

Volume 1

State and County Data


Part 23

Minnesota

AC78-A-23

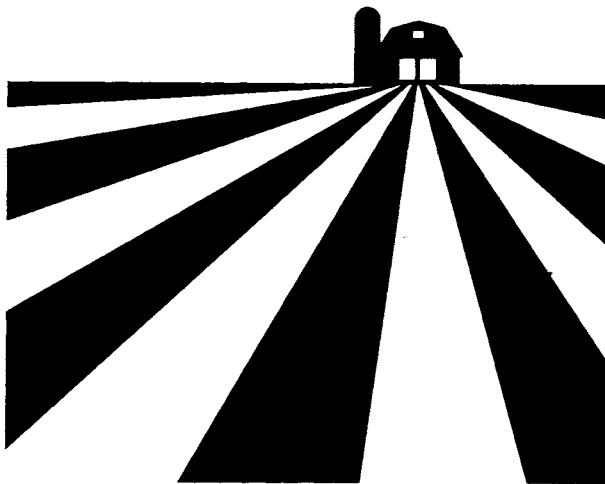
1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



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Minnesota

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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.

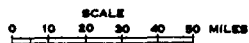
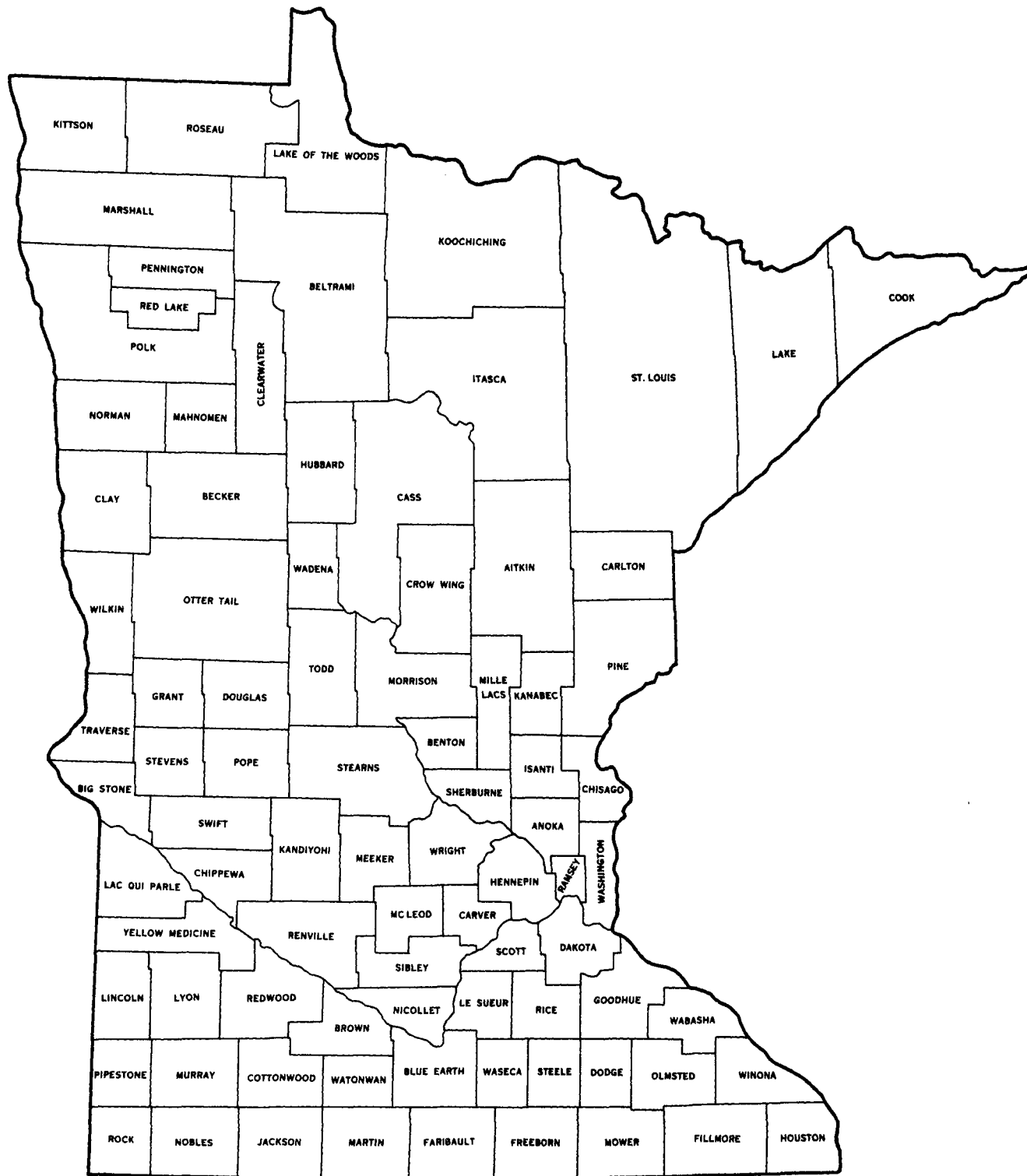
Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	All forms			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.....	102 963	4 292	98 537	87 723	922	85 905
Land in farms..... acres.....	28 678 829	219 039	27 605 228	27 428 396	48 918	26 303 948
Average size of farm..... acres.....	279	51	280	313	53	306
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	19 198 754	76 114	17 896 490	18 873 409	35 893	17 606 001
Average per farm..... acres.....	186	18	182	215	39	205
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	15 657	3 410	9 498	7 722	659	5 038
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	73 610	882	76 799	66 378	263	68 704
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	10 593	-	9 637	10 533	-	9 567
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	3 103	-	2 603	3 090	-	2 596
Value of land and buildings: ²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	253 137	70 162	120 311	285 965	98 043	132 901
Average per acre..... dollars.....	901	1 375	429	908	1 848	434
Value of machinery and equipment on farms ² \$1,000.....	4 620 656	41 699	2 772 939	4 490 562	18 643	2 654 457
Average per farm..... dollars.....	44 877	9 715	28 141	51 190	20 220	30 900
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	4 542 566	19 418	3 469 923	4 521 833	16 199	3 451 141
Average per farm..... dollars.....	44 118	4 524	35 214	51 547	17 569	40 174
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	2 081 384	6 370	1 757 546	2 072 776	5 385	1 749 784
Average per farm..... dollars.....	20 215	1 484	17 836	23 629	5 840	20 369
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	2 157 662	12 857	1 493 182	2 146 277	10 799	1 482 808
Average per farm..... dollars.....	20 956	2 996	15 154	24 467	11 712	17 261
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	303 520	192	217 402	302 780	15	216 881
Average per farm..... dollars.....	2 948	45	2 206	3 452	16	2 525
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	15 222	3 370	13 625	-	-	1 015
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	19 539	503	19 632	19 539	503	19 632
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	33 336	323	39 340	33 336	323	39 340
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	24 893	96	19 758	24 893	96	19 758
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	7 147	-	4 491	7 147	-	4 491
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	2 808	-	1 669	2 808	-	1 669
Abnormal farms..... number.....	18	(X)	22	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of --						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	17 187	3 220	16 668	-	-	1 528
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	111 014	2 619	117 073	111 014	2 619	117 073
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	766 182	9 356	887 951	766 182	9 356	887 951
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	1 561 065	4 224	1 196 207	1 561 065	4 224	1 196 207
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	967 434	-	601 674	967 434	-	601 674
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	1 116 138	-	646 709	1 116 138	-	646 709
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	3 546	(X)	3 642	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: ²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	501 557	5 352	415 271	495 994	3 481	410 447
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	137 737	528	106 464	136 661	398	105 764
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	318 172	575	256 096	316 143	339	254 999
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	123 711	317	73 083	122 949	247	72 851
Petroleum products -- gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	220 696	745	150 199	216 713	348	147 160
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	158 647	76	90 350	156 494	43	88 953
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	3 301 704	30 102	3 665 505	3 232 031	17 576	3 549 816
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	4 130 975	40 988	2 991 801	4 086 914	20 573	2 960 689
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	244 752	2 619	358 901	222 176	-	321 818
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	11 746 153	48 852	9 751 990	11 605 676	-	9 618 487
Crops harvested:						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	6 482 088	24 163	6 050 574	6 438 926	17 195	6 009 352
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	2 479 637	485	2 586 938	2 465 960	-	2 575 511
Soybeans for beans..... acres.....	80 982 809	14 550	74 728 537	80 716 759	-	74 518 534
Soybeans for oil..... acres.....	3 742 959	12 255	3 323 124	3 732 947	12 255	3 313 969
Hay crops..... acres.....	123 050 078	483 800	73 735 439	122 828 920	483 800	73 607 283
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	2 738 147	25 747	2 772 029	2 547 791	3 791	2 594 067
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	7 334 562	42 389	6 512 436	7 022 106	7 208	6 251 011

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

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

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