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Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 41

South Dakota

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1978

CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

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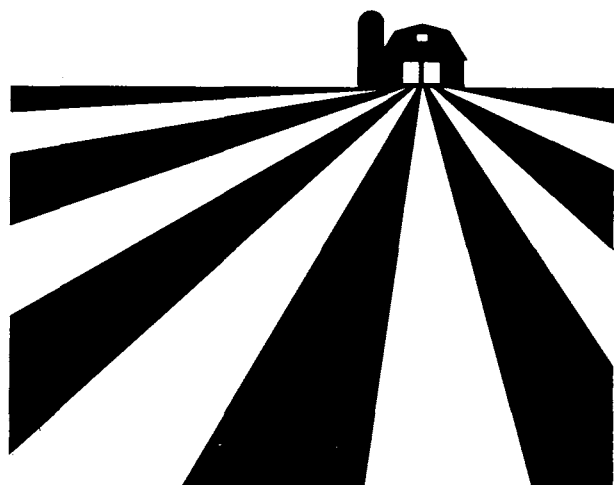
SOUTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 41
South Dakota

Issued October 1978



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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.....	39 665	924	42 825	36 890	552	39 818
Land in farms..... acres.....	44 543 394	121 066	45 977 776	38 856 098	97 710	40 198 818
Average size of farm..... acres.....	1 123	131	1 074	1 053	177	1 010
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	13 932 760	76 821	14 854 873	13 848 699	71 833	14 782 260
Average per farm..... acres.....	351	83	347	375	130	371
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	3 850	494	3 329	2 379	205	1 982
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	16 589	388	19 036	15 473	305	17 540
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	8 962	-	9 927	8 874	-	9 833
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	10 264	42	10 533	10 164	42	10 443
Value of land and buildings: ²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	290 657	68 609	155 415	292 007	87 262	157 160
Average per acre..... dollars.....	256	524	145	275	493	156
Value of machinery and equipment on farms ² \$1,000.....	1 809 910	10 706	1 168 895	1 782 440	8 375	1 141 427
Average per farm..... dollars.....	45 630	11 586	27 295	48 318	15 171	28 666
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000.....	1 906 006	7 847	1 660 167	1 898 492	7 426	1 654 193
Average per farm..... dollars.....	48 053	8 492	38 766	51 464	13 452	41 544
Crops sold..... \$1,000.....	567 418	3 241	598 401	565 253	3 199	596 706
Average per farm..... dollars.....	14 305	3 508	13 973	15 323	5 795	14 986
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000.....	1 311 799	4 597	1 038 559	1 306 960	4 227	1 034 466
Average per farm..... dollars.....	33 072	4 975	24 251	35 429	7 657	25 980
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000.....	26 788	9	23 124	26 279	-	22 950
Average per farm..... dollars.....	675	10	540	712	-	576
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	2 665	372	3 231	-	-	300
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	6 630	335	7 442	6 630	335	7 442
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	15 895	175	19 692	15 895	175	19 692
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	10 750	42	9 804	10 750	42	9 804
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	2 633	-	1 903	2 633	-	1 903
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	982	-	677	982	-	677
Abnormal farms..... number.....	110	(X)	76	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	3 533	421	4 056	-	-	441
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	39 305	1 359	45 869	39 305	1 359	45 869
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	371 439	3 664	453 152	371 439	3 664	453 152
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	663 948	2 402	590 459	663 948	2 402	590 459
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	352 149	-	252 158	352 149	-	252 158
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	471 650	-	312 114	471 650	-	312 114
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	3 981	(X)	2 360	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: ²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	204 514	1 452	233 933	202 643	1 308	231 698
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	51 481	166	39 181	51 211	160	39 028
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	76 587	385	60 964	76 101	384	60 781
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	38 232	190	19 808	38 022	190	19 748
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	118 842	561	86 798	117 955	497	86 020
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	54 839	11	39 088	53 969	11	38 537
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	3 722 378	18 704	4 522 597	3 698 908	17 288	4 489 694
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	1 781 191	8 364	1 578 264	1 772 282	6 785	1 570 475
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	678 442	8 200	923 143	667 480	8 200	900 585
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	2 270 628	2 802	2 880 121	2 240 215	410	2 829 961
Crops harvested:						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	3 248 394	17 263	3 634 336	3 235 697	16 685	3 625 376
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	3 054 062	16 254	3 018 578	3 040 444	15 540	3 011 931
bushels.....	64 467 234	235 872	55 621 567	64 236 044	230 160	55 504 973
Oats for grain..... acres.....	1 969 348	11 547	(NA)	1 956 483	9 531	1 998 084
bushels.....	85 891 293	566 040	(NA)	85 548 366	540 840	78 535 699
Hay crops..... acres.....	4 081 819	18 243	4 349 478	4 042 747	16 563	4 304 464
tons, dry.....	6 859 767	21 144	5 284 209	6 810 210	18 918	5 241 609

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

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

SOUTH DAKOTA

