

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 22

**Michigan**

AC78-A-22

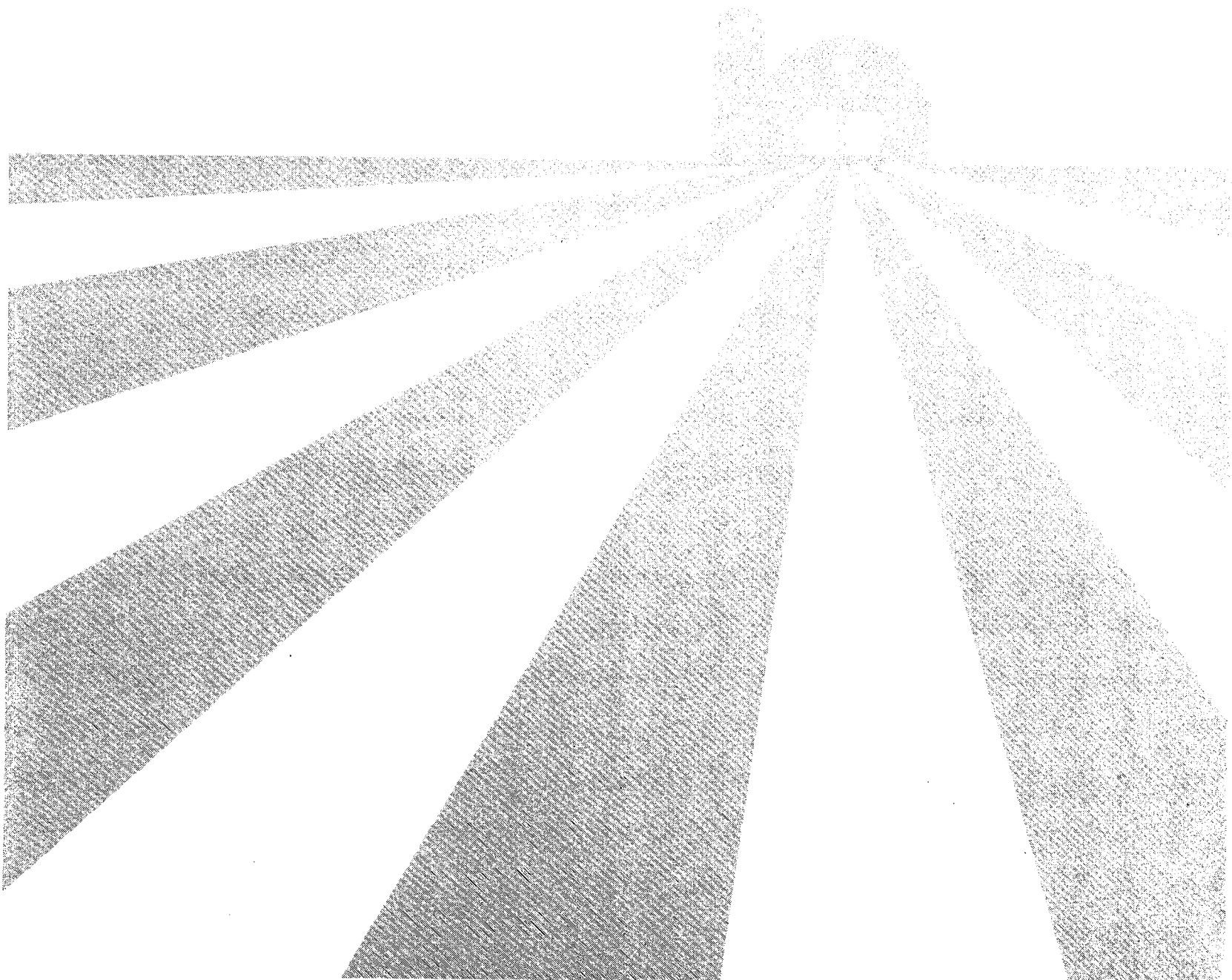
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1978

CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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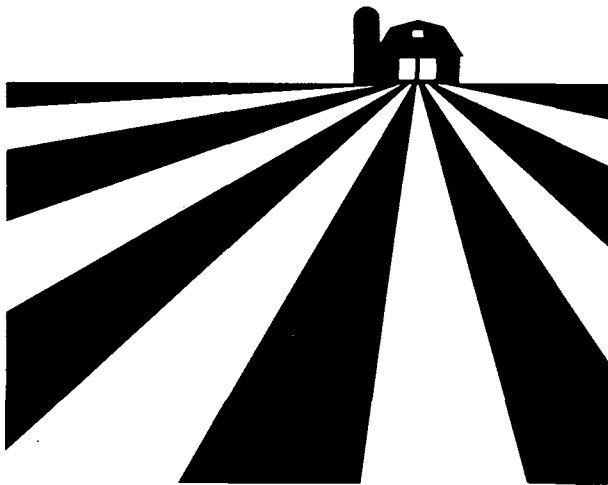


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Issued June 1981



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<sup>1</sup> Not shown separately to avoid disclosing data for individual farms. However, the data for the county are included in the State totals.

## INTRODUCTION

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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.

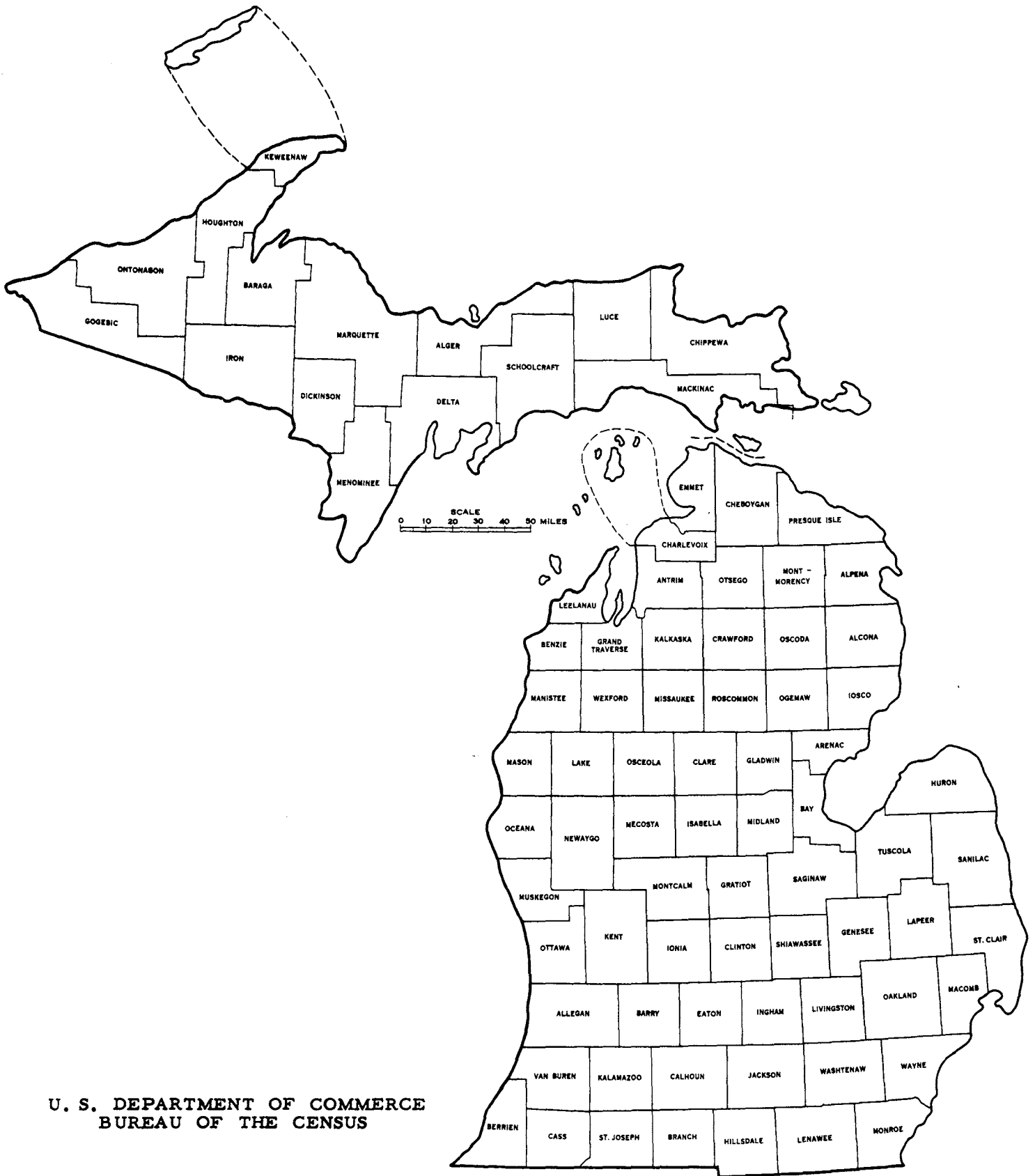
# Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	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.....	68 237	7 811	64 094	47 796	1 678	46 647
Land in farms..... acres.....	11 448 182	409 763	10 832 234	10 224 206	187 787	9 549 692
Average size of farm..... acres.....	168	52	169	214	112	205
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	6 953 675	179 446	6 317 638	6 609 166	117 428	5 993 074
Average per farm..... acres.....	102	23	99	138	70	128
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	20 195	5 596	14 021	7 995	747	5 842
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	43 669	2 155	46 645	35 494	871	37 429
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	3 511	60	2 880	3 458	60	2 837
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	862	-	548	849	-	539
Value of land and buildings: <sup>2</sup>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	163 311	71 565	93 435	204 613	137 964	112 958
Average per acre..... dollars.....	975	1 364	553	964	1 233	552
Value of machinery and equipment on farms <sup>2</sup> ..... \$1,000.....	2 072 471	84 000	1 313 311	1 915 216	50 214	1 170 064
Average per farm..... dollars.....	30 372	10 754	20 490	40 071	29 925	25 083
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	1 941 095	26 781	1 491 439	1 916 846	22 075	1 467 705
Average per farm..... dollars.....	28 446	3 429	23 270	40 105	13 156	31 464
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	1 013 585	15 841	828 866	1 000 471	13 667	814 714
Average per farm..... dollars.....	14 854	2 028	12 932	20 932	8 145	17 466
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	849 135	10 868	585 745	838 451	8 405	576 652
Average per farm..... dollars.....	12 444	1 391	9 139	17 542	5 009	12 362
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	78 376	71	71 976	77 925	3	71 658
Average per farm..... dollars.....	1 149	9	1 123	1 630	2	1 536
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	20 415	6 133	18 360	-	-	937
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	19 876	1 099	18 832	19 876	1 099	18 832
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	15 813	391	17 221	15 813	391	17 221
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	7 805	188	6 848	7 805	188	6 848
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	2 839	-	2 028	2 839	-	2 028
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	1 463	-	781	1 463	-	781
Abnormal farms..... number.....	26	(X)	24	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	21 300	4 706	21 983	-	-	1 377
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	106 481	4 747	105 734	106 481	4 747	105 734
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	326 249	8 541	356 190	326 249	8 541	356 190
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	492 093	8 787	420 768	492 093	8 787	420 768
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	389 781	-	273 426	389 781	-	273 426
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	602 242	-	310 210	602 242	-	310 210
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	2 948	(X)	3 128	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: <sup>2</sup>						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	184 066	4 109	150 759	177 618	1 694	146 407
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	81 192	1 398	52 018	79 240	1 035	50 909
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	175 929	2 738	131 619	172 063	2 205	128 788
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	68 555	998	39 559	67 091	809	38 998
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	100 165	2 272	67 528	95 190	1 228	63 722
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	137 307	439	92 002	134 991	405	90 342
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	1 276 204	27 581	1 430 262	1 207 872	13 966	1 328 213
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	958 231	26 991	619 910	916 984	4 587	597 317
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	112 678	15 493	149 787	85 016	120	128 526
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	7 089 968	78 780	7 609 220	6 927 189	1 010	7 462 686
Crops harvested:						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	2 817 381	53 738	2 378 301	2 747 020	41 083	2 301 789
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	382 166	11 768	810 197	369 809	10 588	769 763
Soybeans for beans..... bushels.....	15 044 875	374 898	31 891 280	14 718 224	366 520	30 684 495
Hay crops..... acres.....	898 071	9 622	570 683	877 529	7 616	558 690
Hay crops..... bushels.....	21 355 414	180 558	12 080 412	21 044 961	157 725	11 900 848
Hay crops..... acres.....	1 633 568	72 116	1 359 191	1 436 883	37 696	1 195 564
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	3 729 147	130 064	2 956 963	3 451 667	89 207	2 707 060

<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.

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