

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 28

**Nevada**

AC78-A-28

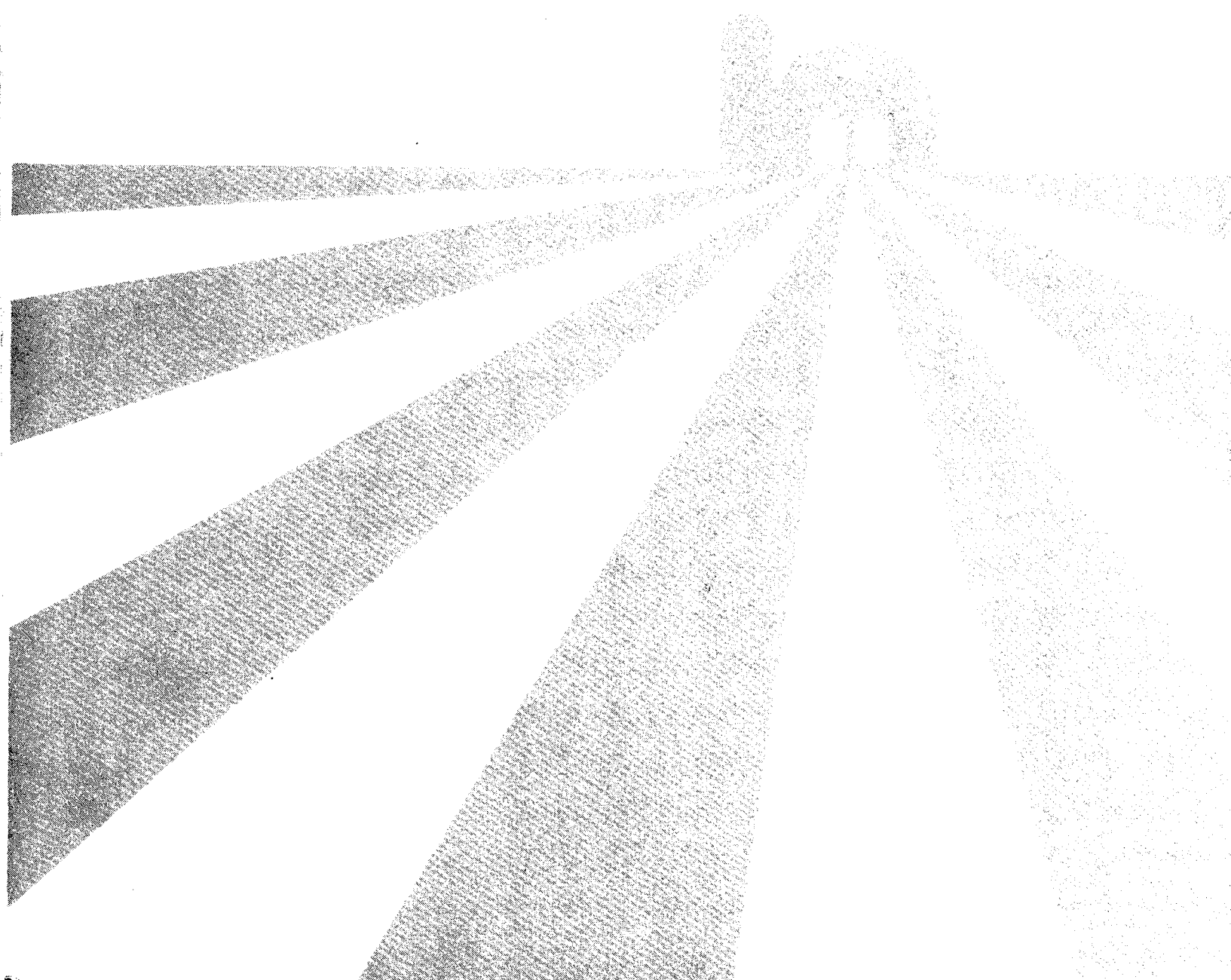
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1978

CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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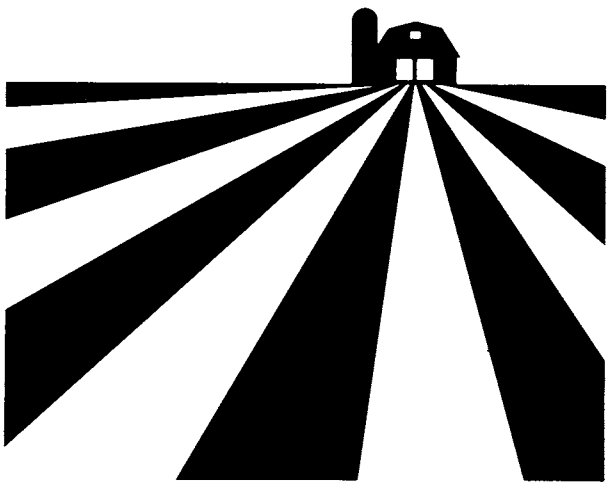


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Volume 1  
**State and County Data**



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Issued May 1981



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

## INTRODUCTION

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### HISTORY

The census of agriculture provides a periodic statistical picture of the Nation's farming, ranching, and related activities. The 1978 Census of Agriculture is the 21st taken by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

The first agriculture census was taken in 1840 as part of the sixth decennial census. From 1840 to 1950, an agriculture census was taken as part of the decennial census of population. A mid-decade census of agriculture was conducted in 1925, 1935, and 1945. From 1954 to 1974 a census of agriculture was taken for the years ending in 4 and 9. In 1976, Congress authorized the census of agriculture to be taken for 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data reference year to coincide with the 1982 Economic Censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. Thereafter, the agriculture census will revert to a 5-year cycle.

### AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

The census of agriculture is authorized under the provisions of title 13, United States Code. Section 142(a) provides for the census to be taken in 1979, in 1983, and in every fifth year after 1983. Section 191 provides that the census shall include each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. A census of agriculture will be conducted in American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands in conjunction with the 1980 Census of Population and Housing.

### FARM DEFINITION

Since 1850, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes were first established, the farm definition has been changed nine times, as the Nation has grown and changed. The current definition was announced on August 12, 1975, in accordance with a joint agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Bureau of the Census. It defines a farm, for statistical purposes, as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agri-

cultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. The previous definition (used for the 1959, 1964, and 1969 censuses, and for the 1974 preliminary county reports) counted as a farm any place with less than 10 acres from which \$250 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year, or any place of 10 acres or more from which \$50 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year.

### METHOD OF ENUMERATION

Evaluation studies of the 1969 and 1974 censuses, which were conducted primarily by mail, indicated that the administrative lists used to create the census mailing list were not adequate to assure complete coverage in the census. Also, censuses prior to 1969, conducted by direct enumeration, had been found by evaluation studies (conducted since 1950) to be progressively less and less complete, as increased mobility of farm operators led to increases in the numbers of nonresident operators, operators farming on a part-time basis, and operators farming two or more separate tracts.

The 1978 Census of Agriculture was conducted primarily by mail for maximum economy, supplemented by a personal canvass of a statistical area segment sample for maximum completeness of coverage. The area segment sample, which consists of selected geographic areas completely canvassed by direct enumeration, provides reliable estimates for States of the number and characteristics of any farms not represented in the mail portion of the census. Estimates for such farms are an integral part of the State totals published for the 1978 census. The direct enumeration sample estimates are statistically reliable only for State totals and have not been allocated to counties. Appendix A provides a more detailed description of how the 1978 census was taken and includes a discussion of census coverage.

### COMPARABILITY OF DATA

State totals for 1978 are not directly comparable with totals for 1974 or earlier censuses as they include data for farm operations represented on the mail list plus estimates from the direct enumeration sample for farms not represented on the mail list. The 1974 State level data include only operations represented on the mail list.

Coverage evaluation studies for the 1974 census indicated that 10.7 percent of all farms were not included in the census. Farms missed in the census were usually small and accounted for less than 3 percent of the total value of agricultural products sold and less than 6 percent of the land in farms. The proportion of farms missed in the 1974 census was generally higher in

States having a large proportion of small farms and urbanized areas having a sizable number of part-time farms. Farm counts for 1974, adjusted for the net undercount, are shown in appendix C.

County level data on acreages and inventories for 1978 and 1974 are generally comparable; however, improvements in the coverage of the 1978 census, especially of smaller farms, should be taken into consideration when comparing farm counts.

## USE OF SAMPLING

Two types of sampling were used for data collection for the 1978 census. In addition to the State estimates from the direct enumeration sample discussed previously, data for items in sections 22 through 27 of the census report form were collected from only a sample of farms. Data based on a sample are subject to sampling error. Detailed discussions of the census report forms, the use of sampling, and estimates of sampling error are included in appendix A.

## GRAPHICS

Several charts and maps presented on the following pages show selected agricultural statistics for this State. The items in the charts and the first four maps are presented for all States. The last four maps present data of particular importance to this State.

## TABULAR PRESENTATION

**State data**—In chapter 1, State tables 1 through 28 show detailed State level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more censuses. Tables 29 through 35 provide 1978 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

**County summary data**—Selected data items are presented by county in chapter 2. Tables 1 through 15 include general data such as land in farms, size of farms, land use, operator characteristics, expenses, and machinery and equipment. Inventory and sales data for livestock, poultry, and animal specialties are contained in tables 16 through 27 and detailed crop data in tables 28 through 35. Tables 36 through 43 present data on foreign ownership, income from customwork, direct sales to consumers, operators by racial group, and female operators.

**Individual county data**—Five pages of tables are presented in chapter 3 for each county with 10 farms or more in 1978. The tables include final data for each county and are more comprehensive than those in the preliminary reports. Data are provided for all farms and for farms with sales of \$2,500 or more for both 1978 and 1974.

This chapter also includes a set of similar tables for the State as a whole and for those farms in the State not on the mailing list and not included in county tables.

## PRELIMINARY REPORTS

Preliminary reports have been published separately for all counties in the United States with 10 farms or more in 1978, each State, the four geographic regions, and the United States. This series provided, at the earliest possible date, information on major data items, with comparable final data from the 1974 census. The data items were standard for each State and county except in table 3 where the selected crops varied by State according to their relative importance in the State. The State preliminary report also included a full set of tables providing data derived from the direct enumeration sample on the estimated number and characteristics of farms not included in county totals because they were not represented on the mailing list.

For major data items at the county level differences between the preliminary and final figures are in general less than 5 percent. At the State level, differences are significantly less.

## CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of title 13, United States Code, data that would disclose the operations of an individual farm are not published. However, the number of farms in a given size category or other classification is not considered a disclosure. Appendix A presents additional information on disclosure rules.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Appendix A includes definitions and explanations of selected terms used in the tables.

## “SEE TEXT” REFERENCE

Items in the tables which are followed by the reference “See text” are explained or defined in appendix A.

## ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

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



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

	All farms			Farms with sales of \$2,500 or more		
	1978		1974 <sup>1</sup>	1978		1974 <sup>1</sup>
	Total	Not on mail list	Total	Total	Not on mail list	Total
Farms..... number.....	2 877	478	2 076	2 037	145	1 620
Land in farms..... acres.....	10 474 965	47 854	10 813 610	9 009 037	27 386	9 257 459
Average size of farm..... acres.....	3 641	100	5 209	4 423	189	5 714
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	597 921	12 435	551 300	578 342	10 951	523 136
Average per farm..... acres.....	208	26	266	284	76	323
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	1 003	324	503	435	81	212
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	1 098	137	843	871	50	715
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	242	10	215	231	10	204
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	534	7	515	500	4	489
Value of land and buildings: <sup>2</sup>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	696 777	172 831	440 806	795 251	276 340	487 863
Average per acre..... dollars.....	191	1 726	85	179	1 463	85
Value of machinery and equipment on farms: <sup>2</sup>						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	121 562	5 610	71 867	110 930	3 507	65 576
Average per farm..... dollars.....	42 253	11 736	34 618	54 457	24 187	40 479
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	202 122	3 169	133 437	198 351	2 861	131 014
Average per farm..... dollars.....	70 255	6 629	64 276	97 374	19 734	80 873
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	60 127	1 379	43 647	59 503	1 301	42 983
Average per farm..... dollars.....	20 899	2 885	21 025	29 211	8 972	26 533
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	141 889	1 785	89 596	138 761	1 560	87 859
Average per farm..... dollars.....	49 318	3 735	43 158	68 120	10 757	54 234
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	106	4	192	87	1	170
Average per farm..... dollars.....	37	9	92	43	5	105
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	809	333	481	-	-	57
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	736	117	427	736	117	427
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	575	5	581	575	5	581
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	348	18	299	348	18	299
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	193	3	154	193	3	154
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	185	2	102	185	2	102
Abnormal farms..... number.....	31	(0)	32	(0)	(0)	(0)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	890	307	501	-	-	62
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	3 906	502	2 470	3 906	502	2 470
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	12 483	90	12 423	12 483	90	12 423
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	22 468	1 197	19 134	22 468	1 197	19 134
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	27 405	433	21 053	27 405	433	21 053
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	132 088	639	75 872	132 088	639	75 872
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	2 882	(0)	1 983	(0)	(0)	(0)
Farm production expenses for selected items: <sup>2</sup>						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	25 829	585	23 718	25 009	397	23 303
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	2 331	108	1 435	2 252	96	1 407
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	4 936	142	3 286	4 826	106	3 154
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	2 391	15	1 439	2 359	13	1 423
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	9 406	341	6 066	8 926	233	5 820
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	19 237	407	13 057	18 740	339	12 584
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	577 076	12 863	633 854	555 028	12 070	607 674
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	11 104	1 261	10 488	9 643	609	9 858
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	131 682	440	155 203	129 909	218	143 132
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	17 095	1 873	27 485	11 309	459	21 613
Crops harvested:						
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	17 608	145	28 169	17 506	142	28 028
Barley for grain..... bushels.....	1 061 168	7 915	1 227 677	1 057 874	7 900	1 224 049
Hay crops..... acres.....	27 342	1 060	(NA)	27 045	1 060	11 346
Field seed crops..... bushels.....	1 755 370	77 000	(NA)	1 746 505	77 000	578 431
Field seed crops..... acres.....	506 907	10 513	470 652	488 358	9 073	446 472
Field seed crops..... tons, dry.....	1 103 698	24 106	925 643	1 065 486	21 986	885 981
Field seed crops..... acres.....	24 795	300	(NA)	(D)	300	23 804

<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.

# NEVADA



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