

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 34

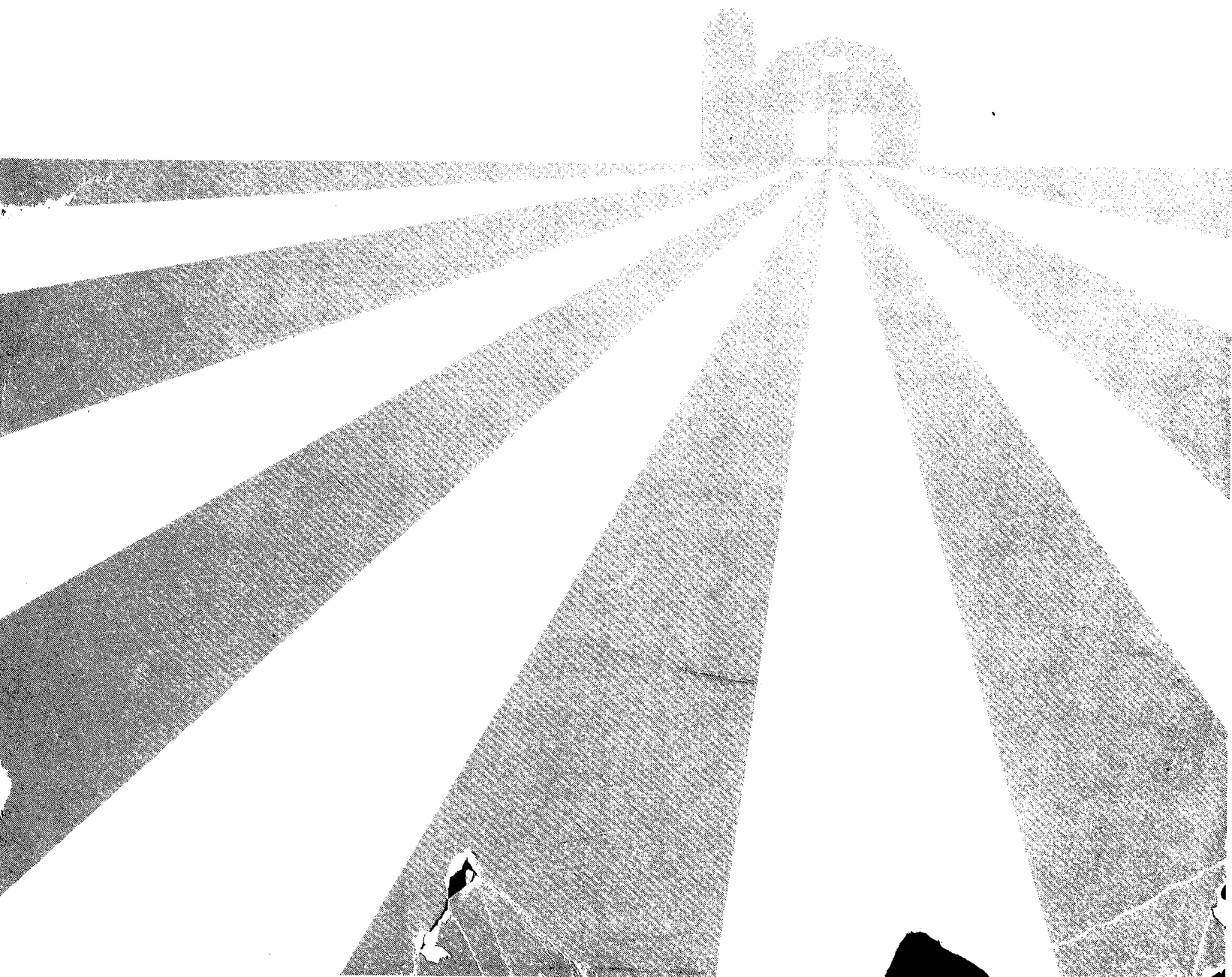
North Dakota

AC78-A-34

1978

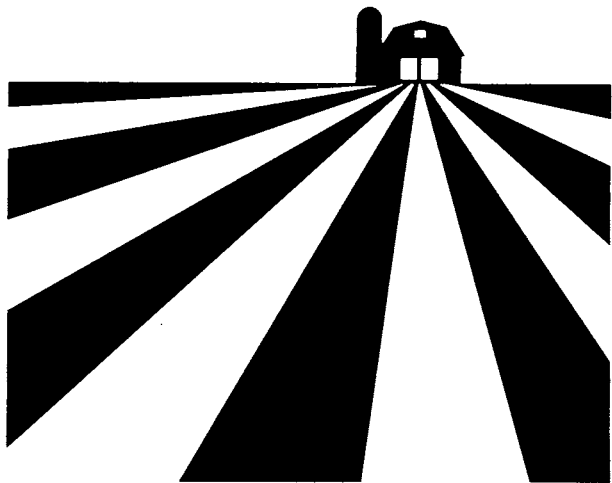
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
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AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 34
North Dakota

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U.S. Department of Commerce

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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:

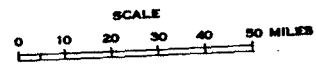
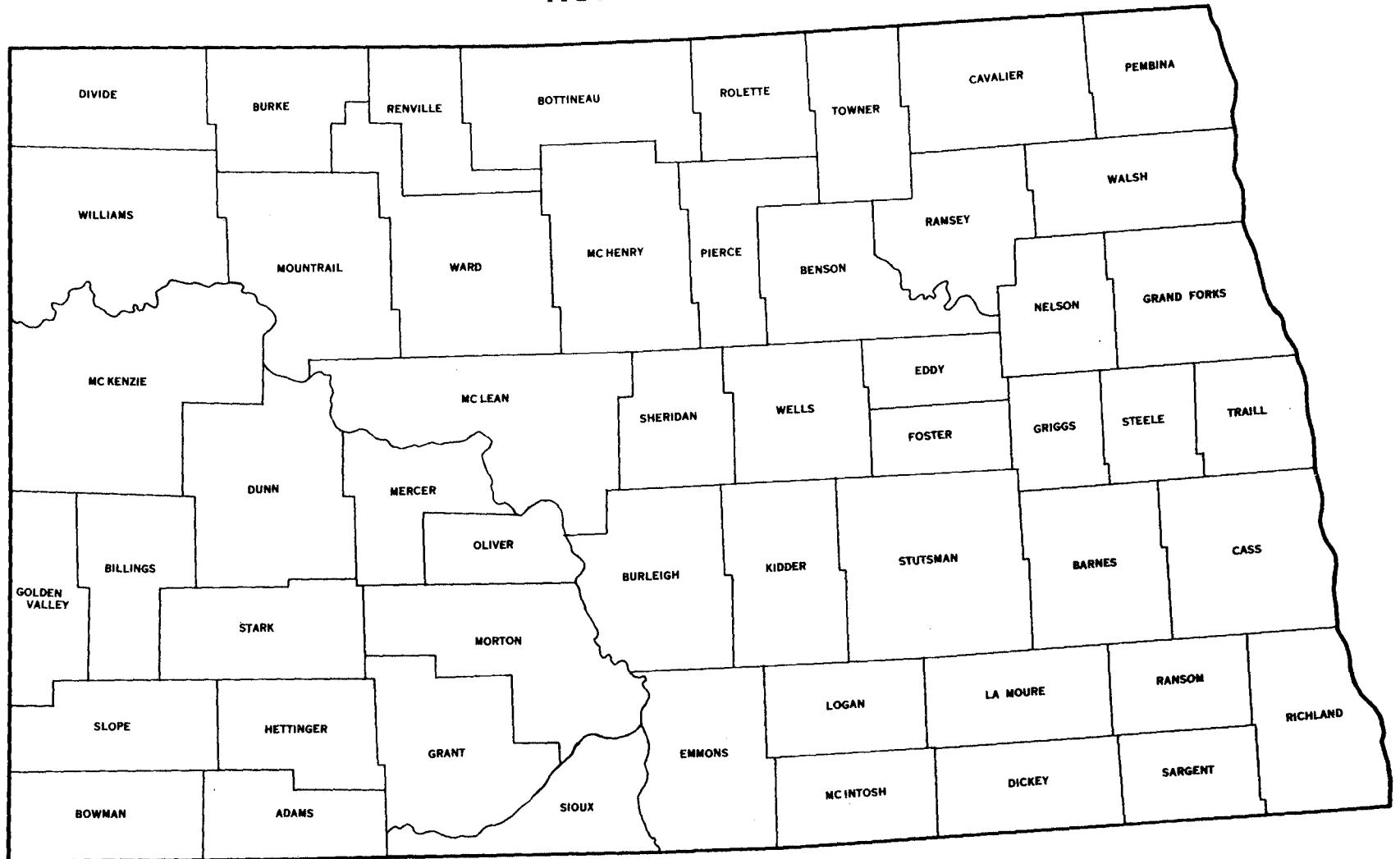
- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.
- * Independent city.

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.....	41 169	812	42 710	38 890	455	40 661
Land in farms..... acres.....	42 025 363	322 993	42 387 424	40 377 178	312 048	40 792 094
Average size of farm..... acres.....	1 021	398	992	1 038	686	1 003
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	19 120 551	141 942	19 207 401	19 038 268	140 098	19 158 983
Average per farm..... acres.....	464	175	450	490	308	471
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	2 268	318	1 754	1 201	59	875
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	11 656	191	12 586	10 549	93	11 550
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	11 904	130	13 249	11 840	130	13 169
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	15 341	173	15 121	15 300	173	15 067
Value of land and buildings: ²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	356 788	152 306	193 574	369 576	227 550	199 902
Average per acre..... dollars.....	347	383	195	355	332	199
Value of machinery and equipment on farms: ²						
\$1,000.....	2 602 426	13 235	1 635 670	2 578 864	9 980	1 612 294
Average per farm..... dollars.....	63 213	16 299	38 297	66 312	21 934	39 652
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	1 793 590	9 275	1 802 791	1 788 122	8 849	1 798 949
Average per farm..... dollars.....	43 567	11 423	42 210	45 979	19 447	44 243
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	1 295 283	6 552	1 438 258	1 292 681	6 511	1 436 813
Average per farm..... dollars.....	31 463	8 069	33 675	33 239	14 309	35 336
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	489 080	2 664	356 852	486 316	2 338	354 527
Average per farm..... dollars.....	11 880	3 281	8 355	12 505	5 138	8 719
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	9 226	59	7 644	9 125	-	7 572
Average per farm..... dollars.....	224	73	179	235	-	186
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	2 247	357	2 267	-	-	248
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	6 222	112	5 921	6 222	112	5 921
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	18 381	303	19 931	18 381	303	19 931
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	10 853	40	11 226	10 853	40	11 226
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	2 550	-	2 469	2 550	-	2 469
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	884	-	866	884	-	866
Abnormal farms..... number.....	32	(X)	30	00	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	3 077	427	2 900	-	-	383
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	37 577	574	37 208	37 577	574	37 208
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	427 827	6 206	465 341	427 827	6 206	465 341
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	660 658	2 069	672 972	660 658	2 069	672 972
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	341 159	-	331 193	341 159	-	331 193
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	320 901	-	291 853	320 901	-	291 853
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	2 391	(X)	1 325	00	(X)	00
Farm production expenses for selected items: ²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	61 603	282	71 899	60 948	170	71 150
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	53 847	234	52 735	53 677	230	52 605
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	150 966	253	90 055	150 572	253	89 926
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	70 837	425	27 962	70 557	401	27 918
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	140 721	1 039	102 766	139 850	978	102 163
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	70 920	177	47 723	70 345	177	47 319
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	1 903 279	10 067	2 403 690	1 888 047	9 040	2 374 970
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	330 687	2 662	352 017	325 382	646	347 885
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	196 940	960	275 426	192 561	960	264 393
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	531 317	10 475	739 329	510 133	2 215	712 306
Crops harvested:						
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	9 639 303	77 508	10 189 207	9 609 704	77 508	10 179 574
bushels.....	270 312 264	1 840 480	209 162 432	269 707 073	1 840 480	209 009 558
Oats for grain..... acres.....	1 094 208	17 796	(NA)	1 088 892	17 796	1 333 176
bushels.....	54 426 033	681 000	(NA)	54 206 684	681 000	41 751 162
Barley for grain..... acres.....	2 398 691	1 880	(NA)	2 394 231	1 880	1 924 702
bushels.....	106 338 623	48 880	(NA)	106 139 880	48 880	54 472 209
Hay crops..... acres.....	3 032 085	33 434	3 494 228	2 997 464	31 594	3 464 715
tons, dry.....	4 968 931	54 414	4 567 783	4 928 328	52 254	4 532 536

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 DAKOTA



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS