

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 19

**Maine**

AC78-A-19

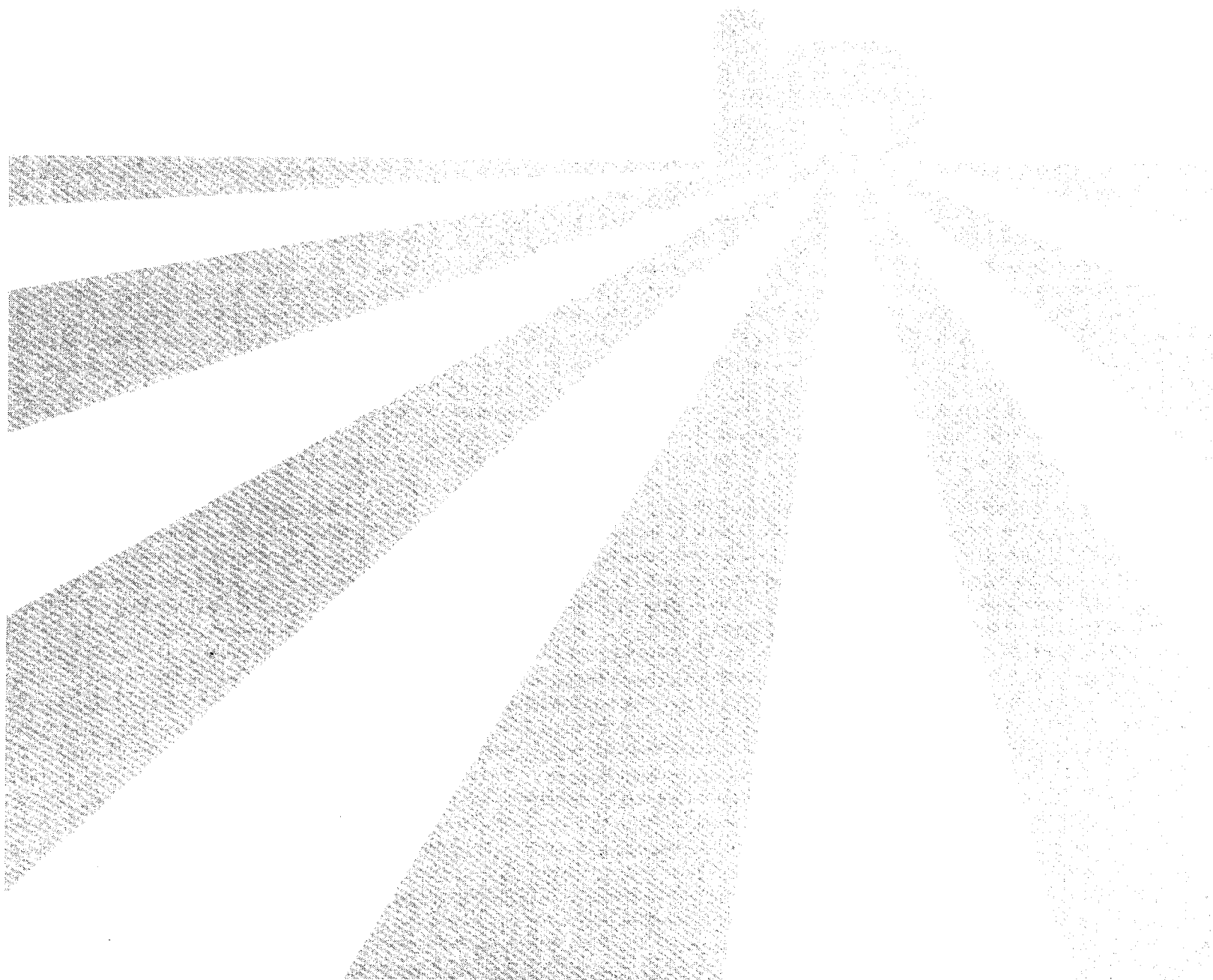
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1978

CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
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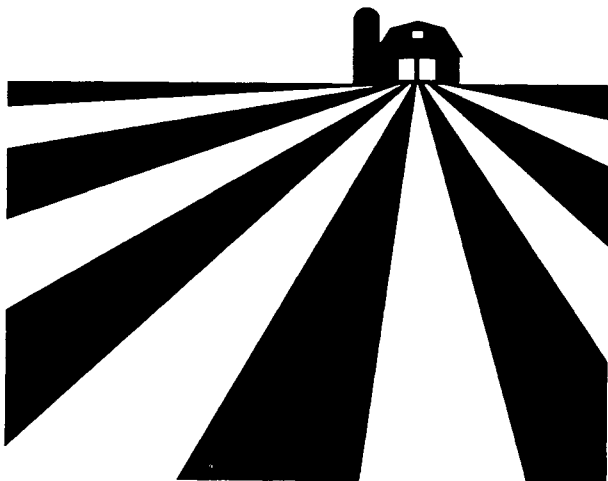


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Issued March 1981



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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.

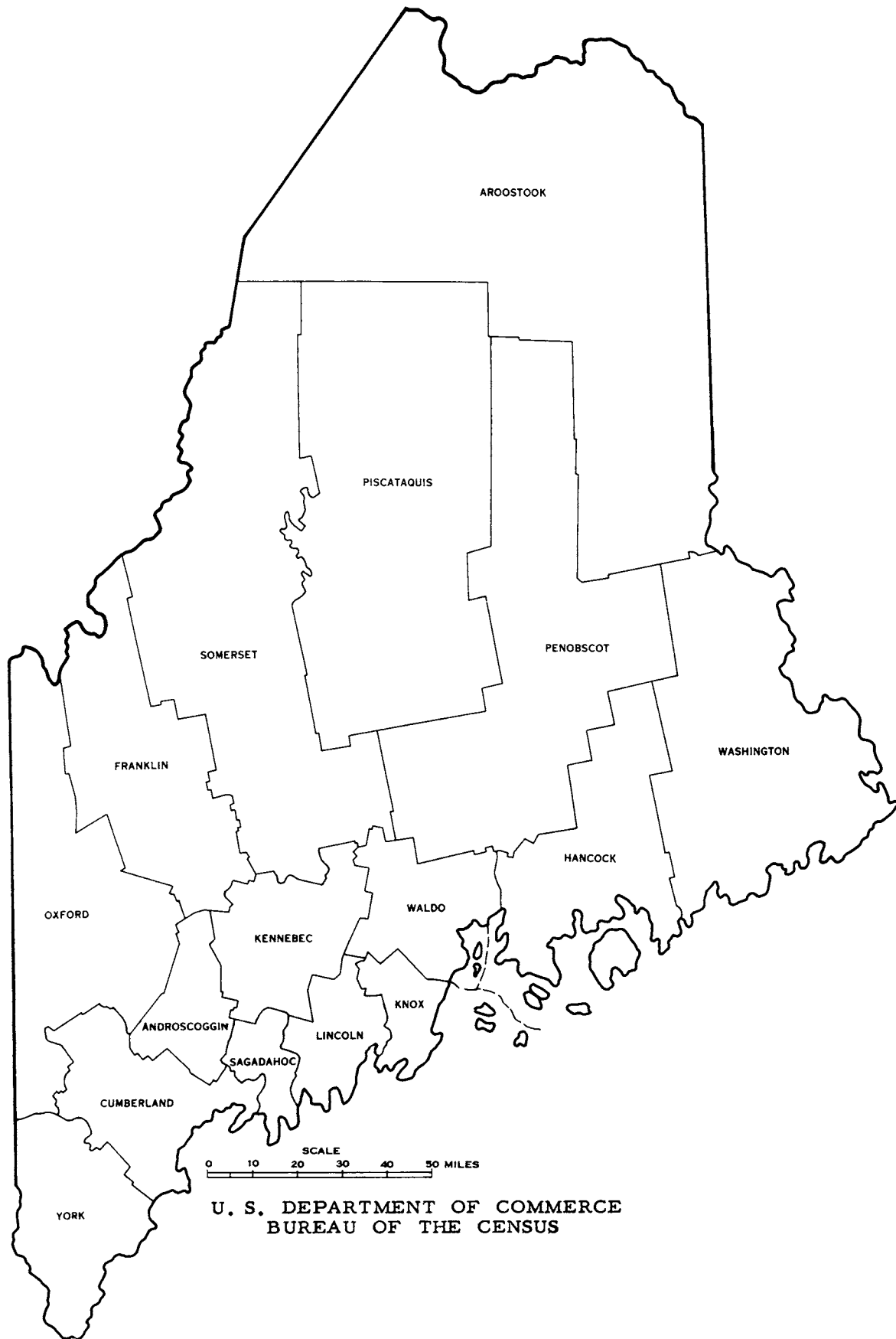


# Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	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.....	8 158	1 383	6 436	4 945	269	4 553
Land in farms..... acres.....	1 606 239	105 849	1 523 696	1 277 177	43 262	1 285 128
Average size of farm..... acres.....	197	77	237	258	161	282
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	487 950	24 921	449 901	430 116	11 890	416 790
Average per farm..... acres.....	60	18	70	87	44	92
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	1 927	688	1 033	760	69	593
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	5 561	695	4 736	3 571	200	3 338
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	539	-	509	489	-	468
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	131	-	158	125	-	154
Value of land and buildings: <sup>2</sup>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	108 176	59 922	80 656	133 695	66 452	93 816
Average per acre..... dollars.....	538	783	341	506	413	332
Value of machinery and equipment on farms: <sup>2</sup>						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	218 615	11 876	141 550	191 930	3 897	126 038
Average per farm..... dollars.....	26 798	8 587	21 993	38 813	14 488	27 682
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	399 426	5 558	359 612	395 498	4 630	356 990
Average per farm..... dollars.....	48 961	4 018	55 875	79 979	17 213	78 408
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	109 944	3 192	132 583	107 914	2 625	131 102
Average per farm..... dollars.....	13 477	2 308	20 600	21 823	9 757	28 795
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	86 614	770	65 828	84 848	454	64 923
Average per farm..... dollars.....	10 617	557	10 228	17 158	1 613	14 259
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	202 868	1 595	158 317	202 735	1 572	158 226
Average per farm..... dollars.....	24 867	1 153	24 599	40 998	5 843	34 752
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	3 204	1 114	1 957	-	-	88
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	1 650	187	1 024	1 650	187	1 024
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	1 337	57	1 425	1 337	57	1 425
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	1 048	17	1 182	1 048	17	1 182
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	514	8	526	514	8	526
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	396	-	308	396	-	308
Abnormal farms..... number.....	9	(X)	14	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of -						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	3 178	927	2 020	-	-	121
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	8 192	830	5 461	8 192	830	5 461
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	29 811	1 171	33 223	29 811	1 171	33 223
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	66 680	1 166	76 259	66 680	1 166	76 259
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	72 964	1 463	73 288	72 964	1 463	73 288
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	217 849	-	168 638	217 849	-	168 638
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	750	(X)	723	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: <sup>2</sup>						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	141 689	1 190	115 882	140 431	817	115 160
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	8 648	429	10 769	8 473	365	10 688
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	17 980	523	18 968	17 469	384	18 780
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	8 921	318	6 603	8 582	190	6 538
Petroleum products-- gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	14 181	296	9 268	13 515	176	8 923
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	39 942	522	31 435	38 982	456	30 933
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	133 398	4 148	137 366	119 741	1 046	125 582
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	9 324	1 536	6 480	5 688	195	4 469
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	10 978	682	11 546	6 286	89	7 721
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	9 159 528	144 413	9 861 717	9 136 171	139 274	9 842 610
Crops harvested:						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	41 786	336	42 451	41 255	280	42 102
Oats for grain..... acres.....	41 764	1 540	(NA)	40 414	1 215	26 745
Irish potatoes..... bushels.....	2 644 540	95 957	(NA)	2 588 548	82 350	1 562 108
Hay crops..... hundredweight.....	118 170	3 267	136 963	117 706	3 158	136 590
Hay crops..... acres.....	25 759 597	826 372	33 873 341	25 691 829	822 311	33 804 391
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	252 844	16 277	209 869	200 896	5 448	180 582
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	381 313	13 917	340 581	326 988	4 417	305 280

<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.

# MAINE



SCALE  
0 10 20 30 40 50 MILES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS