

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 33

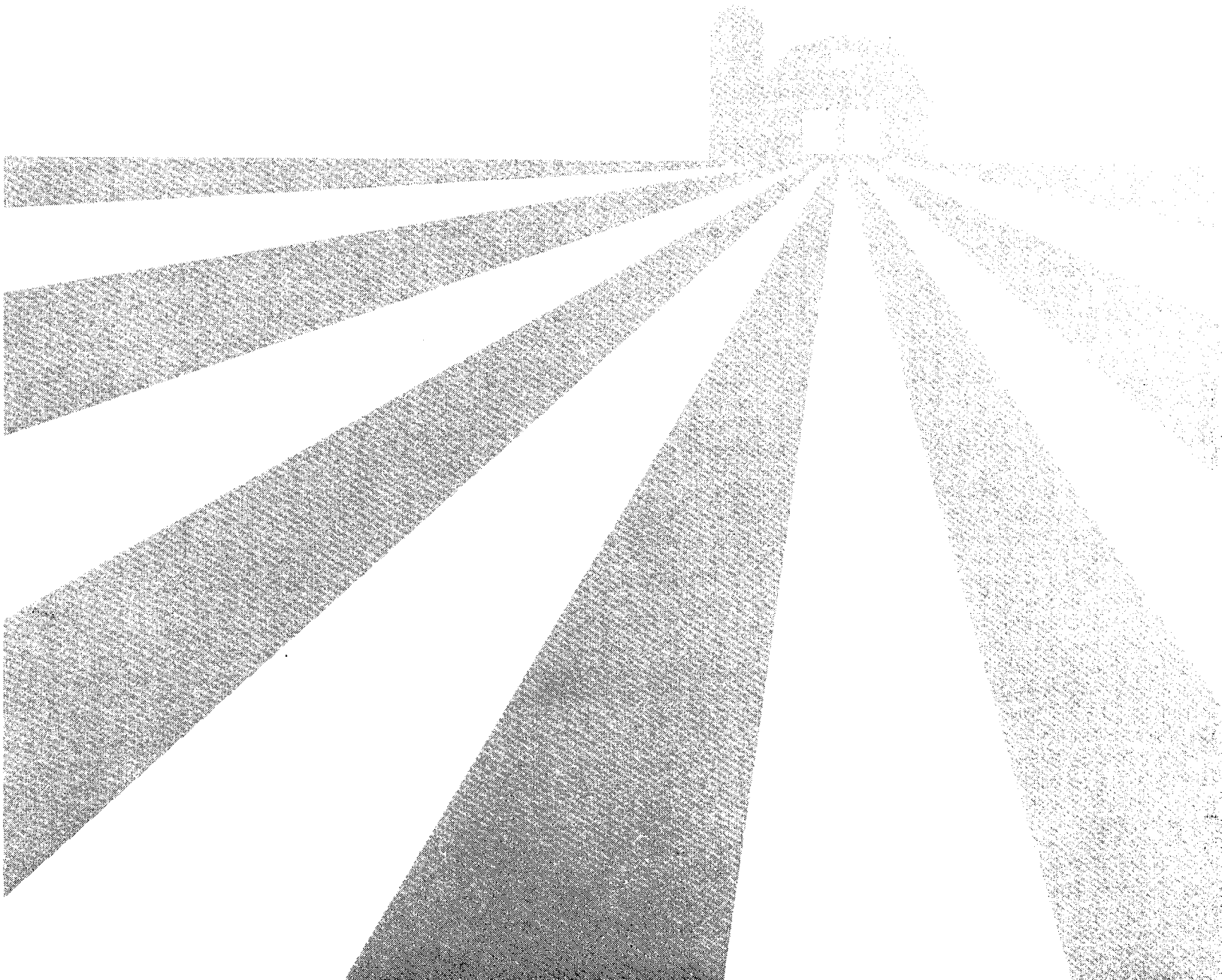
North Carolina

AC78-A-33

1978

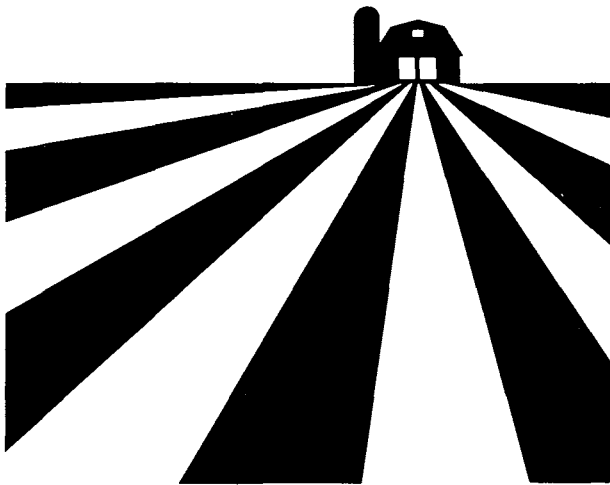
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
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AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 33
North Carolina
AC78-A-33

Issued June 1981



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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:

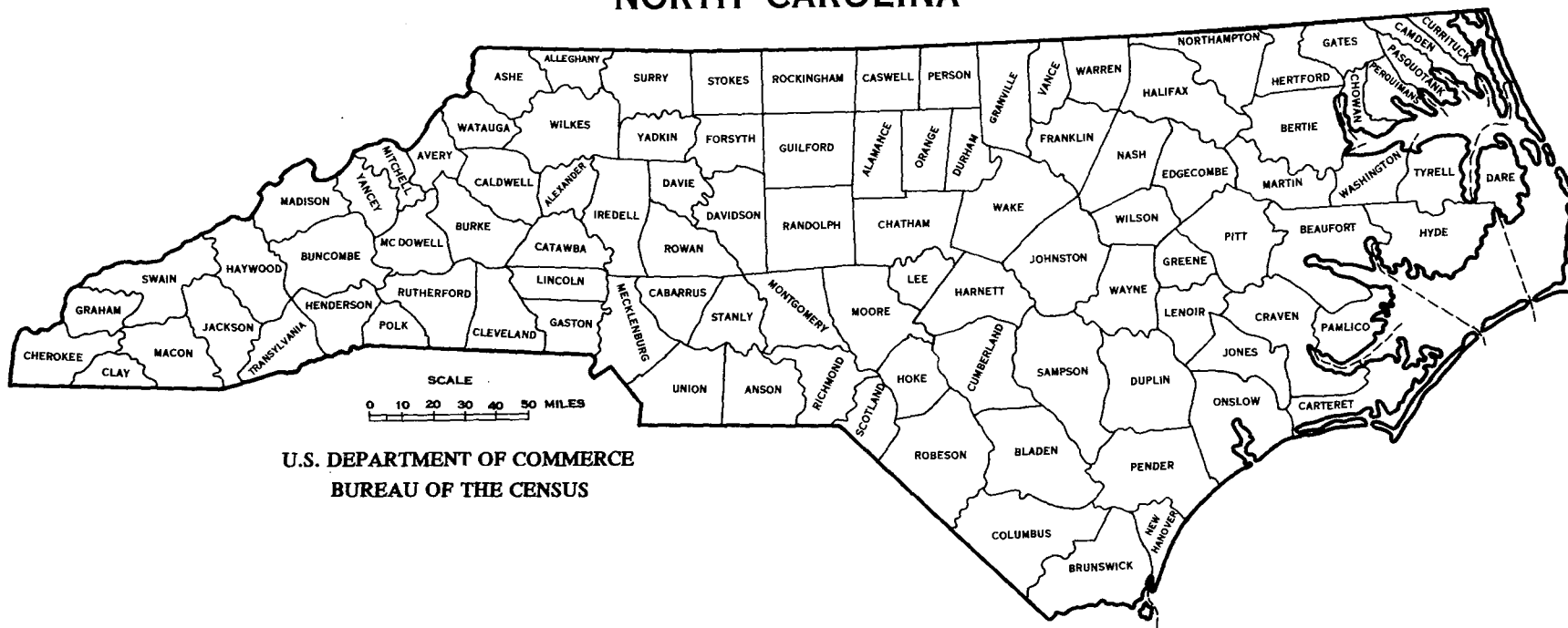
- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.
- * Independent city.

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	Not on mail list	Total	Not on mail list	Total	Not on mail list
Farms..... number.....	89 367	7 661	91 280	-	64 809	3 067	-	62 473
Land in farms..... acres.....	11 352 783	354 131	11 243 933	-	10 041 661	218 606	-	9 501 089
Average size of farm..... acres.....	127	46	123	-	155	71	-	152
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	4 567 559	100 514	4 075 221	-	4 356 622	78 200	-	3 835 847
Average per farm..... acres.....	51	13	45	-	67	25	-	61
Farms by size:								
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	38 862	5 458	37 662	-	22 734	1 752	-	20 698
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	46 757	2 203	50 324	-	38 423	1 315	-	38 612
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	2 667	-	2 323	-	2 602	-	-	2 224
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	1 081	-	971	-	1 050	-	-	939
Value of land and buildings:²								
Average per farm..... dollars.....	135 072	66 886	72 672	-	163 366	90 880	-	88 593
Average per acre..... dollars.....	1 051	1 447	590	-	1 041	1 275	-	583
Value of machinery and equipment on farms:²								
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	1 878 701	60 386	1 185 798	-	1 719 356	37 458	-	991 406
Average per farm..... dollars.....	21 022	7 882	12 991	-	26 530	12 213	-	15 869
Value of agricultural products sold								
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	3 033 165	53 087	2 121 226	-	2 996 466	49 010	-	2 082 047
Average per farm..... dollars.....	33 941	6 930	23 239	-	46 235	15 980	-	33 327
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	1 704 210	34 441	1 300 627	-	1 687 929	33 191	-	1 278 691
Average per farm..... dollars.....	19 070	4 496	14 249	-	26 045	10 822	-	20 468
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	568 442	7 353	355 465	-	549 067	4 684	-	339 588
Average per farm..... dollars.....	6 361	960	3 894	-	8 472	1 527	-	5 436
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	760 512	11 293	448 931	-	759 470	11 135	-	447 882
Average per farm..... dollars.....	8 510	1 474	4 918	-	11 719	3 631	-	7 169
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:								
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	24 506	4 594	29 213	-	-	-	-	460
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	25 509	1 978	25 293	-	25 509	1 978	-	25 293
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	21 602	789	23 586	-	21 602	789	-	23 586
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	10 705	267	9 003	-	10 705	267	-	9 003
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	4 447	33	2 951	-	4 447	33	-	2 951
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	2 546	-	1 180	-	2 546	-	-	1 180
Abnormal farms..... number.....	52	(X)	54	-	(X)	(X)	-	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of:								
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	28 836	4 077	32 564	-	-	-	-	643
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	137 650	10 985	141 162	-	137 650	10 985	-	141 162
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	450 652	16 162	480 394	-	450 652	16 162	-	480 394
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	678 108	15 987	562 384	-	678 108	15 987	-	562 384
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	619 876	5 877	401 158	-	619 876	5 877	-	401 158
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	1 110 180	-	496 306	-	1 110 180	-	-	496 306
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	7 863	(X)	7 258	-	(X)	(X)	-	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items:²								
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	620 782	10 377	411 934	-	612 691	8 285	-	404 467
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	56 801	1 028	33 245	-	55 476	856	-	32 169
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	213 186	3 649	177 589	-	205 446	2 713	-	170 431
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	85 603	1 733	47 444	-	83 018	1 367	-	46 559
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	166 536	4 834	97 912	-	161 428	4 081	-	93 598
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	224 113	1 662	133 835	-	219 171	1 599	-	130 183
Livestock and poultry inventory:								
Cattle and calves..... number.....	879 030	39 737	1 021 554	-	746 488	22 568	-	796 108
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	1 960 015	58 788	1 414 751	-	1 858 100	22 539	-	1 345 138
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	7 652	-	10 203	-	5 521	-	-	7 566
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	18 979 713	423 608	15 670 429	-	18 797 724	389 830	-	15 453 635
Crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed..... acres.....	1 519 021	29 475	1 327 640	-	1 467 404	25 014	-	1 267 135
bushels.....	115 225 811	1 548 073	100 057 145	-	112 541 007	1 396 083	-	96 892 860
Soybeans for beans..... acres.....	1 545 749	33 455	1 208 924	-	1 505 374	29 448	-	1 170 593
bushels.....	35 702 876	609 394	26 751 021	-	34 992 503	540 223	-	26 075 442
Tobacco..... acres.....	421 995	12 138	366 841	-	418 610	11 894	-	362 202
pounds.....	841 779 159	21 164 038	714 135 918	-	836 864 662	20 772 868	-	706 522 044
Hay crops..... acres.....	407 765	16 434	331 539	-	321 870	6 884	-	240 711
tons, dry.....	689 768	16 368	561 691	-	587 811	8 179	-	436 223

¹Not fully comparable because of direct enumeration sample in 1978 totals; see text.
²1978 data are based on a sample of farms; see text.

NORTH CAROLINA



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS