

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 27

**Nebraska**

AC78-A-27

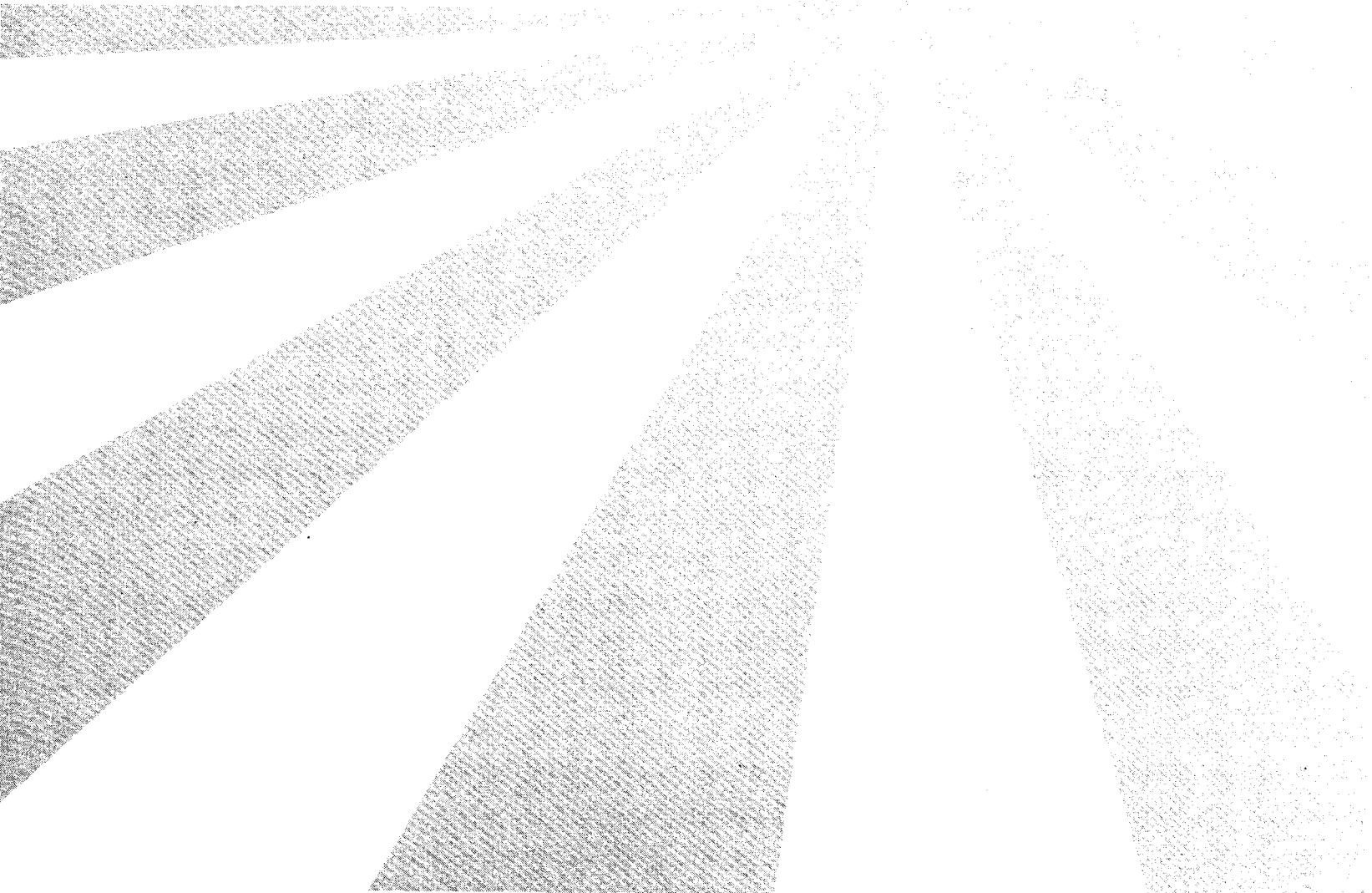
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1978

CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
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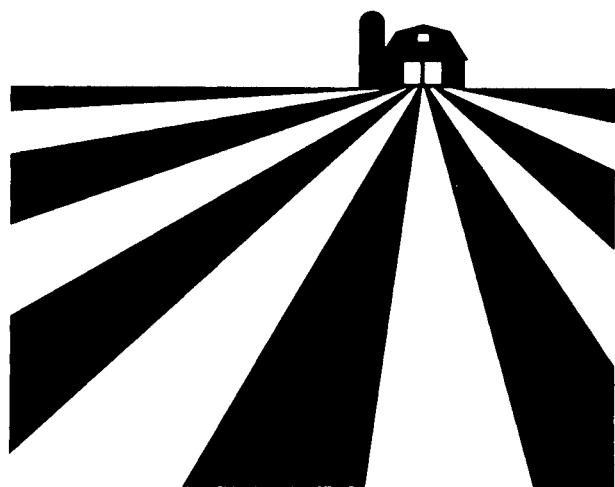


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CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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Issued June 1981



**U.S. Department of Commerce**

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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. Hogs and Pigs Inventory by County: 1978 . . . . .             | XVII  |
| 7. Corn Harvested for Grain by County: 1978 . . . . .            | XVIII |
| 8. Wheat Harvested for Grain 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 |
|--|------|
| <b>CHAPTER 1—Con.</b>  |      |
| 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<br>\$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  |
| <br><b>CHAPTER 2. County Summary Data</b>  |      |
| 1. Number, Land, and Value of Farms: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .   | 118  |
| 2. Land Use: 1978 . . . . .  | 120  |
| 3. Irrigation: 1978 . . . . .  | 123  |
| 4. Farms by Tenure of Operator: 1978 . . . . .   | 124  |
| 5. Farms and Land in Farms by Type of Organization: 1978. . . . .  | 125  |
| 6. Characteristics of Operators: 1978 . . . . .  | 126  |
| 7. Farms by Value of Sales and Occupation: 1978. . . . .   | 127  |
| 8. Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1978. . . . .  | 128  |
| 9. Farms by Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978 . . . . .   | 130  |
| 10. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for All Farms: 1978 . . . . .   | 131  |
| 11. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More: 1978. . . . .                  | 132  |
| 12. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978. . . . .   | 133  |
| 13. Energy Expenses and Fuel Storage Capacity for Farm Business: 1978 . . . . .  | 135  |
| 14. Hired Farm Labor—Expenses and Number of Workers: 1978 . . . . .  | 138  |
| 15. Estimated Market Value of All Machinery and Equipment: 1978 . . . . .  | 139  |
| 16. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .  | 140  |
| 17. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .  | 150  |
| 18. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .  | 153  |
| 19. Broilers Sold by Number Per Farm: 1978. . . . .  | 155  |
| 20. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .   | 156  |
| 21. Milk Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .   | 158  |
| 22. Angora Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .   | 158  |
| 23. Mink and Their Pelts—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .  | 158  |
| 24. Colonies of Bees and Honey—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .  | 158  |
| 25. Fish Sales: 1978 . . . . .   | 159  |
| 26. Miscellaneous Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .   | 159  |
| 27. Miscellaneous Livestock and Animal Specialties—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .                                 | 162  |
| 28. Grains—Corn, Sorghums, Wheat, and Other Small Grains: 1978 . . . . .   | 163  |
| 29. Cotton, Tobacco, Soybeans, Dry Beans and Peas, Potatoes, Sugar Crops, and Peanuts: 1978 . . . . .                  | 166  |
| 30. Field Seeds, Grass Seeds, Hay, Forage, and Silage: 1978 . . . . .  | 167  |
| 31. Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons, Harvested for Sale: 1978. . . . .  | 172  |
| 32. Fruits and Nuts: 1978 . . . . .  | 173  |
| 33. Berries: 1978 . . . . .  | 174  |
| 34. Nursery and Greenhouse Products, Mushrooms, and Sod: 1978 . . . . .  | 175  |
| 35. Other Crops: 1978. . . . .   | 175  |
| 36. Operator Response to Land Held Under Foreign Ownership: 1978 . . . . .   | 175  |
| 37. Income From Machine Work, Customwork and Other Agricultural Services: 1978 . . . . .                               | 176  |

**TABLES—Con.**

**CHAPTER 2—Con.**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 38. Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers for Human Consumption: 1978 . . . | 177 |
| 39. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races: 1978 . . . . .                                     | 178 |
| 40. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Tenure: 1978 . . . . .                           | 178 |
| 41. Operators by Selected Racial Groups: 1978 . . . . .   | 178 |
| 42. Operators of Spanish Origin: 1978 . . . . .   | 179 |
| 43. Female Operators: 1978 . . . . .  | 179 |

**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

|                                 |     |                     |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Nebraska . . . . .              | 180 | Franklin . . . . .  | 340 |
| Farms Not on Mail List. . . . . | 185 | Frontier. . . . .   | 345 |
| Adams. . . . .                  | 190 | Furnas. . . . .     | 350 |
| Antelope . . . . .              | 195 | Gage . . . . .      | 355 |
| Arthur. . . . .                 | 200 | Garden . . . . .    | 360 |
| Banner . . . . .                | 205 | Garfield. . . . .   | 365 |
| Blaine . . . . .                | 210 | Gosper . . . . .    | 370 |
| Boone . . . . .                 | 215 | Grant . . . . .     | 375 |
| Box Butte . . . . .             | 220 | Greeley . . . . .   | 380 |
| Boyd. . . . .                   | 225 | Hall . . . . .      | 385 |
| Brown. . . . .                  | 230 | Hamilton. . . . .   | 390 |
| Buffalo . . . . .               | 235 | Harlan. . . . .     | 395 |
| Burt . . . . .                  | 240 | Hayes . . . . .     | 400 |
| Butler . . . . .                | 245 | Hitchcock . . . . . | 405 |
| Cass . . . . .                  | 250 | Holt . . . . .      | 410 |
| Cedar . . . . .                 | 255 | Hooker . . . . .    | 415 |
| Chase . . . . .                 | 260 | Howard . . . . .    | 420 |
| Cherry. . . . .                 | 265 | Jefferson . . . . . | 425 |
| Cheyenne. . . . .               | 270 | Johnson. . . . .    | 430 |
| Clay . . . . .                  | 275 | Kearney. . . . .    | 435 |
| Colfax. . . . .                 | 280 | Keith . . . . .     | 440 |
| Cuming . . . . .                | 285 | Keya Paha . . . . . | 445 |
| Custer . . . . .                | 290 | Kimball. . . . .    | 450 |
| Dakota . . . . .                | 295 | Knox . . . . .      | 455 |
| Dawes . . . . .                 | 300 | Lancaster. . . . .  | 460 |
| Dawson. . . . .                 | 305 | Lincoln . . . . .   | 465 |
| Deuel . . . . .                 | 310 | Logan . . . . .     | 470 |
| Dixon . . . . .                 | 315 | Loup. . . . .       | 475 |
| Dodge . . . . .                 | 320 | McPherson. . . . .  | 480 |
| Douglas. . . . .                | 325 | Madison. . . . .    | 485 |
| Dundy. . . . .                  | 330 | Merrick . . . . .   | 490 |
| Fillmore . . . . .              | 335 | Morrill. . . . .    | 495 |

## TABLES—Con.

## CHAPTER 3—Con.

|                      |     |                        |     |
|----------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Nance . . . . .      | 500 | Scotts Bluff . . . . . | 580 |
| Nemaha . . . . .     | 505 | Seward . . . . .       | 585 |
| Nuckolls . . . . .   | 510 | Sheridan . . . . .     | 590 |
| Otoe . . . . .       | 515 | Sherman . . . . .      | 595 |
| Pawnee . . . . .     | 520 | Sioux . . . . .        | 600 |
| Perkins . . . . .    | 525 | Stanton . . . . .      | 605 |
| Phelps . . . . .     | 530 | Thayer . . . . .       | 610 |
| Pierce . . . . .     | 535 | Thomas . . . . .       | 615 |
| Platte . . . . .     | 540 | Thurston . . . . .     | 620 |
| Polk . . . . .       | 545 | Valley . . . . .       | 625 |
| Red Willow . . . . . | 550 | Washington . . . . .   | 630 |
| Richardson . . . . . | 555 | Wayne . . . . .        | 635 |
| Rock . . . . .       | 560 | Webster . . . . .      | 640 |
| Saline . . . . .     | 565 | Wheeler . . . . .      | 645 |
| Sarpy . . . . .      | 570 | York . . . . .         | 650 |
| Saunders . . . . .   | 575 |                        |     |

## 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:

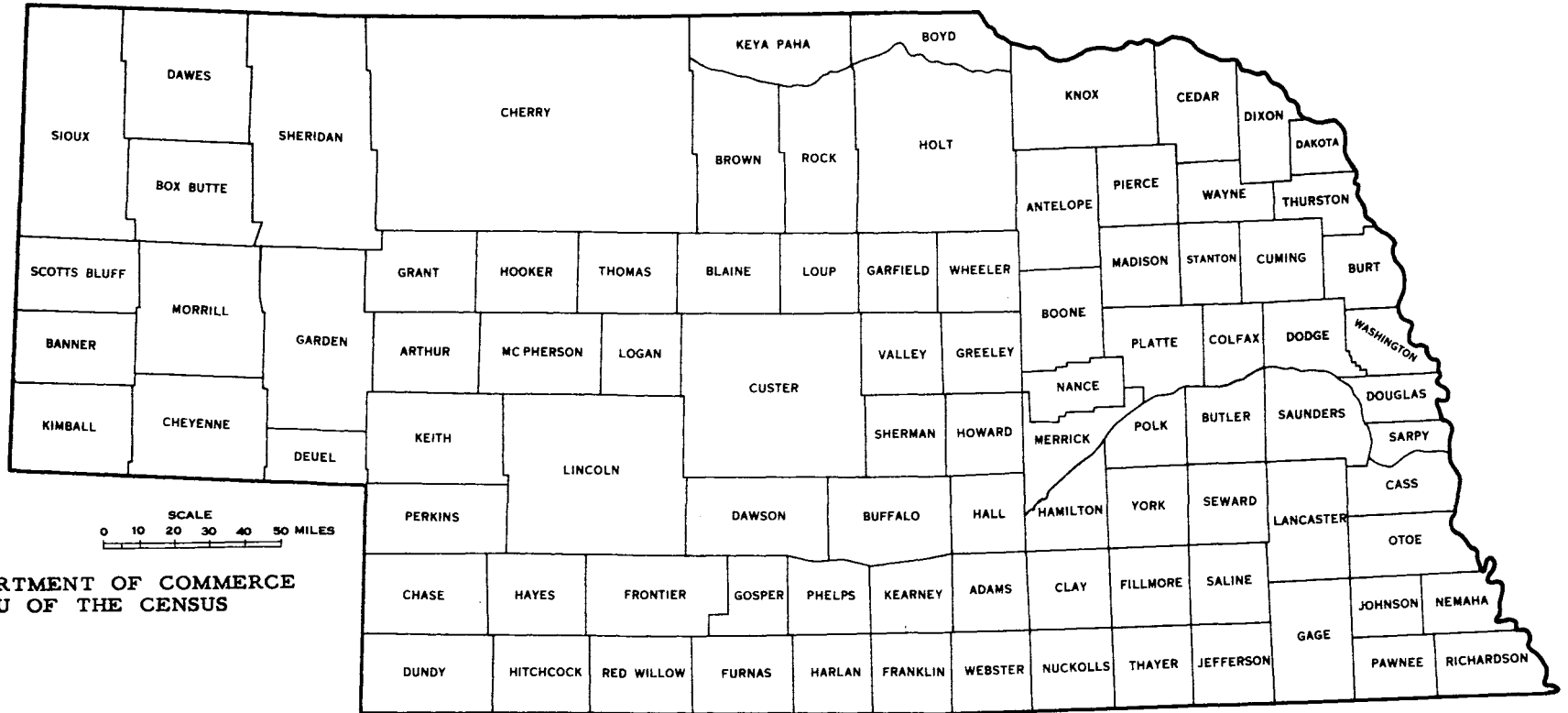
- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.
- \* Independent city.

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

|  | All farms   |                  |                   | Farms with sales of \$2,500 or more |                  |                   |
|--|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|  | 1978        |                  | 1974 <sup>1</sup> | 1978                                |                  | 1974 <sup>1</sup> |
|  | Total       | Not on mail list | Total             | Total                               | Not on mail list | Total             |
| Farms..... number.....   | 65 916      | 2 148            | 67 597            | 61 461                              | 1 168            | 62 570            |
| Land in farms..... acres.....  | 46 273 401  | 159 428          | 46 172 012        | 45 603 702                          | 140 302          | 45 413 370        |
| Average size of farm..... acres.....                                 | 702         | 74               | 683               | 742                                 | 120              | 726               |
| Harvested cropland..... acres.....                                   | 16 442 249  | 70 654           | 16 309 434        | 16 365 321                          | 65 604           | 16 239 139        |
| Average per farm..... acres.....                                     | 249         | 33               | 241               | 266                                 | 56               | 260               |
| <b>Farms by size:</b>  |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| 1 to 49 acres..... number.....                                       | 8 938       | 1 514            | 6 734             | 5 879                               | 662              | 4 049             |
| 50 to 499 acres..... number.....                                     | 34 686      | 634              | 38 837            | 33 414                              | 506              | 36 643            |
| 500 to 999 acres..... number.....                                    | 12 369      | -                | 12 586            | 12 304                              | -                | 12 504            |
| 1,000 acres or more..... number.....                                 | 9 923       | -                | 9 440             | 9 864                               | -                | 9 374             |
| <b>Value of land and buildings:<sup>2</sup></b>                      |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Average per farm..... dollars.....                                   | 372 786     | 72 474           | 192 574           | 393 572                             | 98 120           | 204 070           |
| Average per acre..... dollars.....                                   | 525         | 976              | 282               | 525                                 | 817              | 281               |
| <b>Value of machinery and equipment on farms<sup>2</sup></b>         |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| \$1,000.....   | 3 476 328   | 14 742           | 2 018 175         | 3 434 238                           | 9 985            | 1 975 828         |
| Average per farm..... dollars.....                                   | 52 739      | 6 863            | 29 856            | 55 877                              | 8 549            | 31 578            |
| <b>Value of agricultural products sold</b>                           |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| \$1,000.....   | 5 165 237   | 15 941           | 3 732 982         | 5 151 900                           | 14 838           | 3 722 829         |
| Average per farm..... dollars.....                                   | 78 361      | 7 421            | 55 224            | 83 824                              | 12 704           | 59 499            |
| Crops sold..... \$1,000.....   | 1 724 735   | 6 021            | 1 565 899         | 1 721 625                           | 5 714            | 1 563 120         |
| Average per farm..... dollars.....                                   | 26 166      | 2 803            | 23 165            | 28 012                              | 4 892            | 24 982            |
| Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....              | 3 408 877   | 9 879            | 2 135 182         | 3 398 803                           | 9 124            | 2 127 955         |
| Average per farm..... dollars.....                                   | 51 715      | 4 599            | 31 587            | 55 300                              | 7 812            | 34 009            |
| Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....                  | 31 625      | 19               | 31 764            | 31 472                              | -                | 31 620            |
| Average per farm..... dollars.....                                   | 480         | 40               | 470               | 512                                 | -                | 505               |
| <b>Farms by value of agricultural products sold:</b>                 |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Less than \$2,500..... number.....                                   | 4 411       | 980              | 5 459             | -                                   | -                | 461               |
| \$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....                                  | 10 068      | 533              | 11 615            | 10 068                              | 533              | 11 615            |
| \$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....                                | 22 898      | 571              | 26 906            | 22 898                              | 571              | 26 906            |
| \$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....                                | 18 171      | 64               | 16 546            | 18 171                              | 64               | 16 546            |
| \$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....                              | 6 855       | -                | 4 899             | 6 855                               | -                | 4 899             |
| \$200,000 or more..... number.....                                   | 3 469       | -                | 2 143             | 3 469                               | -                | 2 143             |
| Abnormal farms..... number.....                                      | 44          | (X)              | 29                | (X)                                 | (X)              | (X)               |
| <b>Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—</b> |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....                                  | 5 856       | 1 103            | 6 786             | -                                   | -                | 683               |
| \$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....                                 | 59 489      | 2 416            | 71 052            | 59 489                              | 2 416            | 71 052            |
| \$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....                               | 525 507     | 8 427            | 615 866           | 525 507                             | 8 427            | 615 866           |
| \$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....                               | 1 154 518   | 3 996            | 1 025 203         | 1 154 518                           | 3 996            | 1 025 203         |
| \$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....                             | 940 236     | -                | 663 237           | 940 236                             | -                | 663 237           |
| \$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....                                  | 2 472 149   | -                | 1 346 788         | 2 472 149                           | -                | 1 346 788         |
| Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....                                     | 7 482       | (X)              | 4 050             | (X)                                 | (X)              | (X)               |
| <b>Farm production expenses for selected items:<sup>2</sup></b>      |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....                     | 657 808     | 3 079            | 598 585           | 655 222                             | 2 591            | 595 407           |
| Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....                    | 111 325     | 407              | 67 352            | 111 000                             | 385              | 67 123            |
| Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....                              | 267 572     | 547              | 207 795           | 266 546                             | 520              | 207 117           |
| Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....                       | 88 366      | 270              | 52 518            | 88 000                              | 268              | 52 370            |
| Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....           | 223 341     | 1 094            | 144 214           | 221 960                             | 976              | 143 015           |
| Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....                                   | 129 751     | 154              | 77 077            | 127 624                             | 42               | 75 832            |
| <b>Livestock and poultry inventory:</b>                              |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Cattle and calves..... number.....                                   | 6 427 124   | 14 836           | 6 214 596         | 6 374 369                           | 7 456            | 6 141 756         |
| Hogs and pigs..... number.....                                       | 3 747 076   | 23 302           | 2 740 440         | 3 725 095                           | 19 012           | 2 724 494         |
| Sheep and lambs..... number.....                                     | 172 748     | 1 280            | 222 699           | 158 836                             | -                | 207 024           |
| Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....                      | 3 168 103   | 13 336           | 3 660 561         | 3 130 405                           | 4 672            | 3 608 185         |
| <b>Crops harvested:</b>  |             |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Corn for grain or seed..... acres.....                               | 6 681 884   | 19 881           | 5 591 301         | 6 670 220                           | 19 689           | 5 578 460         |
| bushels.....   | 709 357 064 | 1 669 506        | 388 143 255       | 708 509 322                         | 1 659 906        | 387 718 037       |
| Sorghums for grain or seed..... acres.....                           | 1 813 960   | 11 792           | 1 765 336         | 1 806 037                           | 10 576           | 1 759 253         |
| bushels.....   | 127 965 180 | 828 760          | 59 786 998        | 127 603 521                         | 764 760          | 59 661 100        |
| Wheat for grain..... acres.....                                      | 2 418 869   | 24 870           | 2 823 818         | 2 407 935                           | 24 870           | 2 817 352         |
| bushels.....   | 73 640 359  | 660 850          | 90 599 286        | 73 389 611                          | 660 850          | 90 423 794        |
| Hay crops..... acres.....  | 3 393 736   | 7 793            | 3 455 199         | 3 355 075                           | 4 663            | 3 423 344         |
| tons, dry.....   | 6 772 999   | 21 310           | 5 805 323         | 6 706 186                           | 10 450           | 5 750 611         |

<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.

# NEBRASKA



SCALE  
0 10 20 30 40 50 MILES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS