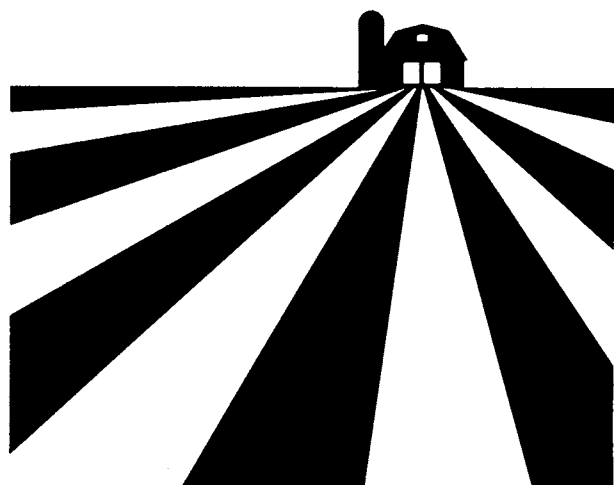


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1978  
CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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Volume 1  
**State and County Data**



Part 5  
**California**  
AC78-A-5

Issued June 1981



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<sup>1</sup> Not shown separately to avoid disclosing data for individual farms. However, the data for the county are included in the State totals.

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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 farms			Farms with sales of \$2,500 or more		
	1978		1974 <sup>1</sup>	1978		1974 <sup>1</sup>
	Total	Not on mail list	Total	Total	Not on mail list	Total
Farms..... number.....	81 706	8 512	67 674	57 110	2 522	50 763
Land in farms..... acres.....	33 130 362	403 160	33 385 619	31 306 270	193 119	32 107 481
Average size of farm..... acres.....	405	47	493	548	77	632
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	8 899 360	94 986	8 307 246	8 718 000	72 404	8 206 097
Average per farm..... acres.....	109	11	123	153	29	162
<b>Farms by size:</b>						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	49 041	6 979	37 642	28 561	1 782	23 701
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	23 877	1 379	21 385	20 232	662	18 773
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	3 642	96	3 514	3 370	42	3 286
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	5 146	58	5 133	4 947	36	5 003
<b>Value of land and buildings:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	482 809	152 365	322 034	621 706	191 191	401 574
Average per acre..... dollars.....	1 186	3 217	653	1 128	2 497	635
<b>Value of machinery and equipment on farms:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	3 096 899	85 002	1 766 525	2 904 721	46 292	1 653 442
Average per farm..... dollars.....	37 903	9 986	26 103	50 862	18 355	32 572
<b>Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....</b>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	9 324 378	49 883	7 394 723	9 283 525	44 697	7 355 632
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	5 887 168	35 265	4 730 855	5 871 114	33 700	4 717 673
Average per farm..... dollars.....	72 053	4 143	69 907	102 804	13 363	92 935
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	2 732 625	14 362	2 071 949	2 709 118	10 849	2 047 673
Average per farm..... dollars.....	33 445	1 687	30 617	47 437	4 302	40 338
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	704 585	256	584 547	703 294	148	582 982
Average per farm..... dollars.....	8 623	30	8 638	12 315	58	11 484
<b>Farms by value of agricultural products sold:</b>						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	24 484	5 990	18 587	-	-	1 797
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	18 186	1 627	13 563	18 186	1 627	13 563
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	16 377	752	15 581	16 377	752	15 581
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	9 005	58	8 394	9 005	58	8 394
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	5 232	59	4 568	5 232	59	4 568
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	8 310	26	6 860	8 310	26	6 860
Abnormal farms..... number.....	112	(X)	121	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of --</b>						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	23 575	5 186	18 861	-	-	1 701
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	96 353	7 931	75 896	96 353	7 931	75 896
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	346 611	15 408	331 530	346 611	15 408	331 530
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	571 126	2 919	537 631	571 126	2 919	537 631
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	735 141	7 832	642 962	735 141	7 832	642 962
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	7 534 294	10 607	5 770 812	7 534 294	10 607	5 770 812
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	17 277	(X)	21 931	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Farm production expenses for selected items:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	1 338 234	8 051	1 276 741	1 320 635	4 406	1 265 367
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	160 882	1 670	106 629	158 833	1 522	106 058
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	337 173	1 729	292 054	333 651	1 600	290 455
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	290 429	1 461	193 100	286 390	1 314	192 450
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	256 174	3 510	154 809	250 550	2 675	151 931
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	1 375 184	4 413	1 050 722	1 363 704	3 984	1 043 349
<b>Livestock and poultry inventory:</b>						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	4 492 960	46 448	4 425 359	4 355 775	22 944	4 277 258
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	193 728	15 596	133 815	156 084	1 379	111 170
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	1 286 550	5 060	1 605 889	1 246 714	1 967	1 565 771
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	45 771 123	94 183	44 808 323	45 529 653	27 189	44 576 045
<b>Crops harvested:</b>						
Cotton..... acres.....	1 520 908	2 928	1 150 321	1 518 686	2 928	1 149 429
..... bales.....	1 914 316	3 266	2 241 869	1 911 261	3 266	2 240 861
Hay crops..... acres.....	1 540 518	39 375	1 545 144	1 483 904	30 480	1 500 787
..... tons, dry.....	6 301 052	105 287	6 625 208	6 195 365	90 645	6 531 338
All vegetables harvested for sale..... acres.....	905 447	5 046	(NA)	904 672	4 866	828 141
Land in orchards..... acres.....	1 919 877	27 800	1 769 821	1 809 987	15 449	1 728 069

<sup>1</sup>Not fully comparable because of direct enumeration sample in 1978 totals; see text.  
<sup>2</sup>1978 data are based on a sample of farms; see text.

# CALIFORNIA

