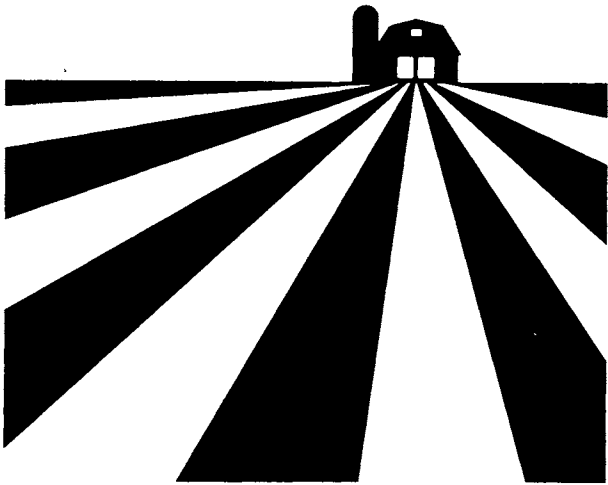


1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data

Part 1
Alabama

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Issued June 1981



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—Many persons participated in the various activities of the 1978 Census of Agriculture. Primary direction was by **Shirley Kallek**, Associate Director for Economic Fields, and **Richard B. Quanrud**, Assistant Director for Economic and Agriculture Censuses.

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division under the general supervision of **Orvin L. Wilhite**, Chief (to January 1980) and **Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, his successor. **Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, assisted by **Thomas D. Monroe**, **Donald R. Jahnke**, and **John A. Blackledge**, was directly responsible for data content of the tables, analysis of the data, and clerical and computeredit, and tabulation specifications. **William A. Harlan**, **Arlon M. Scott**, and **James C. Vogelsang**, directed the resolution of problems with individual census reports.

John E. Adkins, assisted by **Stephen M. Schobel**, **Loyd C. Brown**, **Billy E. Stark**, **Lowell Wrucke**, **Sharon C. Spivey**, **Martin S. Harahush**, **Ralph A. Graham**, **Avon B. Floyd**, **Kent C. Hoover**, and **Lee Smallwood**, was directly responsible for the systems and processing procedures, including preparation of control systems, clerical procedures, and computer programs. **Dana E. Moore** and **Jay A. Johnson** were responsible for the photocomposition system. **Bobbie E. Catlin** and **Paulette M. Bonchak** were directly responsible for table preparation and publication standards used. **Mittie Buchanan**, Industry Division (to May 1980), and **Helen R. Pugh**, her successor, were responsible for coding the Linotron table formats for publication. **Carl N. McAllister** coordinated the final preparation of the tables. **Virginia Crockett**, **Regina E. Lindsey**, and **Karin G. Bauer** provided editorial services.

Charles E. Rogers, assisted by **D. Dean Prochaska**, and **David D. Chapman**, with the additional assistance of **Jane Y. Dea** and **Tommy W. Gauden**, was directly responsible for mailing list acquisition and unduplication, design of sampling procedures for the direct enumeration sample and the sample from the mail list, sampling variability estimates, statistical adjustment for nonresponse, monitoring of processing, and evaluation of coverage. **Albert W. Graybill** was responsible for the preparation of the operational procedures for the collection and processing of the direct enumeration sample data.

George E. Pierce, assisted by **Patricia A. Clark** and **Richard R. Storm**, was directly responsible for overall census planning, the Farm and Ranch Identification Survey, and development of the data collection forms and followup letters. **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.

Don L. Adams, Chief, Data Preparation Division, Jeffersonville, Ind., assisted by **Patricia M. Clark**, **Rebecca Lamon**, **George Wilson**, **William L. Pangburn**, **Les Brown**, **Darrell L. Farabee**, and **Keith Lacey**, was directly responsible for clerical and data-keying operations, and labeling, sorting, and distribution of the mail and direct enumeration census forms.

The direct enumeration activities were administered by the Field Division, under **Forrest P. Cawley**, Chief, with the assistance of **Darren F.**

Althouse and **Thomas J. Manning** and the 12 directors of the Bureau's Regional Offices.

The computer processing facilities used were under the general supervision of **C. Thomas DiNenna**, Chief, Computer Operations Division.

Forms design was performed under the general supervision of **Henry J. Husmann**, Chief, Administrative Services Division, assisted by **Albert W. Cosner**, **Cathern S. Kline**, and **Irene A. Grey**.

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. **John W. Ternus** and **Douglas J. Miller**, Agriculture Division, and **Richard D. Ritter**, 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.
1978 census of agriculture.

Supt. of Docs. no.: L 3.31/
CONTENTS: v. 1. State and county data.—v. 2. Statistics by subject.—
v. 3. Agricultural services. [etc.]

1. Agriculture—United States—Statistics. I. Title. II. Title: Census of agriculture.

HD1753 1978.B87 7 1980 338.1'0973

79-600215

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HISTORY

The census of agriculture provides a periodic statistical picture of the Nation's farming, ranching, and related activities. The 1978 Census of Agriculture is the 21st taken by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The first agriculture census was taken in 1840 as part of the sixth decennial census. From 1840 to 1950, an agriculture census was taken as part of the decennial census of population. A mid-decade census of agriculture was conducted in 1925, 1935, and 1945. From 1954 to 1974 a census of agriculture was taken for the years ending in 4 and 9. In 1976, Congress authorized the census of agriculture to be taken for 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data reference year to coincide with the 1982 Economic Censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. Thereafter, the agriculture census will revert to a 5-year cycle.

AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

The census of agriculture is authorized under the provisions of title 13, United States Code. Section 142(a) provides for the census to be taken in 1979, in 1983, and in every fifth year after 1983. Section 191 provides that the census shall include each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. A census of agriculture will be conducted in American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands in conjunction with the 1980 Census of Population and Housing.

FARM DEFINITION

Since 1850, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes were first established, the farm definition has been changed nine times, as the Nation has grown and changed. The current definition was announced on August 12, 1975, in accordance with a joint agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Bureau of the Census. It defines a farm, for statistical purposes, as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agri-

cultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. The previous definition (used for the 1959, 1964, and 1969 censuses, and for the 1974 preliminary county reports) counted as a farm any place with less than 10 acres from which \$250 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year, or any place of 10 acres or more from which \$50 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year.

METHOD OF ENUMERATION

Evaluation studies of the 1969 and 1974 censuses, which were conducted primarily by mail, indicated that the administrative lists used to create the census mailing list were not adequate to assure complete coverage in the census. Also, censuses prior to 1969, conducted by direct enumeration, had been found by evaluation studies (conducted since 1950) to be progressively less and less complete, as increased mobility of farm operators led to increases in the numbers of nonresident operators, operators farming on a part-time basis, and operators farming two or more separate tracts.

The 1978 Census of Agriculture was conducted primarily by mail for maximum economy, supplemented by a personal canvass of a statistical area segment sample for maximum completeness of coverage. The area segment sample, which consists of selected geographic areas completely canvassed by direct enumeration, provides reliable estimates for States of the number and characteristics of any farms not represented in the mail portion of the census. Estimates for such farms are an integral part of the State totals published for the 1978 census. The direct enumeration sample estimates are statistically reliable only for State totals and have not been allocated to counties. Appendix A provides a more detailed description of how the 1978 census was taken and includes a discussion of census coverage.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

State totals for 1978 are not directly comparable with totals for 1974 or earlier censuses as they include data for farm operations represented on the mail list plus estimates from the direct enumeration sample for farms not represented on the mail list. The 1974 State level data include only operations represented on the mail list.

Coverage evaluation studies for the 1974 census indicated that 10.7 percent of all farms were not included in the census. Farms missed in the census were usually small and accounted for less than 3 percent of the total value of agricultural products sold and less than 6 percent of the land in farms. The proportion of farms missed in the 1974 census was generally higher in

States having a large proportion of small farms and urbanized areas having a sizable number of part-time farms. Farm counts for 1974, adjusted for the net undercount, are shown in appendix C.

County level data on acreages and inventories for 1978 and 1974 are generally comparable; however, improvements in the coverage of the 1978 census, especially of smaller farms, should be taken into consideration when comparing farm counts.

USE OF SAMPLING

Two types of sampling were used for data collection for the 1978 census. In addition to the State estimates from the direct enumeration sample discussed previously, data for items in sections 22 through 27 of the census report form were collected from only a sample of farms. Data based on a sample are subject to sampling error. Detailed discussions of the census report forms, the use of sampling, and estimates of sampling error are included in appendix A.

GRAPHICS

Several charts and maps presented on the following pages show selected agricultural statistics for this State. The items in the charts and the first four maps are presented for all States. The last four maps present data of particular importance to this State.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

State data—In chapter 1, State tables 1 through 28 show detailed State level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more censuses. Tables 29 through 35 provide 1978 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

County summary data—Selected data items are presented by county in chapter 2. Tables 1 through 15 include general data such as land in farms, size of farms, land use, operator characteristics, expenses, and machinery and equipment. Inventory and sales data for livestock, poultry, and animal specialties are contained in tables 16 through 27 and detailed crop data in tables 28 through 35. Tables 36 through 43 present data on foreign ownership, income from customwork, direct sales to consumers, operators by racial group, and female operators.

Individual county data—Five pages of tables are presented in chapter 3 for each county with 10 farms or more in 1978. The tables include final data for each county and are more comprehensive than those in the preliminary reports. Data are provided for all farms and for farms with sales of \$2,500 or more for both 1978 and 1974.

This chapter also includes a set of similar tables for the State as a whole and for those farms in the State not on the mailing list and not included in county tables.

PRELIMINARY REPORTS

Preliminary reports have been published separately for all counties in the United States with 10 farms or more in 1978, each State, the four geographic regions, and the United States. This series provided, at the earliest possible date, information on major data items, with comparable final data from the 1974 census. The data items were standard for each State and county except in table 3 where the selected crops varied by State according to their relative importance in the State. The State preliminary report also included a full set of tables providing data derived from the direct enumeration sample on the estimated number and characteristics of farms not included in county totals because they were not represented on the mailing list.

For major data 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.

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of title 13, United States Code, data that would disclose the operations of an individual farm are not published. However, the number of farms in a given size category or other classification is not considered a disclosure. Appendix A presents additional information on disclosure rules.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Appendix A includes definitions and explanations of selected terms used in the tables.

"SEE TEXT" REFERENCE

Items in the tables which are followed by the reference "See text" are explained or defined in appendix A.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- 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.
- * Independent city.

Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	All forms			Farms with sales of \$2,500 or more		
	1978		1974 ¹	1978		1974 ¹
	Total	Not on mail list	Total	Total	Not on mail list	Total
Farms..... number.....	57 503	6 723	56 678	34 581	1 753	29 269
Land in farms..... acres.....	11 547 717	399 892	11 852 946	9 794 063	198 834	9 429 836
Average size of farm..... acres.....	201	59	209	283	113	322
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	3 432 796	68 565	2 793 621	3 244 889	47 154	2 567 588
Average per farm..... acres.....	60	10	49	94	27	88
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	20 692	4 555	18 531	8 032	756	5 969
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	31 944	2 122	33 275	21 943	951	18 736
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	3 053	28	2 934	2 851	28	2 689
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	1 814	18	1 938	1 755	18	1 875
Value of land and buildings:²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	128 260	52 746	76 049	173 432	75 161	112 545
Average per acre..... dollars.....	639	887	364	616	663	349
Value of machinery and equipment on farms²						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	1 116 451	54 457	699 224	958 265	26 239	524 531
Average per farm..... dollars.....	19 416	8 100	12 337	27 711	14 968	17 921
Value of agricultural products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	1 575 462	44 030	1 122 481	1 547 220	40 679	1 089 328
Average per farm..... dollars.....	27 398	6 549	19 805	44 742	23 206	37 218
Crops sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	509 632	5 512	406 259	501 959	4 697	394 007
Average per farm..... dollars.....	8 863	820	7 168	14 515	2 680	13 462
Livestock and livestock products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	412 778	15 211	263 656	392 543	12 726	243 880
Average per farm..... dollars.....	7 178	2 262	4 652	11 351	7 260	8 332
Poultry and poultry products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	653 052	23 307	435 732	652 718	23 256	435 256
Average per farm..... dollars.....	11 357	3 467	7 688	18 875	13 266	14 871
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	22 888	4 970	28 361	-	-	991
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	17 211	1 259	12 933	17 211	1 259	12 933
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	8 785	215	8 111	8 785	215	8 111
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	4 481	139	4 774	4 481	139	4 774
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	2 680	140	1 776	2 680	140	1 776
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	1 424	-	684	1 424	-	684
Abnormal farms..... number.....	34	(X)	39	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of -						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	23 976	3 350	28 238	-	-	1 341
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	87 178	5 849	67 589	87 178	5 849	67 589
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	176 060	4 783	166 820	176 060	4 783	166 820
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	293 238	10 508	302 547	293 238	10 508	302 547
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	377 835	19 539	240 593	377 835	19 539	240 593
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	612 910	-	310 437	612 910	-	310 437
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	4 265	(X)	6 256	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items:²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	474 654	18 247	398 070	465 729	16 499	386 829
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	39 162	635	25 050	37 922	407	23 989
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	107 113	2 362	92 014	101 253	1 749	84 692
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	52 482	620	31 450	50 419	453	30 592
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	66 853	1 955	40 931	62 409	1 413	36 721
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	83 633	970	52 970	80 565	828	50 775
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	1 703 804	57 464	2 204 135	1 477 767	33 216	1 747 611
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	730 831	53 551	568 586	650 643	21 390	514 132
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	2 238	57	2 435	1 465	-	1 495
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	18 360 008	191 176	15 314 470	18 237 444	145 008	15 163 191
Crops harvested:						
Corn for grain or seed..... acres.....	507 060	21 610	551 586	453 574	14 798	470 620
Soybeans for beans..... bushels.....	23 648 220	924 609	23 782 615	22 036 681	689 350	21 092 382
Cotton..... acres.....	1 644 004	22 874	809 461	1 616 388	20 300	787 728
Peanuts for nuts..... bushels.....	31 714 587	463 192	18 882 067	31 294 309	414 240	18 461 219
Peanuts for nuts..... bales.....	329 160	1 073	539 888	327 541	1 073	526 959
Peanuts for nuts..... bales.....	288 247	625	481 198	287 326	625	472 350
Peanuts for nuts..... pounds.....	207 584	1 867	179 674	206 203	1 456	177 999
Peanuts for nuts..... pounds.....	509 637 699	4 194 904	394 736 262	507 751 675	3 808 000	392 726 022

¹Not fully comparable because of direct enumeration sample in 1978 totals; see text.
²1978 data are based on a sample of farms; see text.

ALABAMA



SCALE
0 10 20 30 40 50 MILES

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