

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 31

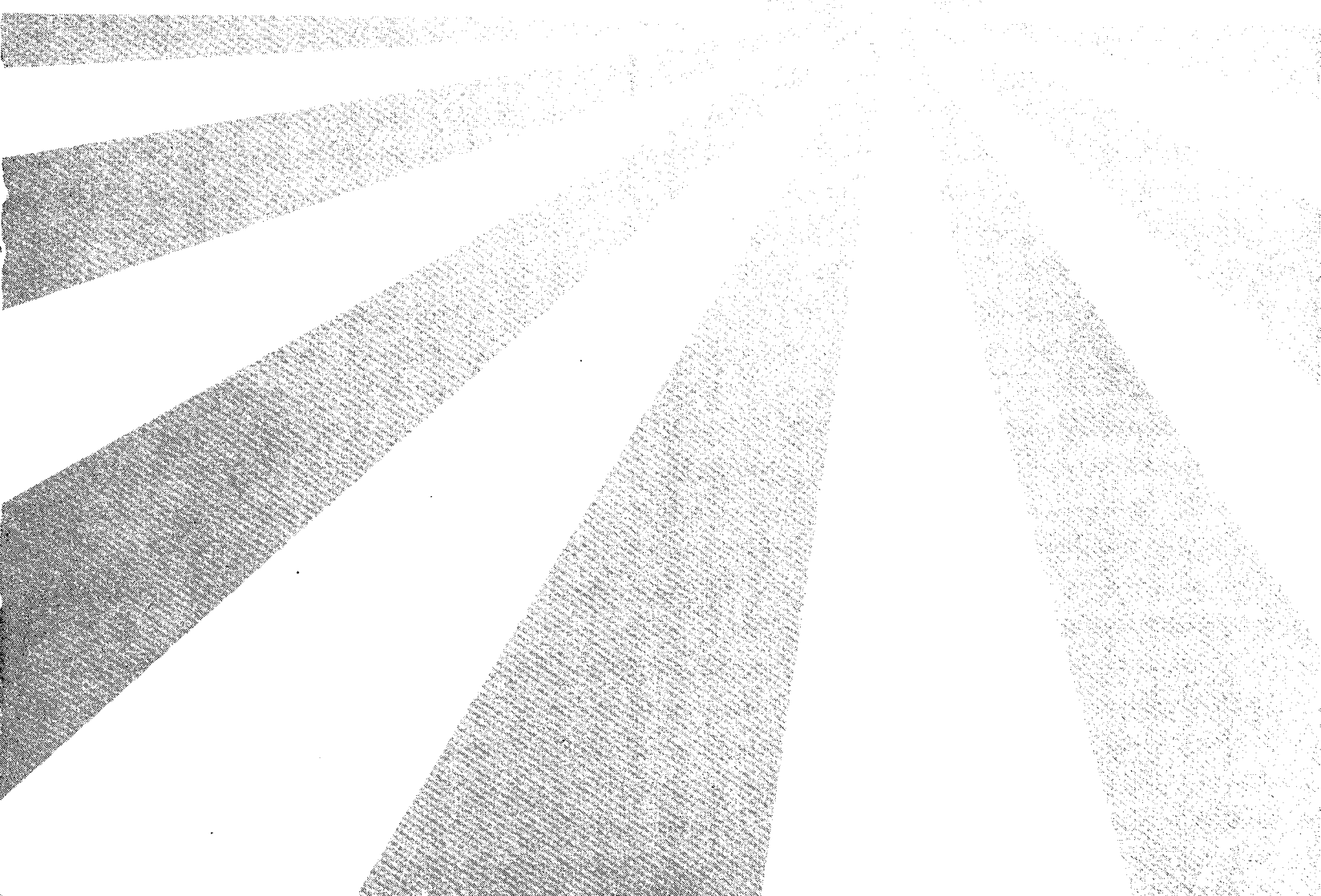
New Mexico

AC78-A-31

1978

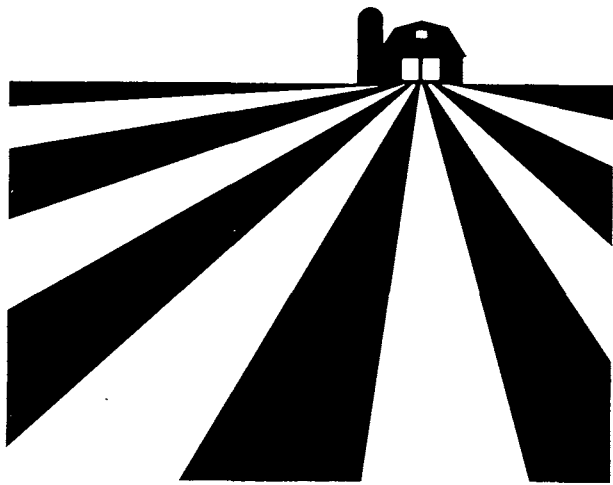
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
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AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 31
New Mexico

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

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HISTORY

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

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

AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

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

FARM DEFINITION

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

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

METHOD OF ENUMERATION

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

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

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

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

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

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

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

USE OF SAMPLING

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

GRAPHICS

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

TABULAR PRESENTATION

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

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

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

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

PRELIMINARY REPORTS

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

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

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

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

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

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

“SEE TEXT” REFERENCE

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

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

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

Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	All 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.....	14 253	1 942	11 282	9 179	503	7 736
Land in farms..... acres.....	48 301 326	366 612	47 046 388	38 824 352	157 378	38 017 791
Average size of farm..... acres.....	3 389	189	4 170	4 230	313	4 914
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	1 221 323	12 395	975 507	1 151 404	6 562	926 931
Average per farm..... acres.....	86	6	86	125	13	120
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	4 545	1 102	2 757	1 808	287	1 005
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	4 444	698	3 578	2 731	159	2 433
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	1 402	74	1 201	1 085	18	923
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	3 862	68	3 746	3 555	39	3 375
Value of land and buildings: ²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	481 954	121 064	323 418	589 944	153 770	349 829
Average per acre..... dollars.....	143	641	78	138	491	71
Value of machinery and equipment on farms: ²						
\$1,000.....	370 508	15 102	230 893	320 077	6 096	200 682
Average per farm..... dollars.....	25 995	7 776	20 466	34 871	12 118	25 941
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	798 855	6 627	521 693	780 740	5 540	508 166
Average per farm..... dollars.....	56 048	3 413	46 241	85 057	11 013	65 688
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	188 855	975	158 398	183 555	853	153 787
Average per farm..... dollars.....	13 250	502	14 040	19 997	1 695	19 879
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	595 847	5 628	354 739	583 129	4 685	346 011
Average per farm..... dollars.....	41 805	2 898	31 443	63 529	9 315	44 727
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	14 154	24	8 114	14 057	2	8 044
Average per farm..... dollars.....	993	13	719	1 531	3	1 040
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	5 005	1 439	3 754	-	-	272
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	3 709	405	2 903	3 709	405	2 903
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	2 769	73	2 536	2 769	73	2 536
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	1 372	16	1 168	1 372	16	1 168
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	670	8	456	670	8	456
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	659	1	401	659	1	401
Abnormal farms..... number.....	69	(X)	64	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of -						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	5 084	1 088	4 303	-	-	343
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	19 371	1 886	15 642	19 371	1 886	15 642
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	58 834	1 488	52 968	58 834	1 488	52 968
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	87 590	999	73 582	87 590	999	73 582
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	92 301	917	64 833	92 301	917	64 833
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	522 644	250	300 800	522 644	250	300 800
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	13 031	(X)	9 567	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: ²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	137 048	1 627	128 765	133 483	1 103	126 206
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	8 565	144	5 402	8 066	61	5 192
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	17 168	119	16 166	16 189	90	15 812
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	8 297	33	3 776	7 966	21	3 714
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	38 158	664	22 255	35 833	384	21 020
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	52 141	387	34 931	50 243	317	33 519
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	1 564 676	28 221	1 552 803	1 466 998	15 542	1 453 988
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	64 728	5 174	54 184	57 833	3 361	49 865
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	539 067	21 925	529 305	400 683	18 848	379 960
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	1 754 998	11 219	976 613	1 725 822	1 430	952 313
Crops harvested:						
Sorghums for grain or seed..... acres.....	271 019	1 482	218 600	268 321	1 472	217 871
Wheat for grain..... bushels.....	9 456 720	59 586	10 248 456	9 409 846	59 336	10 227 768
Cotton..... acres.....	335 548	723	204 155	330 283	723	202 906
Hay crops..... bushels.....	5 494 126	11 550	3 433 724	5 440 672	11 550	3 408 579
Cotton..... bales.....	122 713	312	146 414	121 720	312	145 358
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	118 808	272	150 615	117 890	272	149 691
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	309 761	7 313	254 594	268 091	2 732	220 005
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	1 054 862	12 284	917 184	967 567	6 753	827 837

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

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

NEW MEXICO

