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Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 9

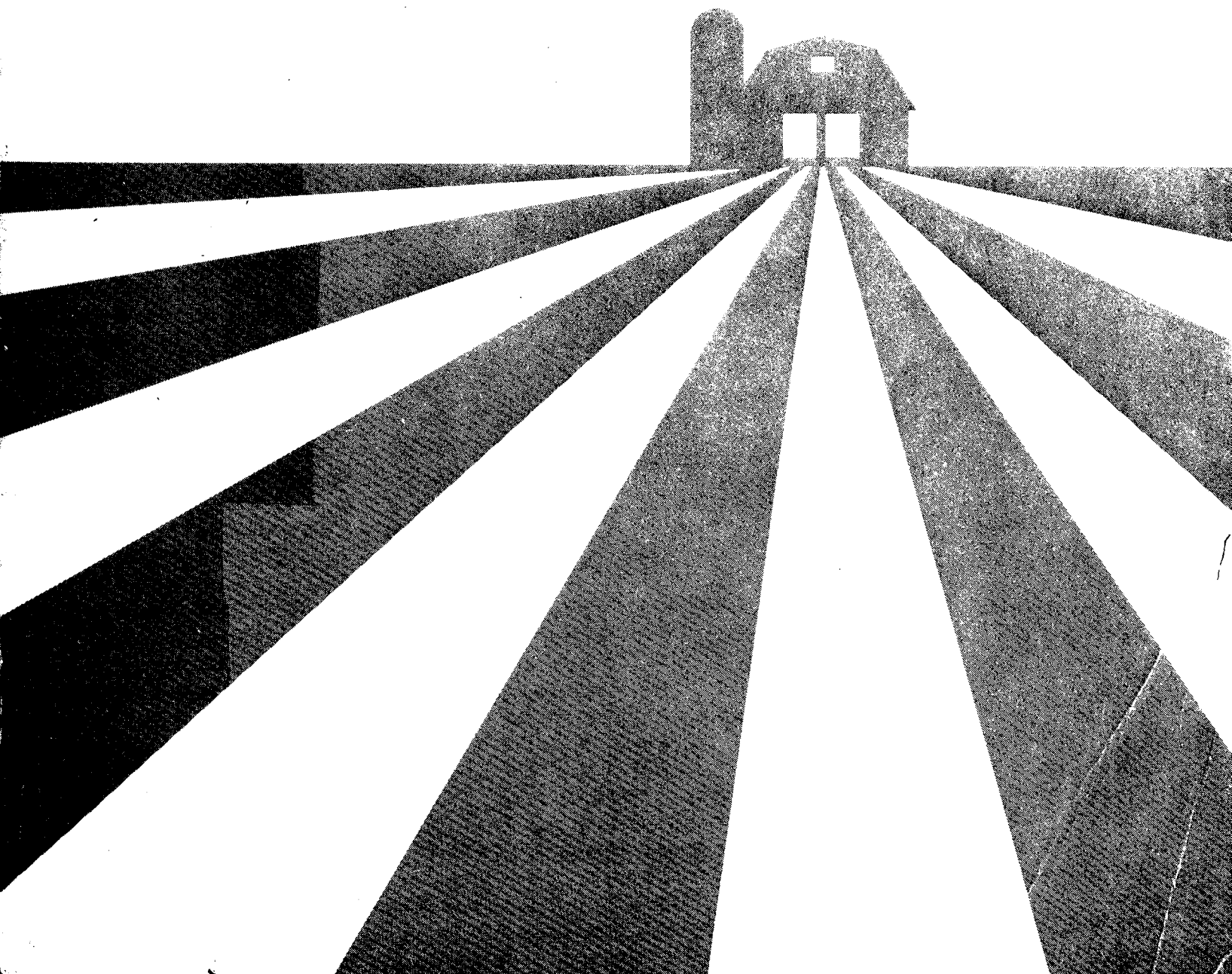
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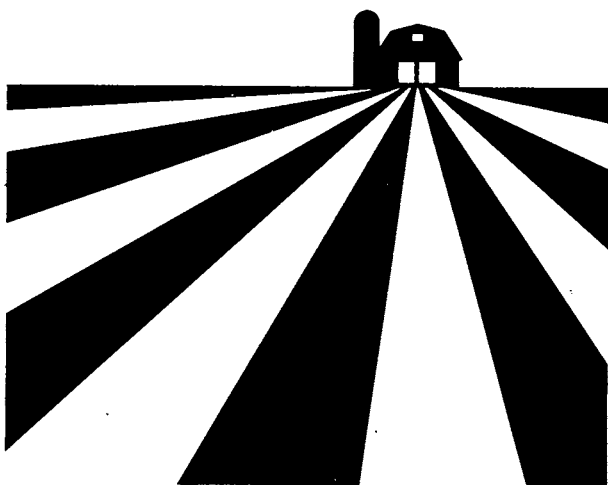
1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 9
Florida
AC78-A-9

Issued June 1981



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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.....	44 068	7 959	32 466	28 076	2 285	20 927
Land in farms..... acres.....	13 306 231	289 943	13 199 365	12 416 886	171 995	12 256 913
Average size of farm..... acres.....	302	36	407	442	75	586
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	2 761 473	55 799	2 304 043	2 678 916	41 851	2 243 894
Average per farm..... acres.....	63	7	71	95	18	107
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	24 925	6 827	15 367	12 347	1 671	7 644
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	15 325	1 006	13 606	12 082	488	9 984
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	1 979	126	1 689	1 877	126	1 579
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	1 839	-	1 804	1 770	-	1 720
Value of land and buildings:²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	351 646	99 985	278 479	496 702	201 003	391 110
Average per acre..... dollars.....	1 149	2 745	685	1 109	2 670	668
Value of machinery and equipment on farms²						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	936 395	47 508	523 759	836 566	18 756	458 372
Average per farm..... dollars.....	21 249	5 969	16 133	29 796	8 208	21 903
Value of agricultural products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	3 047 231	21 597	1 898 658	3 025 611	17 109	1 881 923
Average per farm..... dollars.....	69 148	2 714	58 481	107 765	7 487	89 928
Crops sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	2 176 214	9 103	1 298 800	2 169 885	8 228	1 293 199
Average per farm..... dollars.....	49 383	1 144	40 005	77 286	3 601	61 796
Livestock and livestock products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	647 237	12 080	408 625	632 654	8 580	398 472
Average per farm..... dollars.....	14 687	1 518	12 586	22 534	3 755	19 041
Poultry and poultry products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	223 780	415	180 146	223 071	301	179 739
Average per farm..... dollars.....	5 078	52	5 549	7 945	132	8 589
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	15 941	5 674	12 372	-	-	875
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	11 817	1 890	7 990	11 817	1 890	7 990
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	8 420	366	6 634	8 420	366	6 634
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	3 628	29	2 470	3 628	29	2 470
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	1 771	-	1 297	1 771	-	1 297
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	2 440	-	1 661	2 440	-	1 661
Abnormal farms..... number.....	51	(X)	42	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	15 789	4 489	12 063	-	-	946
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	60 984	8 546	43 272	60 984	8 546	43 272
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	170 766	7 113	134 395	170 766	7 113	134 395
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	226 869	1 450	155 639	226 869	1 450	155 639
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	248 095	-	182 630	248 095	-	182 630
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	2 318 897	-	1 365 041	2 318 897	-	1 365 041
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	5 830	(X)	5 617	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items:²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	341 687	12 002	279 082	331 540	7 861	272 748
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	69 760	1 201	37 232	68 903	958	36 780
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	176 802	1 806	153 412	172 040	914	150 066
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	108 149	528	68 396	106 389	343	68 062
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	82 804	1 851	46 714	79 733	1 091	45 029
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	389 880	913	264 450	385 649	710	262 252
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	2 193 959	65 941	2 367 108	2 040 757	25 974	2 185 412
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	376 591	53 242	196 283	308 511	18 416	173 501
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	4 957	291	5 006	3 483	-	3 767
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	15 113 719	230 621	14 401 528	14 977 762	164 734	14 319 372
Crops harvested:						
Corn for grain or seed..... acres.....	310 165	14 375	296 893	292 454	10 177	279 087
Sugarcane..... bushels.....	15 593 635	386 104	14 015 112	15 000 734	269 085	13 488 051
..... acres.....	336 493	-	(NA)	(D)	-	249 437
..... tons.....	10 316 794	-	(NA)	(D)	-	8 187 821
All vegetables harvested for sale..... acres.....	346 357	3 259	(NA)	344 575	2 695	252 900
Land in orchards..... acres.....	938 036	5 541	912 079	901 089	1 709	894 329

¹Not fully comparable because of direct enumeration sample in 1978 totals; see text.

²1978 data are based on a sample of farms; see text.

