

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 20


Maryland

AC78-A-20

1978

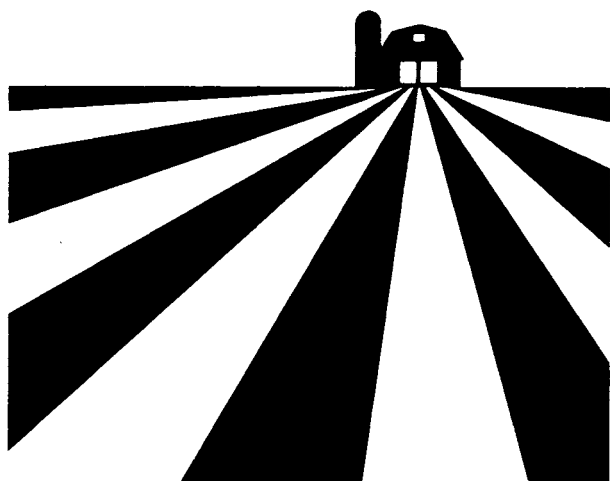
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 20
Maryland

AC78-A-20

Issued February 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 ¹	1978		1974 ¹
	Total	Not on mail list	Total	Total	Not on mail list	Total
Farms..... number.....	18 727	3 187	15 163	13 675	1 285	11 586
Land in farms..... acres.....	2 713 578	99 139	2 634 395	2 483 051	49 094	2 403 432
Average size of farm..... acres.....	145	31	174	182	38	207
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	1 512 163	34 847	1 438 842	1 457 715	21 240	1 399 778
Average per farm..... acres.....	81	11	95	107	17	121
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	8 329	2 635	4 904	4 665	1 020	2 767
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	9 328	552	9 258	7 954	265	7 835
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	781	-	716	768	-	704
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	289	-	285	288	-	280
Value of land and buildings: ²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	269 193	124 252	184 079	313 942	116 671	215 215
Average per acre..... dollars.....	1 800	3 994	1 029	1 684	3 054	1 037
Value of machinery and equipment on farms ² \$1,000.....	528 263	30 861	328 574	490 795	18 708	298 331
Average per farm..... dollars.....	28 209	9 683	21 669	35 890	14 559	25 749
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	806 014	21 455	619 947	798 958	19 452	614 507
Average per farm..... dollars.....	43 040	6 732	40 886	58 425	15 138	53 039
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	274 935	7 811	255 595	271 716	6 827	252 785
Average per farm..... dollars.....	14 681	2 451	16 856	19 870	5 313	21 818
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	251 006	4 936	176 122	247 409	4 003	173 687
Average per farm..... dollars.....	13 403	1 549	11 615	18 092	3 115	14 991
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	280 072	8 708	186 854	279 833	8 621	186 679
Average per farm..... dollars.....	14 956	2 732	12 323	20 463	6 709	16 112
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	5 039	1 902	3 739	-	-	179
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	5 249	859	3 547	5 249	859	3 547
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	3 864	309	3 787	3 864	309	3 787
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	2 364	100	2 461	2 364	100	2 461
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	1 278	-	1 073	1 278	-	1 073
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	920	17	539	920	17	539
Abnormal farms..... number.....	13	(X)	17	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	5 944	2 003	4 514	-	-	213
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	27 801	4 123	19 632	27 801	4 123	19 632
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	78 825	5 342	81 163	78 825	5 342	81 163
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	151 929	5 221	156 334	151 929	5 221	156 334
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	179 416	-	147 257	179 416	-	147 257
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	360 988	4 766	209 908	360 988	4 766	209 908
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	1 111	(X)	1 139	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: ²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	222 220	7 929	159 073	219 150	6 857	157 851
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	18 928	419	12 000	18 496	280	11 806
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	52 899	1 152	46 601	51 712	812	45 961
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	19 478	495	12 766	18 977	347	12 634
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	29 368	1 229	19 066	28 166	832	18 343
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	53 619	952	36 508	51 984	577	35 687
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	337 363	8 765	380 160	315 963	3 529	354 233
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	191 373	7 688	150 608	185 244	6 148	145 414
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	17 280	1 295	21 041	12 566	262	13 970
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	1 881 855	39 108	1 686 307	1 832 756	13 382	1 654 548
Crops harvested:						
Corn for grain or seed..... acres.....	584 241	8 589	519 683	573 722	5 328	512 467
bushels.....	55 703 495	599 782	44 736 782	54 997 648	394 225	44 313 851
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	72 973	442	131 951	71 851	374	129 990
bushels.....	2 606 744	17 255	5 009 981	2 577 137	14 960	4 954 266
Soybeans for beans..... acres.....	377 609	5 965	334 389	374 445	5 766	332 352
bushels.....	11 620 079	185 810	9 307 233	11 550 449	181 280	9 262 994
Tobacco..... acres.....	25 829	4 568	20 459	24 513	3 947	19 749
pounds.....	30 604 964	4 650 820	24 050 946	29 591 011	4 220 120	23 404 244

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

MARYLAND

