

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 40

**South Carolina**

AC78-A-40

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1978

CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



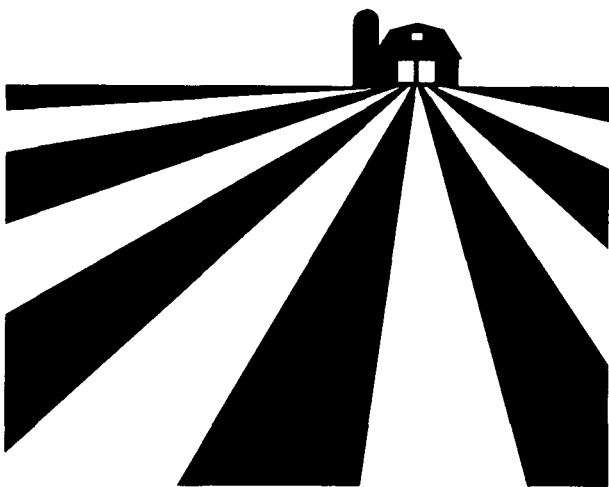


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Issued June 1981



**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
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Joseph R. Wright, Jr.,  
Deputy Secretary  
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Acting Chief Economist

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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.

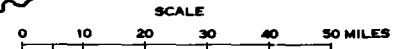
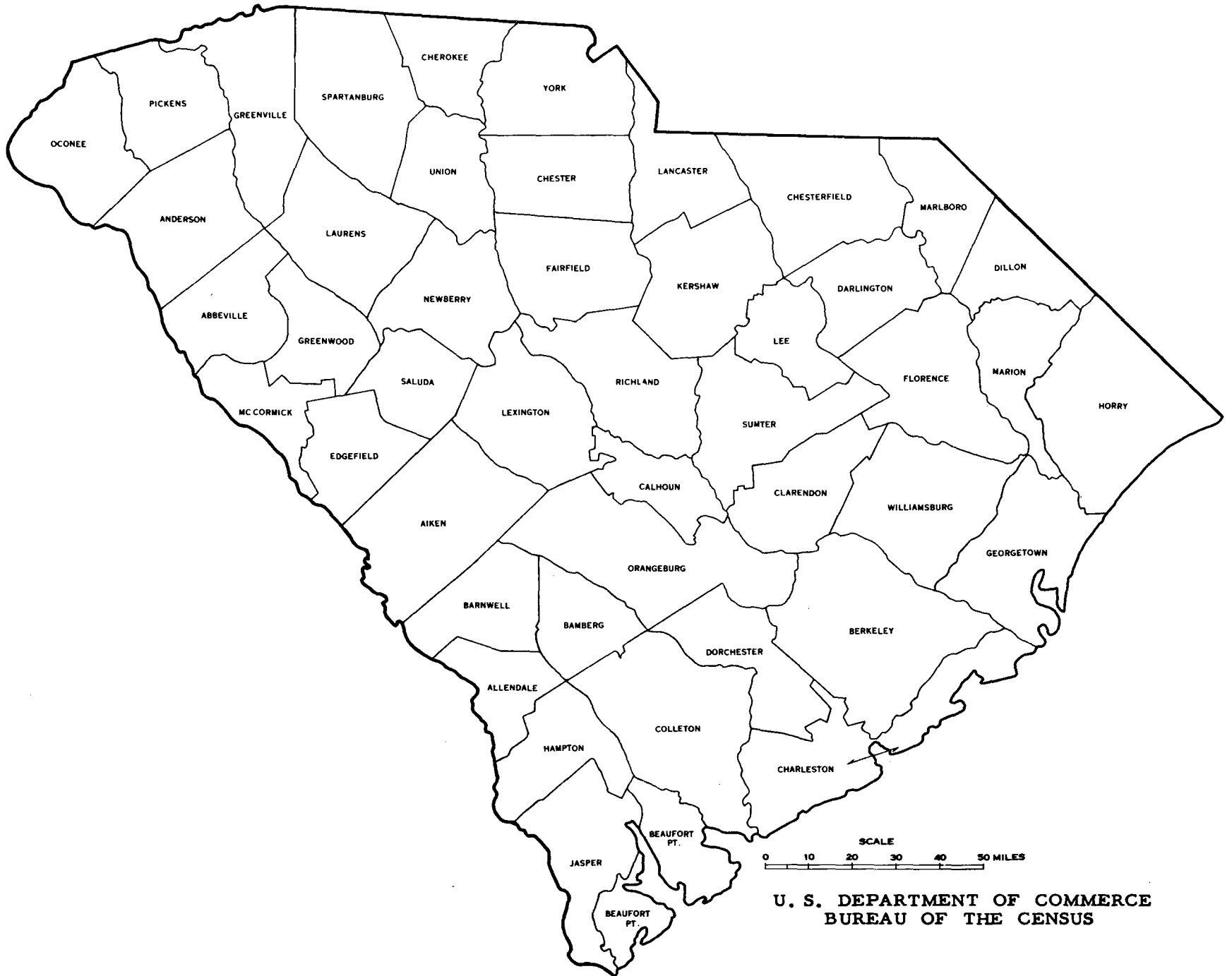
# Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	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	Total	
Farms..... number.....	33 430	6 724	29 275	18 936	1 158	17 513		
Land in farms..... acres.....	6 318 617	272 898	6 177 024	5 415 488	101 139	5 164 205		
Average size of farm..... acres.....	189	41	211	286	87	295		
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	2 570 889	46 742	2 250 952	2 448 347	25 443	2 146 630		
Average per farm..... acres.....	77	7	77	129	22	123		
<b>Farms by size:</b>								
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	13 599	5 194	9 366	4 205	504	3 698		
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	17 113	1 517	17 219	12 136	653	11 275		
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	1 650	12	1 631	1 559	-	1 522		
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	1 068	1	1 059	1 036	1	1 018		
<b>Value of land and buildings:<sup>2</sup></b>								
Average per farm..... dollars.....	146 244	45 720	98 609	214 979	74 447	133 870		
Average per acre..... dollars.....	773	1 127	467	751	852	454		
<b>Value of machinery and equipment on farms<sup>2</sup></b>								
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	733 590	41 181	449 233	634 260	9 433	365 452		
Average per farm..... dollars.....	21 944	6 125	15 345	33 495	8 146	20 867		
<b>Value of agricultural products sold</b>								
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	867 796	12 822	676 496	852 298	9 574	661 349		
Average per farm..... dollars.....	25 959	1 907	23 108	45 009	8 268	37 763		
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	550 154	6 984	459 882	544 858	6 174	453 168		
Average per farm..... dollars.....	16 457	1 039	15 709	28 774	2 331	25 876		
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	183 615	4 658	118 188	173 488	2 231	110 346		
Average per farm..... dollars.....	5 493	693	4 037	9 162	1 926	6 301		
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	134 027	1 180	88 394	133 953	1 169	88 151		
Average per farm..... dollars.....	4 009	175	3 019	7 074	1 010	5 033		
<b>Farms by value of agricultural products sold:</b>								
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	14 476	5 566	12 087	-	-	348		
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	9 112	913	7 547	9 112	913	7 547		
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	5 437	225	5 852	5 437	225	5 852		
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	2 343	20	2 264	2 343	20	2 264		
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	1 123	-	886	1 123	-	886		
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	921	-	616	921	-	616		
Abnormal farms..... number.....	18	(X)	23	(X)	(X)	(X)		
<b>Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of -</b>								
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	13 441	3 248	13 120	-	-	532		
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	46 737	4 088	40 749	46 737	4 088	40 749		
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	111 021	4 297	119 658	111 021	4 297	119 658		
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	150 173	1 189	139 951	150 173	1 189	139 951		
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	157 902	-	124 077	157 902	-	124 077		
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	386 465	-	236 381	386 465	-	236 381		
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	2 057	(X)	2 559	(X)	(X)	(X)		
<b>Farm production expenses for selected items:<sup>2</sup></b>								
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	133 398	3 428	96 996	128 431	1 128	93 455		
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	22 341	368	13 464	21 620	216	13 060		
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	96 516	1 563	84 760	92 478	865	81 099		
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	49 095	549	31 020	47 759	334	30 653		
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	52 461	1 704	33 816	49 415	814	31 814		
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	79 669	497	53 247	77 849	316	51 773		
<b>Livestock and poultry inventory:</b>								
Cattle and calves..... number.....	503 421	29 371	589 827	411 627	5 492	458 359		
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	517 993	39 333	345 282	454 156	5 622	315 752		
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	1 069	19	950	647	-	601		
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	7 030 736	73 363	6 203 860	6 938 084	18 744	6 139 609		
<b>Crops harvested:</b>								
Corn for grain or seed..... acres.....	533 655	10 329	451 165	503 292	3 209	421 863		
..... bushels.....	29 608 258	340 015	28 218 982	28 693 097	142 895	27 120 878		
Soybeans for beans..... acres.....	1 419 430	14 794	1 081 703	1 382 977	10 774	1 056 929		
..... bushels.....	29 296 390	213 646	21 516 524	28 814 517	163 743	21 129 937		
Cotton..... acres.....	100 793	-	256 082	100 669	-	254 766		
..... bales.....	114 401	-	265 454	114 281	-	264 448		
Hay crops..... acres.....	226 792	15 608	157 401	185 819	8 569	123 978		
..... tons, dry.....	429 476	23 920	309 783	380 251	13 472	263 166		

<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.

# SOUTH CAROLINA



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