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Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 18

Louisiana

AC78-A-18

1978 **FILE COPY**
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

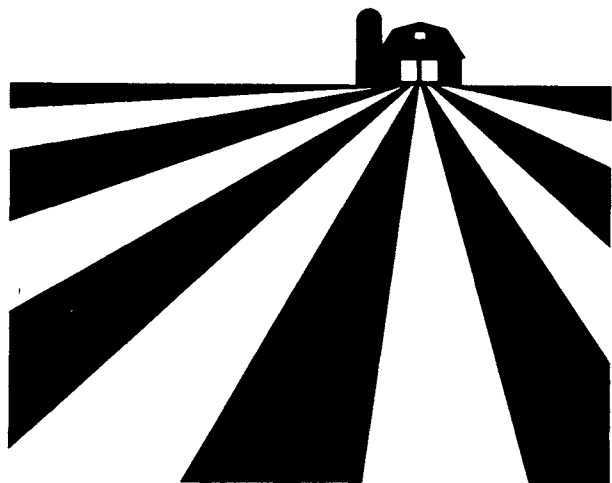
U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1000

1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 18
Louisiana
AC78-A-18

Issued June 1981



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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	VII
Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974	IX
State Map	X

CHARTS

1. Changes in State's Agriculture: 1978 From 1974	XI
2. Profile of State's Agriculture: 1978.	XII
3. Land in Farms by Type of Organization: 1978	XIII
4. Farms by Value of Sales: 1978.	XIV
5. Value of Products Sold by Size of Sales: 1978	XIV

PATTERN MAPS

1. Land in Farms by Parish: 1978	XV
2. Average Size of Farm by Parish: 1978	XV
3. Value of Land and Buildings by Parish: 1978	XVI
4. Value of Agricultural Products Sold by Parish: 1978	XVI
5. Cattle and Calves Inventory by Parish: 1978	XVII
6. Milk Cows Inventory by Parish: 1978	XVII
7. Soybeans Harvested for Beans by Parish: 1978.	XVIII
8. Cotton Harvested by Parish: 1978	XVIII

TABLES

CHAPTER 1. State Data

1. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1945 to 1978	1
2. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use, for Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More: 1978, 1974, and 1969	1
3. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use, by Size of Farm: 1978 and 1974	2
4. Operators—Tenure, Type of Organization, and Characteristics: 1978, 1974, and 1969	2
5. Operators by Type of Organization for Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More: 1978, 1974, and 1969	3
6. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978, 1974, and 1969	4
7. Expenses for Energy and Petroleum Products: 1978, 1974, and 1969	5
8. Fuel Expenses, Quantity Purchased, and Storage Capacity: 1978	5
9. Farm Payroll, Employment, and Contract Expenses: 1978, 1974, and 1969	5
10. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978, 1974, and 1969	6
11. Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers for Human Consumption: 1978	6
12. Income From Machine Work, Customwork, and Other Agricultural Services: 1978, 1974, and 1969	7
13. Selected Characteristics of Farms by Standard Industrial Classification of Farms: 1978	7
14. Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1978 and 1974	8
15. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer and Lime: 1978 and 1974	8
16. Irrigation: 1978, 1974, and 1969	9
17. Selected Characteristics of Irrigated and Nonirrigated Farms: 1978.	9
18. Livestock and Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978, 1974, and 1969	10
19. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974.	10
20. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974	12
21. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974.	14
22. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974	15

TABLES—Con.	Page
CHAPTER 1—Con.	
23. Other Livestock and Livestock Products—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974	16
24. Fish Sales: 1978	16
25. Crops Harvested: 1978 and 1974	17
26. Specified Crops Harvested—Yield Per Acre Irrigated and Nonirrigated: 1978.	18
27. Crops Harvested and Value of Production: 1978 and 1974	18
28. Crops by Acres Harvested: 1978.	19
29. Summary by Tenure of Operator: 1978.	22
30. Summary by Type of Organization: 1978	30
31. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operator: 1978.	38
32. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operators for Farms With Sales of Less Than \$20,000: 1978	54
33. Summary by Size of Farm: 1978	70
34. Summary by Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978	86
35. Summary by Standard Industrial Classification of Farm: 1978.	102
 CHAPTER 2. Parish Summary Data	
1. Number, Land, and Value of Farms: 1978 and 1974	118
2. Land Use: 1978	119
3. Irrigation: 1978	121
4. Farms by Tenure of Operator: 1978	122
5. Farms and Land in Farms by Type of Organization: 1978.	122
6. Characteristics of Operators: 1978	123
7. Farms by Value of Sales and Occupation: 1978.	124
8. Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1978	125
9. Farms by Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978	127
10. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for All Farms: 1978	127
11. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More: 1978. . .	128
12. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978.	129
13. Energy Expenses and Fuel Storage Capacity for Farm Business: 1978	131
14. Hired Farm Labor—Expenses and Number of Workers: 1978	133
15. Estimated Market Value of All Machinery and Equipment: 1978	134
16. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1978	135
17. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales: 1978	143
18. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978	146
19. Broilers Sold by Number Per Farm: 1978.	148
20. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1978.	149
21. Milk Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978	149
22. Angora Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978	Not shown
23. Mink and Their Pelts—Inventory and Sales: 1978.	150
24. Colonies of Bees and Honey—Inventory and Sales: 1978.	150
25. Fish Sales: 1978	150
26. Miscellaneous Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978	151
27. Miscellaneous Livestock and Animal Specialties—Inventory and Sales: 1978.	153
28. Grains—Corn, Sorghums, Wheat, and Other Small Grains: 1978	154
29. Cotton, Tobacco, Soybeans, Dry Beans and Peas, Potatoes, Sugar Crops, and Peanuts: 1978 . .	155
30. Field Seeds, Grass Seeds, Hay, Forage, and Silage: 1978	156
31. Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons, Harvested for Sale: 1978.	159
32. Fruits and Nuts: 1978	162
33. Berries: 1978	167
34. Nursery and Greenhouse Products, Mushrooms, and Sod: 1978	167
35. Other Crops: 1978.	168
36. Operator Response to Land Held Under Foreign Ownership: 1978	169
37. Income From Machine Work, Customwork and Other Agricultural Services: 1978	169

TABLES—Con.

CHAPTER 2—Con.

38. Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers for Human Consumption: 1978 . . .	170
39. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races: 1978	171
40. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Tenure: 1978	172
41. Operators by Selected Racial Groups: 1978	173
42. Operators of Spanish Origin: 1978	173
43. Female Operators: 1978	174

CHAPTER 3. Individual Parish Data [The following tables are common to the State and each parish]

1. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1978 and 1974
2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978 and 1974
3. Farms, Land in Farms, Land Use, and Irrigation, by Size of Farm: 1978 and 1974
4. Operators—Tenure, Type of Organization, and Characteristics: 1978 and 1974
5. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978 and 1974
6. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer and Lime: 1978 and 1974
7. Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1978 and 1974
8. Hired Farm Workers: 1978 and 1974
9. Livestock and Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974
10. Crops: 1978 and 1974

Louisiana	175	Livingston	340
Farms Not on Mail List	180	Madison	345
Acadia	185	Morehouse	350
Allen	190	Natchitoches	355
Ascension	195	Orleans	(¹)
Assumption	200	Ouachita	360
Avoyelles	205	Plaquemines	365
Beauregard	210	Pointe Coupee	370
Bienville	215	Rapides	375
Bossier	220	Red River	380
Caddo	225	Richland	385
Calcasieu	230	Sabine	390
Caldwell	235	St. Bernard	395
Cameron	240	St. Charles	400
Catahoula	245	St. Helena	405
Claiborne	250	St. James	410
Concordia	255	St. John the Baptist	415
De Soto	260	St. Landry	420
East Baton Rouge	265	St. Martin	425
East Carroll	270	St. Mary	430
East Feliciana	275	St. Tammany	435
Evangeline	280	Tangipahoa	440
Franklin	285	Tensas	445
Grant	290	Terrebonne	450
Iberia	295	Union	455
Iberville	300	Vermilion	460
Jackson	305	Vernon	465
Jefferson	310	Washington	470
Jefferson Davis	315	Webster	475
Lafayette	320	West Baton Rouge	480
Lafourche	325	West Carroll	485
La Salle	330	West Feliciana	490
Lincoln	335	Winn	495

See footnotes at end of contents.

APPENDIXES

A. General Explanation	A-1
B. Farms by Current and Prior Definitions and Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978 and 1974	B-1
C. Comparison of 1974 Farm Counts With 1978 Farm Counts.	C-1
D. Report Forms.	D-1

Index	Index-1
Publication Program.	Inside back cover

¹ Not shown separately to avoid disclosing data for individual farms. However, the data for the parish are included in the State totals.

INTRODUCTION

	Page
HISTORY	VII
AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED	VII
FARM DEFINITION	VII
METHOD OF ENUMERATION	VII
COMPARABILITY OF DATA	VII
USE OF SAMPLING	VIII
GRAPHICS	VIII
TABULAR PRESENTATION	VIII
PRELIMINARY REPORTS	VIII
CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES	VIII
DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS	VIII
"SEE TEXT" REFERENCE	VIII
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS	VIII

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	38 923	7 553	33 240	22 593	1 478	18 542
Land in farms	9 604 986	309 957	9 133 275	8 624 734	98 160	7 974 270
Average size of farm	247	41	275	382	66	430
Harvested cropland	4 915 221	76 701	3 628 199	4 799 039	48 174	3 527 544
Average per farm	126	10	109	212	33	190
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres	15 668	5 554	10 942	4 782	850	2 918
50 to 499 acres	18 484	1 999	18 065	13 188	628	11 572
500 to 999 acres	2 798	-	2 397	2 693	-	2 272
1,000 acres or more	1 973	-	1 836	1 930	-	1 780
Value of land and buildings:²						
Average per farm	246 753	65 268	140 754	371 788	114 383	214 361
Average per acre	1 001	1 590	512	973	1 722	498
Value of machinery and equipment on farms²	1 252 291	57 204	713 650	1 132 967	23 025	613 746
Average per farm	32 174	7 574	21 470	50 147	15 578	33 100
Value of agricultural products sold	1 230 384	18 463	1 193 722	1 208 896	13 804	1 173 913
Average per farm	31 611	2 444	35 912	53 508	9 340	63 311
Crops sold	846 743	7 477	927 246	841 597	6 774	922 010
Average per farm	21 754	990	27 895	37 250	4 583	49 725
Livestock and livestock products sold	260 923	8 376	188 848	244 808	4 505	174 824
Average per farm	6 704	1 109	5 681	10 836	3 048	9 429
Poultry and poultry products sold	122 718	2 610	71 457	122 491	2 526	71 105
Average per farm	3 153	346	2 150	5 422	1 709	3 835
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500	16 283	6 075	15 382	-	-	724
\$2,500 to \$9,999	9 813	1 144	6 291	9 813	1 144	6 291
\$10,000 to \$39,999	5 875	300	5 008	5 875	300	5 008
\$40,000 to \$99,999	3 531	22	3 484	3 531	22	3 484
\$100,000 to \$199,999	2 054	-	1 768	2 054	-	1 768
\$200,000 or more	1 320	12	1 267	1 320	12	1 267
Abnormal farms	47	(X)	40	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500	16 221	4 659	15 681	-	-	959
\$2,500 to \$9,999	50 013	5 647	32 988	50 013	5 647	32 988
\$10,000 to \$39,999	122 227	4 821	106 054	122 227	4 821	106 054
\$40,000 to \$99,999	230 134	937	223 896	230 134	937	223 896
\$100,000 to \$199,999	285 308	-	247 483	285 308	-	247 483
\$200,000 or more	521 213	2 400	562 535	521 213	2 400	562 535
Abnormal farms	5 267	(X)	5 087	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items:²						
Feed for livestock and poultry	146 176	6 023	116 567	137 739	3 449	107 875
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees	55 245	996	34 757	54 565	782	34 158
Commercial fertilizer	82 535	1 181	71 007	79 562	615	67 506
Other agricultural chemicals	76 827	596	47 717	75 663	483	47 260
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc.	78 981	1 878	46 347	75 441	920	43 846
Hired farm labor	101 880	568	79 639	98 947	384	77 152
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves	1 126 424	74 208	1 515 509	916 793	21 188	1 198 968
Hogs and pigs	105 665	32 190	72 365	63 741	7 209	55 572
Sheep and lambs	13 550	2 756	13 922	7 886	137	8 612
Chickens 3 months old or older	3 990 988	115 806	3 657 907	3 828 891	18 813	3 524 436
Crops harvested:						
Rice	599 831	399	(NA)	599 086	294	645 504
100 lb bags	22 448 496	6 447	(NA)	22 426 207	3 045	24 579 124
Soybeans for beans	3 003 505	34 456	1 608 070	2 985 325	32 569	1 599 175
Cotton	74 973 122	714 971	42 871 889	74 658 664	681 240	42 668 498
acres	519 234	9 127	584 816	516 184	8 687	579 572
bales	473 997	3 322	519 427	472 310	3 234	515 229
Sugarcane	297 361	-	(NA)	295 914	-	302 629
tons	6 808 988	-	(NA)	6 784 515	-	6 997 684

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

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

LOUISIANA

