

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 6

Colorado

AC78-A-6

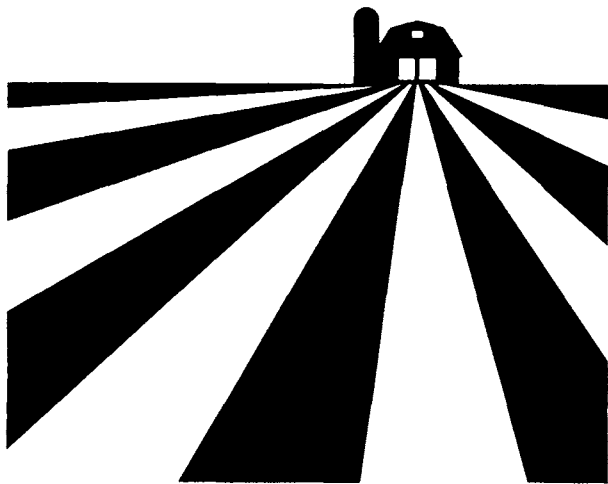
1978

CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 6
Colorado

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Issued June 1981



U.S. Department of Commerce

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Alamosa	190	Larimer	345
Arapahoe	195	Las Animas	350
Archuleta	200	Lincoln	355
Baca	205	Logan	360
Bent	210	Mesa	365
Boulder	215	Mineral	370
Chaffee	220	Moffat	375
Cheyenne	225	Montezuma	380
Clear Creek	(¹)	Montrose	385
Conejos	230	Morgan	390
Costilla	235	Otero	395
Crowley	240	Ouray	400
Custer	245	Park	405
Delta	250	Phillips	410
Denver	255	Pitkin	415
Dolores	260	Prowers	420
Douglas	265	Pueblo	425
Eagle	270	Rio Blanco	430
Elbert	275	Rio Grande	435
El Paso	280	Routt	440
Fremont	285	Saguache	445
Garfield	290	San Juan	(¹)
Gilpin	(¹)	San Miguel	450
Grand	295	Sedgwick	455
Gunnison	300	Summit	460
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¹ 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:

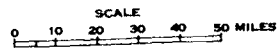
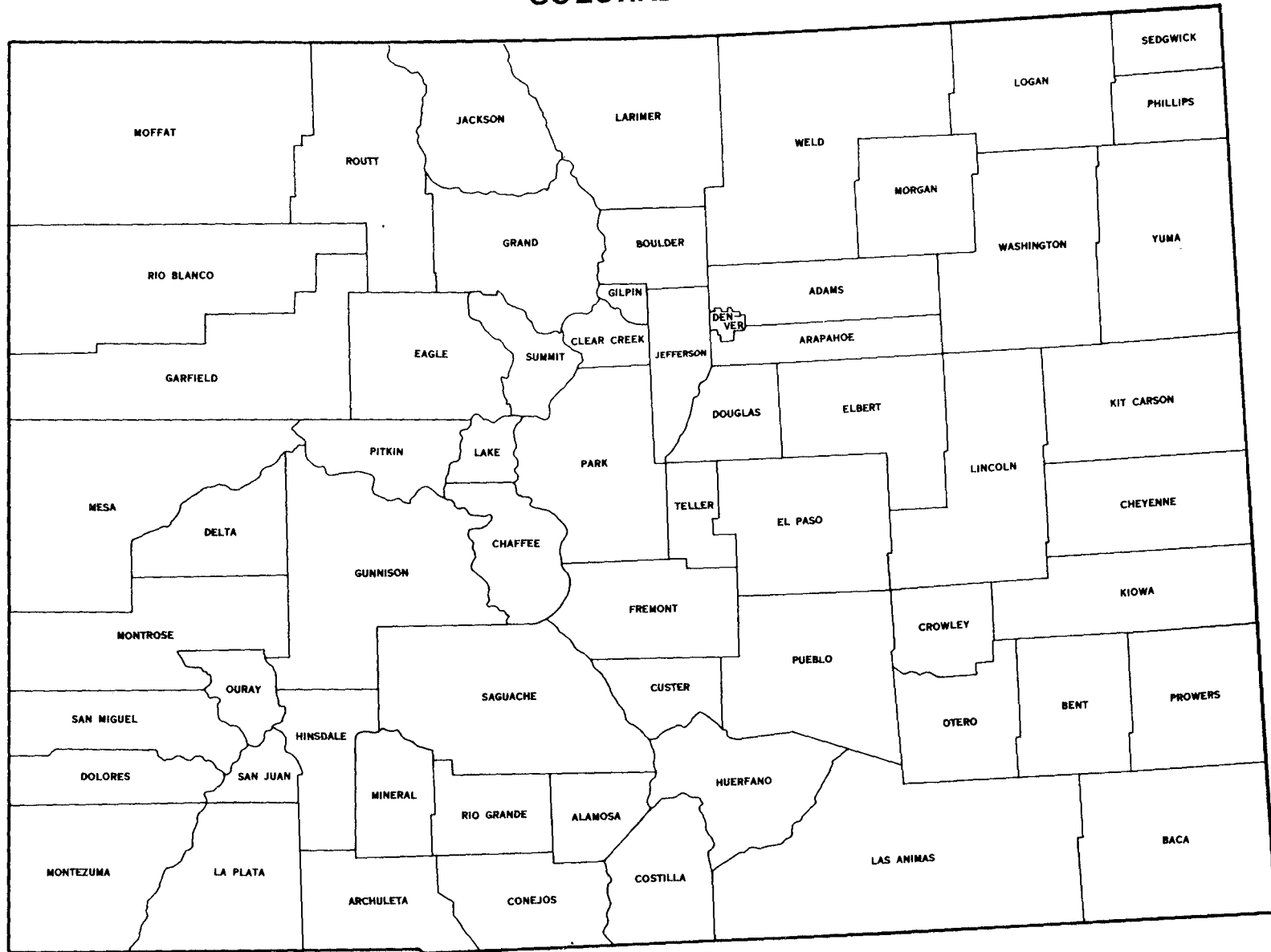
- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.
- * Independent city.

Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	All farms			Farms with sales of \$2,500 or more		
	1978		1974 ¹	1978		1974 ¹
	Total	Not on mail list	Total	Total	Not on mail list	Total
Farms..... number.....	29 633	2 726	25 501	22 568	815	21 055
Land in farms..... acres.....	35 470 404	216 993	35 902 165	32 930 957	129 585	33 739 546
Average size of farm..... acres.....	1 197	80	1 408	1 459	159	1 602
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	5 880 493	35 688	5 956 865	5 773 693	28 546	5 892 090
Average per farm..... acres.....	198	13	234	256	35	280
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	7 628	2 017	4 481	3 451	422	2 239
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	11 217	635	10 210	8 789	330	8 384
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	3 537	43	3 578	3 276	32	3 345
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	7 251	31	7 232	7 052	31	7 087
Value of land and buildings: ²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	387 873	100 440	264 065	461 866	115 801	297 523
Average per acre..... dollars.....	322	1 262	188	315	728	186
Value of machinery and equipment on farms ² \$1,000.....	1 091 593	20 150	707 561	1 033 034	7 672	667 873
Average per farm..... dollars.....	36 837	7 392	27 746	45 774	9 413	31 720
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	2 599 023	9 034	1 970 236	2 586 536	7 355	1 962 120
Average per farm..... dollars.....	87 707	3 314	77 261	114 611	9 025	93 190
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	575 973	2 407	682 791	572 963	2 116	680 853
Average per farm..... dollars.....	19 437	883	26 775	25 388	2 597	32 337
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	1 964 570	6 497	1 245 846	1 955 448	5 233	1 239 979
Average per farm..... dollars.....	66 297	2 383	48 855	86 647	6 421	58 892
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	58 479	131	41 316	58 126	5	41 045
Average per farm..... dollars.....	1 973	48	1 620	2 576	7	1 949
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	6 986	1 911	4 940	-	-	567
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	6 732	646	5 315	6 732	646	5 315
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	7 795	148	7 470	7 795	148	7 470
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	4 491	21	4 646	4 491	21	4 646
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	1 956	-	1 796	1 956	-	1 796
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	1 594	-	1 261	1 594	-	1 261
Abnormal farms..... number.....	79	(X)	73	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	7 342	1 679	5 629	-	-	685
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	36 748	3 482	30 374	36 748	3 482	30 374
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	169 211	2 991	163 830	169 211	2 991	163 830
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	282 849	882	291 389	282 849	882	291 389
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	272 051	-	248 687	272 051	-	248 687
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	1 825 677	-	1 227 157	1 825 677	-	1 227 157
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	5 145	(X)	3 171	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: ²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	466 478	2 933	436 776	461 087	1 332	433 197
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	37 354	320	22 017	36 958	266	21 866
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	69 212	148	52 292	68 346	121	51 976
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	22 873	113	12 921	22 456	91	12 866
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	83 407	1 036	55 005	81 371	659	53 975
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	107 518	519	82 987	105 666	349	82 103
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	3 174 161	20 030	3 087 884	3 123 930	14 068	3 028 867
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	390 600	6 796	291 342	376 561	2 718	282 574
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	805 268	1 986	985 019	793 037	609	969 375
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	3 225 587	83 901	2 253 086	3 110 996	9 400	2 197 141
Crops harvested:						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	976 563	3 983	762 422	972 254	3 843	760 402
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	2 481 934	8 364	2 836 553	2 463 388	8 232	2 830 925
bushels.....	55 148 324	81 708	70 089 495	54 882 017	80 388	69 988 489
Barley for grain..... acres.....	223 962	-	(NA)	221 394	-	195 150
bushels.....	12 716 276	-	(NA)	12 640 892	-	9 718 364
Hay crops..... acres.....	1 436 453	23 887	1 345 920	1 365 639	17 541	1 295 615
tons, dry.....	3 036 827	30 925	2 794 761	2 941 332	22 497	2 714 942

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

COLORADO



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS