

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 24

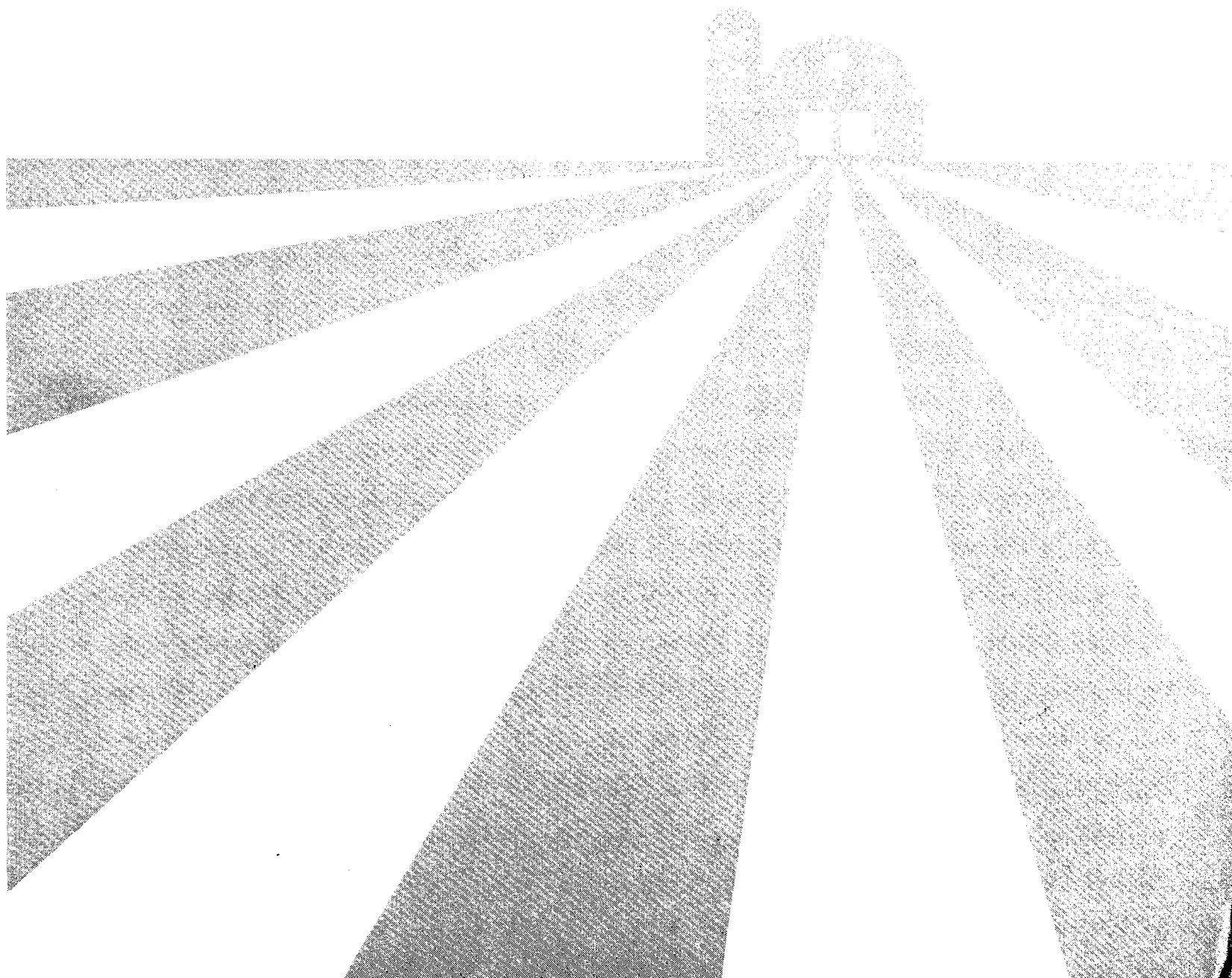
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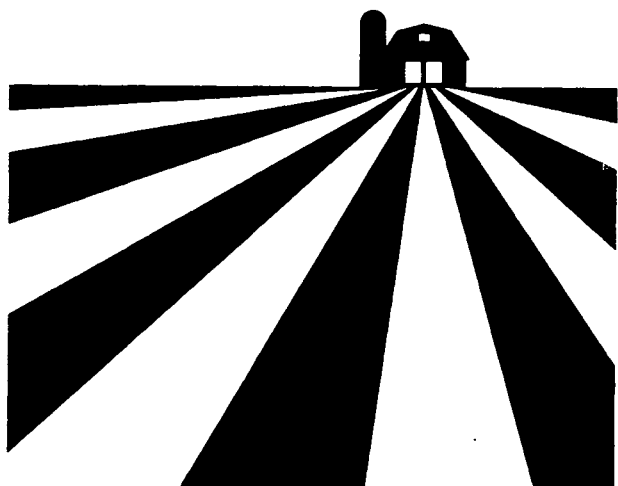
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 24
Mississippi
AC78-A-24

Issued July 1981



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—Many persons participated in the various activities of the 1978 Census of Agriculture. Primary direction was by **Shirley Kallek**, Associate Director for Economic Fields, and **Richard B. Quanrud**, Assistant Director for Economic and Agriculture Censuses.

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division under the general supervision of **Orvin L. Wilhite**, Chief (to January 1980) and **Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, his successor. **Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, assisted by **Thomas D. Monroe**, **Donald R. Jahnke**, and **John A. Blackledge**, was directly responsible for data content of the tables, analysis of the data, and clerical and computeredit, and tabulation specifications. **William A. Harlan**, **Arion M. Scott**, and **James C. Vogelsang**, directed the resolution of problems with individual census reports.

John E. Adkins, assisted by **Stephen M. Schobel**, **Loyd C. Brown**, **Billy E. Stark**, **Lowell Wrucke**, **Sharon C. Spivey**, **Martin S. Harahush**, **Ralph A. Graham**, **Avon B. Floyd**, **Kent C. Hoover**, and **Lee Smallwood**, was directly responsible for the systems and processing procedures, including preparation of control systems, clerical procedures, and computer programs. **Dana E. Moore** and **Jay A. Johnson** were responsible for the photocomposition system. **Bobbie E. Catlin** and **Paulette M. Bonchak** were directly responsible for table preparation and publication standards used. **Mittie Buchanan**, Industry Division (to May 1980), and **Helen R. Pugh**, her successor, were responsible for coding the Linotron table formats for publication. **Carl N. McAllister** coordinated the final preparation of the tables. **Virginia Crockett**, **Regina E. Lindsey**, and **Karin G. Bauer** provided editorial services.

Charles E. Rogers, assisted by **D. Dean Prochaska**, and **David D. Chapman**, with the additional assistance of **Jane Y. Dea** and **Tommy W. Gauden**, was directly responsible for mailing list acquisition and unduplication, design of sampling procedures for the direct enumeration sample and the sample from the mail list, sampling variability estimates, statistical adjustment for nonresponse, monitoring of processing, and evaluation of coverage. **Albart W. Graybill** was responsible for the preparation of the operational procedures for the collection and processing of the direct enumeration sample data.

George E. Pierce, assisted by **Patricia A. Clark** and **Richard R. Storm**, was directly responsible for overall census planning, the Farm and Ranch Identification Survey, and development of the data collection forms and followup letters. **J. Thomas Miller**, Consultant, assisted in the design and content of the data collection forms and followup letters, specifications for publication tables, and preparation of text.

Don L. Adams, Chief, Data Preparation Division, Jeffersonville, Ind., assisted by **Patricia M. Clark**, **Rebecca Lamon**, **George Wilson**, **William L. Pangburn**, **Les Brown**, **Darrell L. Farabee**, and **Keith Lacey**, was directly responsible for clerical and data-keying operations, and labeling, sorting, and distribution of the mail and direct enumeration census forms.

The direct enumeration activities were administered by the Field Division, under **Forrest P. Cawley**, Chief, with the assistance of **Darren F.**

Althouse and **Thomas J. Manning** and the 12 directors of the Bureau's Regional Offices.

The computer processing facilities used were under the general supervision of **C. Thomas DiNenna**, Chief, Computer Operations Division.

Forms design was performed under the general supervision of **Henry J. Husmann**, Chief, Administrative Services Division, assisted by **Albert W. Cosner**, **Cathern S. Kline**, and **Irene A. Gray**.

Within the Publications Services Division, many individuals made significant contributions in the areas of publication planning and design, editorial review, composition, and printing procurement.

Important contributions were made by the members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics in establishing data needs and priorities for collection and publication of the information. Other representatives of both public and private organizations also made significant recommendations and suggestions.

Members of various agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided advice and counsel during the planning, data collecting, and processing phases of the census and assisted farmers and ranchers who requested help in completing the report form.

The press, farm magazines, and radio and television stations were most helpful in publicizing the census and encouraging cooperation of farm and ranch operators. **John W. Ternus** and **Douglas J. Miller**, Agriculture Division, and **Richard D. Ritter**, Public Information Office, were primarily responsible for developing and coordinating the public relations program.

Special tribute is paid to the millions of farm and ranch operators and other agriculture-associated people who furnished the information requested in the census. Only through their cooperation was it possible to collect and publish the data in this report.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

United States. Bureau of the Census.
1978 census of agriculture.

Supt. of Docs. no.: L 3.31/
CONTENTS: v. 1. State and county data.—v. 2. Statistics by subject.—
v. 3. Agricultural services. [etc.]
1. Agriculture—United States—Statistics. I. Title. II. Title: Census of
agriculture.
HD1753 1978.B87 7 1980 338.1'0973 79-600215

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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 County: 1978	XV
2. Average Size of Farm by County: 1978	XV
3. Value of Land and Buildings by County: 1978	XVI
4. Value of Agricultural Products Sold by County: 1978	XVI
5. Cattle and Calves Inventory by County: 1978	XVII
6. Chickens 3 Months Old or Older Inventory by County: 1978	XVII
7. Soybeans Harvested for Beans by County: 1978	XVIII
8. Cotton Harvested by County: 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. County Summary Data	
1. Number, Land, and Value of Farms: 1978 and 1974	118
2. Land Use: 1978	120
3. Irrigation: 1978	122
4. Farms by Tenure of Operator: 1978	123
5. Farms and Land in Farms by Type of Organization: 1978.	124
6. Characteristics of Operators: 1978	125
7. Farms by Value of Sales and Occupation: 1978.	126
8. Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1978	127
9. Farms by Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978	129
10. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for All Farms: 1978	130
11. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More: 1978.	131
12. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978.	132
13. Energy Expenses and Fuel Storage Capacity for Farm Business: 1978	134
14. Hired Farm Labor—Expenses and Number of Workers: 1978	137
15. Estimated Market Value of All Machinery and Equipment: 1978	138
16. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1978	139
17. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales: 1978	149
18. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978	152
19. Broilers Sold by Number Per Farm: 1978.	154
20. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1978.	154
21. Milk Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978	155
22. Angora Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978	Not shown
23. Mink and Their Pelts—Inventory and Sales: 1978.	155
24. Colonies of Bees and Honey—Inventory and Sales: 1978.	155
25. Fish Sales: 1978	156
26. Miscellaneous Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978	157
27. Miscellaneous Livestock and Animal Specialties—Inventory and Sales: 1978.	159
28. Grains—Corn, Sorghums, Wheat, and Other Small Grains: 1978	161
29. Cotton, Tobacco, Soybeans, Dry Beans and Peas, Potatoes, Sugar Crops, and Peanuts: 1978	162
30. Field Seeds, Grass Seeds, Hay, Forage, and Silage: 1978	165
31. Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons, Harvested for Sale: 1978.	168
32. Fruits and Nuts: 1978	173
33. Berries: 1978	178
34. Nursery and Greenhouse Products, Mushrooms, and Sod: 1978	179
35. Other Crops: 1978.	180
36. Operator Response to Land Held Under Foreign Ownership: 1978	180
37. Income From Machine Work, Customwork and Other Agricultural Services: 1978	181

TABLES—Con.

CHAPTER 2—Con.

38. Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers for Human Consumption: 1978 . . .	182
39. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races: 1978	183
40. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Tenure: 1978	184
41. Operators by Selected Racial Groups: 1978	185
42. Operators of Spanish Origin: 1978	185
43. Female Operators: 1978	186

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

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

Mississippi	187	Jefferson	352
Farms Not on Mail List	192	Jefferson Davis	357
Adams	197	Jones	362
Alcorn	202	Kemper	367
Amite	207	Lafayette	372
Attala	212	Lamar	377
Benton	217	Lauderdale	382
Bolivar	222	Lawrence	387
Calhoun	227	Leake	392
Carroll	232	Lee	397
Chickasaw	237	Leflore	402
Choctaw	242	Lincoln	407
Claiborne	247	Lowndes	412
Clarke	252	Madison	417
Clay	257	Marion	422
Coahoma	262	Marshall	427
Copiah	267	Monroe	432
Covington	272	Montgomery	437
De Sota	277	Neshoba	442
Forrest	282	Newton	447
Franklin	287	Noxubee	452
George	292	Oktibbeha	457
Greene	297	Panola	462
Grenada	302	Pearl River	467
Hancock	307	Perry	472
Harrison	312	Pike	477
Hinds	317	Pontotoc	482
Holmes	322	Prentiss	487
Humphreys	327	Quitman	492
Issaquena	332	Rankin	497
Itawamba	337	Scott	502
Jackson	342	Sharkey	507
Jasper	347	Simpson	512

TABLES—Con.**CHAPTER 3—Con.**

Smith	517	Walthall	562
Stone	522	Warren	567
Sunflower	527	Washington	572
Tallahatchie	532	Wayne	577
Tate	537	Webster	582
Tippah	542	Wilkinson	587
Tishomingo	547	Winston	592
Tunica	552	Yalobusha	597
Union	557	Yazoo	602

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

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:

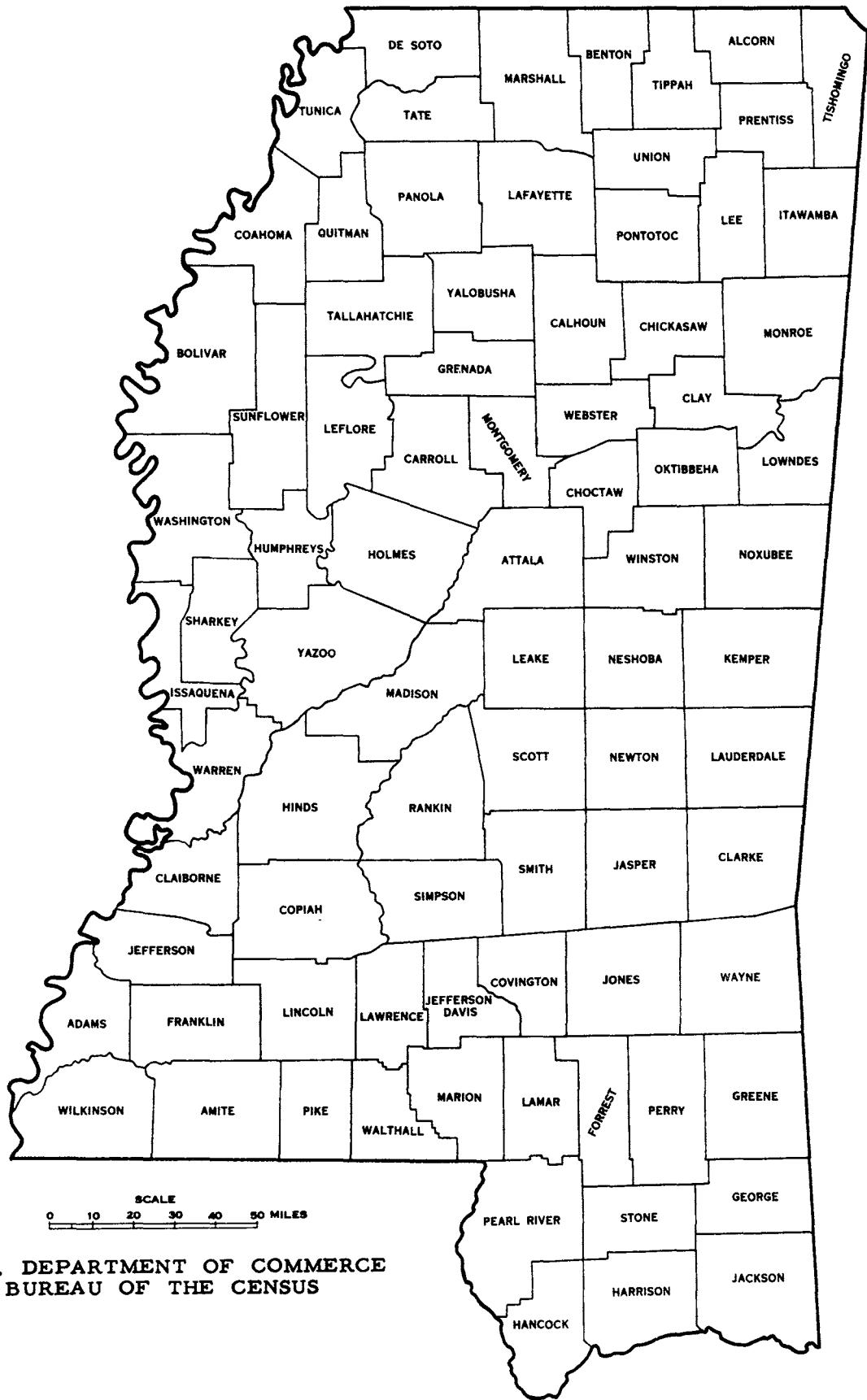
- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.
- * Independent city.

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..... number.....	54 182	10 078	53 620	30 291	1 792	26 056
Land in farms..... acres.....	13 864 787	653 908	14 300 498	11 851 523	207 412	11 533 375
Average size of farm..... acres.....	256	65	267	391	116	443
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	5 962 184	113 287	4 793 365	5 772 895	74 371	4 568 298
Average per farm..... acres.....	110	11	89	191	42	175
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	15 139	5 825	12 050	4 119	664	2 676
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	32 840	4 154	35 369	20 192	1 062	17 460
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	3 453	99	3 393	3 275	66	3 169
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	2 750	-	2 808	2 705	-	2 751
Value of land and buildings:²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	173 475	54 576	101 102	263 848	98 404	167 289
Average per acre..... dollars.....	681	841	379	677	850	378
Value of machinery and equipment on farms:²						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	1 386 629	67 682	876 988	1 224 488	22 919	701 535
Average per farm..... dollars.....	25 592	6 716	16 356	40 424	12 790	26 924
Value of agricultural products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	1 698 131	34 302	1 229 033	1 670 242	27 620	1 197 402
Average per farm..... dollars.....	31 341	3 404	22 921	55 140	15 413	45 955
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	957 185	9 788	716 676	951 473	8 758	707 721
Average per farm..... dollars.....	17 666	971	13 366	31 411	4 887	27 162
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	355 943	15 216	230 291	334 060	9 631	208 607
Average per farm..... dollars.....	6 569	1 510	4 295	11 028	5 374	8 006
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	385 003	9 298	266 695	384 710	9 231	266 450
Average per farm..... dollars.....	7 106	923	4 974	12 700	5 151	10 226
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	23 864	8 286	28 619	-	-	1 087
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	15 095	1 037	11 805	15 095	1 037	11 805
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	7 501	671	6 636	7 501	671	6 636
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	3 336	33	3 502	3 336	33	3 502
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	2 235	33	1 816	2 235	33	1 816
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	2 124	18	1 210	2 124	18	1 210
Abnormal farms..... number.....	27	(X)	32	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	24 696	6 681	28 465	-	-	1 609
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	76 318	4 728	60 386	76 318	4 728	60 386
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	148 436	11 835	134 464	148 436	11 835	134 464
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	217 818	2 459	229 088	217 818	2 459	229 088
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	320 581	3 888	249 389	320 581	3 888	249 389
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	907 090	4 710	522 464	907 090	4 710	522 464
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	3 193	(X)	4 776	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items:²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	313 341	10 925	255 841	303 529	7 049	244 456
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	44 989	974	31 183	44 035	701	30 198
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	102 227	2 311	84 572	97 410	1 431	77 874
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	113 969	994	75 877	112 138	733	74 873
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	93 513	2 667	59 344	88 532	1 336	54 822
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	129 778	514	91 583	126 910	474	88 832
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	1 643 175	99 298	2 270 177	1 367 509	37 123	1 727 932
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	328 826	47 876	239 438	261 344	7 249	200 589
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	6 249	198	6 676	4 949	198	4 638
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	8 934 546	458 575	11 740 676	8 763 253	371 152	11 574 590
Crops harvested:						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	182 406	15 787	178 163	145 649	6 023	127 598
Rice..... acres.....	215 892	-	(NA)	(D)	-	122 082
100 lb bags.....	9 161 237	-	(NA)	(D)	-	5 196 434
Soybeans for beans..... acres.....	3 686 908	58 063	2 075 772	3 653 466	54 561	2 056 532
bushels.....	74 761 214	1 255 677	40 921 774	74 327 287	1 203 270	40 594 171
Cotton..... acres.....	1 196 581	2 904	1 695 728	1 194 069	2 805	1 676 242
bales.....	1 341 067	2 673	1 587 075	1 339 485	2 640	1 575 221

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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