

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 32

**New York**

AC78-A-32

1978

CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

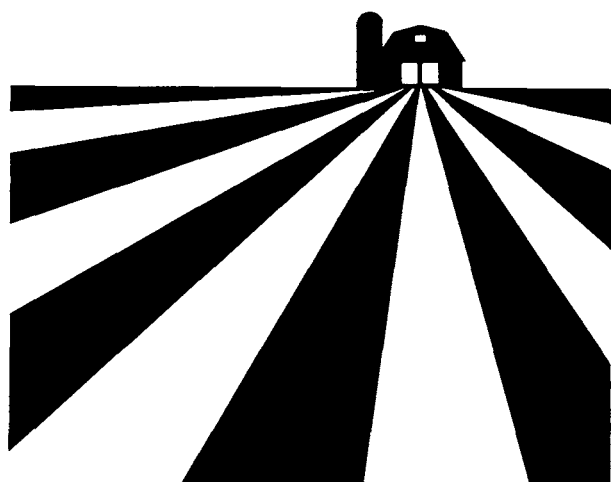


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Issued April 1981



**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary  
William A. Cox,  
Acting Chief Economist

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



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New York . . . . .	185	New York . . . . .	( <sup>1</sup> )
Farms Not on Mail List . . . . .	190	Niagara . . . . .	330
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Bronx . . . . .	( <sup>1</sup> )	Ontario . . . . .	345
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Cattaraugus . . . . .	210	Orleans . . . . .	355
Cayuga . . . . .	215	Oswego . . . . .	360
Chautauqua . . . . .	220	Otsego . . . . .	365
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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 forms			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.....	49 273	6 198	43 682	34 943	1 772	32 198
Land in farms..... acres.....	9 906 906	445 846	9 410 706	8 691 234	183 192	8 285 052
Average size of farm..... acres.....	201	72	215	249	103	257
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	4 483 151	134 560	4 156 266	4 185 328	64 609	3 899 820
Average per farm..... acres.....	91	22	95	120	36	121
<b>Farms by size:</b>						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	11 204	3 244	7 350	5 166	746	3 739
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	34 202	2 954	32 828	25 991	1 026	25 031
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	3 295	-	2 987	3 222	-	2 922
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	572	-	517	560	-	506
<b>Value of land and buildings:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	135 994	62 302	109 884	164 260	94 562	130 465
Average per acre..... dollars.....	670	866	510	656	915	507
<b>Value of machinery and equipment on farms:<sup>2</sup></b>						
..... \$1,000.....	1 621 174	53 262	1 103 383	1 498 733	25 287	995 501
Average per farm..... dollars.....	32 902	8 593	25 259	42 891	14 270	30 918
<b>Value of agricultural products sold</b>						
..... \$1,000.....	1 890 533	29 268	1 462 383	1 869 437	25 791	1 445 696
Average per farm..... dollars.....	38 369	4 722	33 478	53 500	14 555	44 900
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	546 364	11 034	446 448	537 639	9 454	438 418
Average per farm..... dollars.....	11 089	1 780	10 220	15 386	5 335	13 616
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	1 240 477	17 515	902 022	1 228 868	15 839	894 035
Average per farm..... dollars.....	25 176	2 826	20 650	35 168	8 938	27 767
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	103 692	719	110 121	102 930	498	109 623
Average per farm..... dollars.....	2 104	116	2 521	2 946	281	3 405
<b>Farms by value of agricultural products sold:</b>						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	14 289	4 426	11 916	-	-	470
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	10 746	1 103	7 468	10 746	1 103	7 468
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	9 713	510	12 852	9 713	510	12 852
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	10 027	159	8 761	10 027	159	8 761
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	3 192	-	1 896	3 192	-	1 896
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	1 265	-	751	1 265	-	751
Abnormal farms..... number.....	41	(X)	38	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of--</b>						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	14 464	3 477	12 838	-	-	531
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	54 771	4 337	41 274	54 771	4 337	41 274
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	222 549	11 949	303 476	222 549	11 949	303 476
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	648 763	9 505	530 604	648 763	9 505	530 604
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	432 384	-	253 956	432 384	-	253 956
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	510 970	-	315 854	510 970	-	315 854
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	6 633	(X)	4 380	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Farm production expenses for selected items:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	379 265	5 623	320 110	371 830	3 624	315 283
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	54 665	653	38 400	53 740	505	37 708
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	88 169	574	68 946	86 549	427	67 617
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	40 945	454	28 747	39 922	256	28 359
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	86 191	1 977	59 468	82 566	1 327	56 599
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	184 906	438	123 757	181 800	376	121 798
<b>Livestock and poultry inventory:</b>						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	1 653 952	34 246	1 752 533	1 579 923	19 939	1 661 676
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	134 635	8 323	92 325	118 657	3 748	78 300
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	56 866	1 691	70 566	41 486	900	49 539
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	8 868 983	77 427	9 440 681	8 721 423	13 525	9 337 486
<b>Crops harvested:</b>						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	1 259 977	10 801	1 063 841	1 239 985	7 680	1 042 605
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	65 532	877	205 634	63 213	370	196 353
..... bushels.....	2 216 757	24 905	8 778 563	2 161 064	13 205	8 466 472
Oats for grain..... acres.....	275 124	2 617	(NA)	264 079	822	295 277
..... bushels.....	16 186 173	135 327	(NA)	15 710 661	52 330	18 125 604
Land in orchards..... acres.....	138 308	3 293	136 371	129 591	707	132 223

<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.

# NEW YORK

