

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 25

**Missouri**

AC78-A-25

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1978

CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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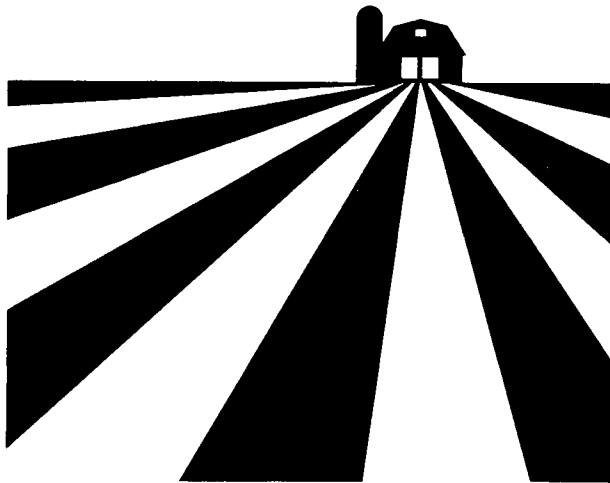
U.S. Department of Commerce  
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Issued May 1981



**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary  
Joseph R. Wright, Jr.,  
Deputy Secretary  
William A. Cox,  
Acting Chief Economist

**BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**  
Daniel B. Levine,  
Acting Director



## BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

**Daniel B. Levine**, Acting Director  
**Shirley Kallek**, Associate Director for  
Economic Fields

**Richard B. Quanrud**, Assistant Director for  
Economic and Agriculture Censuses

### AGRICULTURE DIVISION

**Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, Chief

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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.....	121 955	6 992	115 711	97 862	3 295	82 385
Land in farms..... acres.....	30 848 898	750 171	29 801 127	28 854 226	532 543	26 267 382
Average size of farm..... acres.....	253	107	258	295	162	319
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	12 663 878	230 217	11 764 849	12 378 136	198 275	11 332 070
Average per farm..... acres.....	104	33	102	126	60	138
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	23 845	3 764	17 417	12 574	1 528	6 819
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	81 779	2 935	83 295	69 253	1 572	60 922
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	12 493	293	11 668	12 218	195	11 360
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	3 838	-	3 331	3 817	-	3 284
Value of land and buildings: <sup>2</sup>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	185 361	90 504	102 074	214 299	124 605	126 881
Average per acre..... dollars.....	726	844	396	724	771	398
Value of machinery and equipment on farms: <sup>2</sup>						
\$1,000.....	2 946 691	71 862	1 876 041	2 782 207	51 002	1 650 012
Average per farm..... dollars.....	24 162	10 278	16 213	28 430	15 479	20 028
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	3 363 122	52 341	2 304 081	3 328 741	49 138	2 261 527
Average per farm..... dollars.....	27 779	7 486	19 912	34 015	14 913	27 451
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	1 413 013	21 354	1 061 698	1 402 556	20 596	1 052 214
Average per farm..... dollars.....	11 586	3 054	9 175	14 332	6 251	12 772
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	1 772 724	30 818	1 108 616	1 749 089	28 396	1 076 331
Average per farm..... dollars.....	14 536	4 408	9 581	17 873	8 618	13 065
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	177 385	169	129 141	177 096	146	128 708
Average per farm..... dollars.....	1 455	24	1 116	1 810	44	1 562
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	24 048	3 697	35 341	-	-	2 056
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	39 650	2 024	34 621	39 650	2 024	34 621
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	35 653	1 027	30 222	35 653	1 027	30 222
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	15 617	163	11 685	15 617	163	11 685
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	4 990	81	2 887	4 990	81	2 887
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	1 952	-	914	1 952	-	914
Abnormal farms..... number.....	45	(X)	41	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	30 256	3 203	43 090	-	-	3 200
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	218 566	9 602	190 335	218 566	9 602	190 335
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	734 652	19 593	629 754	734 652	19 593	629 754
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	976 994	11 033	710 639	976 994	11 033	710 639
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	676 490	8 910	386 092	676 490	8 910	386 092
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	722 038	-	341 508	722 038	-	341 508
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	4 125	(X)	2 663	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: <sup>2</sup>						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	519 603	9 021	430 781	509 562	7 748	413 737
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	82 514	1 514	57 350	81 686	1 447	56 336
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	213 146	4 260	181 098	209 895	4 117	176 293
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	91 333	2 454	57 628	89 960	2 405	56 945
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	163 117	3 363	111 493	157 808	2 866	104 780
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	116 046	840	70 235	113 103	663	68 082
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	4 907 615	94 207	5 297 947	4 692 690	70 214	4 717 140
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	3 894 548	56 969	2 911 525	3 826 794	42 322	2 846 977
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	117 087	1 863	152 140	110 184	1 863	135 590
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	7 939 190	71 968	7 917 604	7 810 811	34 717	7 724 595
Crops harvested:						
Corn for grain or seed..... acres.....	2 287 335	85 660	2 558 860	2 272 579	84 444	2 526 470
Wheat for grain..... bushels.....	189 917 328	5 127 884	137 211 116	189 073 283	5 062 984	136 070 173
Soybeans for beans..... bushels.....	835 771	10 970	1 237 112	827 310	10 970	1 215 914
Hay crops..... bushels.....	27 607 066	329 100	34 764 459	27 402 826	329 100	34 331 119
Tons, dry..... acres.....	5 216 438	48 961	4 065 228	5 186 920	48 287	4 044 364
Tons, dry..... acres.....	142 111 661	1 275 575	87 981 623	141 531 384	1 255 945	87 650 026
Tons, dry..... acres.....	3 337 855	69 853	2 938 842	3 122 464	42 493	2 597 885
Tons, dry..... acres.....	5 878 222	128 748	5 080 402	5 610 277	89 207	4 609 977

<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.

