

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 42

**Tennessee**

AC78-A-42

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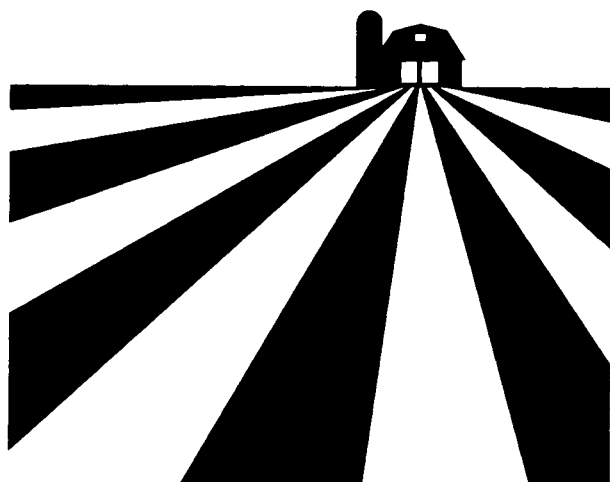
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Issued April 1981



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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**—Many persons participated in the various activities of the 1978 Census of Agriculture. Primary direction was by **Shirley Kallek**, Associate Director for Economic Fields, and **Richard B. Quanrud**, Assistant Director for Economic and Agriculture Censuses.

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division under the general supervision of **Orvin L. Wilhite**, Chief (to January 1980) and **Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, his successor. **Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, assisted by **Thomas D. Monroe**, **Donald R. Jahnke**, and **John A. Blackledge**, was directly responsible for data content of the tables, analysis of the data, and clerical and computeredit, and tabulation specifications. **William A. Harlan**, **Arlon M. Scott**, and **James C. Vogelsang**, directed the resolution of problems with individual census reports.

**John E. Adkins**, assisted by **Stephen M. Schobel**, **Loyd C. Brown**, **Billy E. Stark**, **Lowell Wrucke**, **Sharon C. Spivey**, **Martin S. Harahush**, **Ralph A. Graham**, **Avon B. Floyd**, **Kent C. Hoover**, and **Lee Smallwood**, was directly responsible for the systems and processing procedures, including preparation of control systems, clerical procedures, and computer programs. **Dana E. Moore** and **Jay A. Johnson** were responsible for the photocomposition system. **Bobbie E. Catlin** and **Paulette M. Bonchak** were directly responsible for table preparation and publication standards used. **Mittie Buchanan**, Industry Division (to May 1980), and **Helen R. Pugh**, her successor, were responsible for coding the Linotron table formats for publication. **Carl N. McAllister** coordinated the final preparation of the tables. **Virginia Crockett**, **Regina E. Lindsey**, and **Karin G. Bauer** provided editorial services.

**Charles E. Rogers**, assisted by **D. Dean Prochaska**, and **David D. Chapman**, with the additional assistance of **Jane Y. Dea** and **Tommy W. Gaulden**, was directly responsible for mailing list acquisition and unduplication, design of sampling procedures for the direct enumeration sample and the sample from the mail list, sampling variability estimates, statistical adjustment for nonresponse, monitoring of processing, and evaluation of coverage. **Albert W. Graybill** was responsible for the preparation of the operational procedures for the collection and processing of the direct enumeration sample data.

**George E. Pierce**, assisted by **Patricia A. Clark** and **Richard R. Storm**, was directly responsible for overall census planning, the Farm and Ranch Identification Survey, and development of the data collection forms and followup letters. **J. Thomas Miller**, Consultant, assisted in the design and content of the data collection forms and followup letters, specifications for publication tables, and preparation of text.

**Don L. Adams**, Chief, Data Preparation Division, Jeffersonville, Ind., assisted by **Patricia M. Clark**, **Rebecca Lamon**, **George Wilson**, **William L. Pangburn**, **Les Brown**, **Darrell L. Farabee**, and **Keith Lacey**, was directly responsible for clerical and data-keying operations, and labeling, sorting, and distribution of the mail and direct enumeration census forms.

The direct enumeration activities were administered by the Field Division, under **Forrest P. Cawley**, Chief, with the assistance of **Darren F.**

**Althouse** and **Thomas J. Manning** and the 12 directors of the Bureau's Regional Offices.

The computer processing facilities used were under the general supervision of **C. Thomas DiNenna**, Chief, Computer Operations Division.

Forms design was performed under the general supervision of **Henry J. Husmann**, Chief, Administrative Services Division, assisted by **Albert W. Cosner**, **Cathern S. Kline**, and **Irene A. Grey**.

Within the Publications Services Division, many individuals made significant contributions in the areas of publication planning and design, editorial review, composition, and printing procurement.

Important contributions were made by the members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics in establishing data needs and priorities for collection and publication of the information. Other representatives of both public and private organizations also made significant recommendations and suggestions.

Members of various agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided advice and counsel during the planning, data collecting, and processing phases of the census and assisted farmers and ranchers who requested help in completing the report form.

The press, farm magazines, and radio and television stations were most helpful in publicizing the census and encouraging cooperation of farm and ranch operators. **John W. Ternus** and **Douglas J. Miller**, Agriculture Division, and **Richard D. Ritter**, Public Information Office, were primarily responsible for developing and coordinating the public relations program.

Special tribute is paid to the millions of farm and ranch operators and other agriculture-associated people who furnished the information requested in the census. Only through their cooperation was it possible to collect and publish the data in this report.

**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data**

United States. Bureau of the Census.  
1978 census of agriculture.

Supt. of Docs. no.: L 3.31/  
CONTENTS: v. 1. State and county data.—v. 2. Statistics by subject.—  
v. 3. Agricultural services. [etc.]

1. Agriculture—United States—Statistics. I. Title. II. Title: Census of agriculture.

HD1753 1978.B87 7 1980 338.1'0973

79-600215

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction . . . . .	VII
Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	IX
State Map . . . . .	X

### CHARTS

1. Changes in State's Agriculture: 1978 From 1974 . . . . .	XI
2. Profile of State's Agriculture: 1978 . . . . .	XII
3. Land in Farms by Type of Organization: 1978 . . . . .	XIII
4. Farms by Value of Sales: 1978 . . . . .	XIV
5. Value of Products Sold by Size of Sales: 1978 . . . . .	XIV

### PATTERN MAPS

1. Land in Farms by County: 1978 . . . . .	XV
2. Average Size of Farm by County: 1978 . . . . .	XV
3. Value of Land and Buildings by County: 1978 . . . . .	XVI
4. Value of Agricultural Products Sold by County: 1978 . . . . .	XVI
5. Cattle and Calves Inventory by County: 1978 . . . . .	XVII
6. Milk Cows Inventory by County: 1978 . . . . .	XVII
7. Soybeans Harvested for Beans by County: 1978 . . . . .	XVIII
8. Tobacco Harvested by County: 1978 . . . . .	XVIII

### TABLES

#### CHAPTER 1. State Data

1. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1945 to 1978 . . . . .	1
2. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use, for Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	1
3. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use, by Size of Farm: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	2
4. Operators—Tenure, Type of Organization, and Characteristics: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	2
5. Operators by Type of Organization for Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	3
6. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	4
7. Expenses for Energy and Petroleum Products: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	5
8. Fuel Expenses, Quantity Purchased, and Storage Capacity: 1978 . . . . .	5
9. Farm Payroll, Employment, and Contract Expenses: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	5
10. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	6
11. Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers for Human Consumption: 1978 . . . . .	6
12. Income From Machine Work, Customwork, and Other Agricultural Services: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	7
13. Selected Characteristics of Farms by Standard Industrial Classification of Farms: 1978 . . . . .	7
14. Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	8
15. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer and Lime: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	8
16. Irrigation: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	9
17. Selected Characteristics of Irrigated and Nonirrigated Farms: 1978 . . . . .	9
18. Livestock and Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978, 1974, and 1969 . . . . .	10
19. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	10
20. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	12
21. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	14
22. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	15

TABLES—Con.	Page
<b>CHAPTER 1—Con.</b>	
23. Other Livestock and Livestock Products—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	16
24. Fish Sales: 1978 . . . . .	16
25. Crops Harvested: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	17
26. Specified Crops Harvested—Yield Per Acre Irrigated and Nonirrigated: 1978. . . . .	18
27. Crops Harvested and Value of Production: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	18
28. Crops by Acres Harvested: 1978. . . . .	19
29. Summary by Tenure of Operator: 1978. . . . .	22
30. Summary by Type of Organization: 1978 . . . . .	30
31. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operator: 1978. . . . .	38
32. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operators for Farms With Sales of Less Than \$20,000: 1978 . . . . .	54
33. Summary by Size of Farm: 1978 . . . . .	70
34. Summary by Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978 . . . . .	86
35. Summary by Standard Industrial Classification of Farm: 1978. . . . .	102
<b>CHAPTER 2. County Summary Data</b>	
1. Number, Land, and Value of Farms: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	118
2. Land Use: 1978 . . . . .	120
3. Irrigation: 1978 . . . . .	123
4. Farms by Tenure of Operator: 1978 . . . . .	124
5. Farms and Land in Farms by Type of Organization: 1978 . . . . .	125
6. Characteristics of Operators: 1978 . . . . .	126
7. Farms by Value of Sales and Occupation: 1978. . . . .	127
8. Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1978 . . . . .	128
9. Farms by Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978 . . . . .	130
10. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for All Farms: 1978 . . . . .	131
11. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More: 1978. . .	132
12. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978. . . . .	133
13. Energy Expenses and Fuel Storage Capacity for Farm Business: 1978 . . . . .	135
14. Hired Farm Labor—Expenses and Number of Workers: 1978 . . . . .	139
15. Estimated Market Value of All Machinery and Equipment: 1978 . . . . .	140
16. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .	141
17. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .	152
18. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .	157
19. Broilers Sold by Number Per Farm: 1978. . . . .	159
20. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .	159
21. Milk Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .	160
22. Angora Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978 . . . . .	161
23. Mink and Their Pelts—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .	161
24. Colonies of Bees and Honey—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .	161
25. Fish Sales: 1978 . . . . .	162
26. Miscellaneous Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .	163
27. Miscellaneous Livestock and Animal Specialties—Inventory and Sales: 1978. . . . .	166
28. Grains—Corn, Sorghums, Wheat, and Other Small Grains: 1978 . . . . .	168
29. Cotton, Tobacco, Soybeans, Dry Beans and Peas, Potatoes, Sugar Crops, and Peanuts: 1978 . .	170
30. Field Seeds, Grass Seeds, Hay, Forage, and Silage: 1978 . . . . .	172
31. Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons, Harvested for Sale: 1978. . . . .	177
32. Fruits and Nuts: 1978 . . . . .	181
33. Berries: 1978 . . . . .	188
34. Nursery and Greenhouse Products, Mushrooms, and Sod: 1978 . . . . .	189
35. Other Crops: 1978. . . . .	190
36. Operator Response to Land Held Under Foreign Ownership: 1978 . . . . .	190
37. Income From Machine Work, Customwork and Other Agricultural Services: 1978 . . . . .	191

## TABLES—Con.

## CHAPTER 2—Con.

38. Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers for Human Consumption: 1978 . . .	192
39. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races: 1978 . . . . .	193
40. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Tenure: 1978 . . . . .	194
41. Operators by Selected Racial Groups: 1978 . . . . .	195
42. Operators of Spanish Origin: 1978 . . . . .	195
43. Female Operators: 1978 . . . . .	196

## CHAPTER 3. Individual County Data [The following tables are common to the State and each county]

1. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1978 and 1974			
2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978 and 1974			
3. Farms, Land in Farms, Land Use, and Irrigation, by Size of Farm: 1978 and 1974			
4. Operators—Tenure, Type of Organization, and Characteristics: 1978 and 1974			
5. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978 and 1974			
6. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer and Lime: 1978 and 1974			
7. Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1978 and 1974			
8. Hired Farm Workers: 1978 and 1974			
9. Livestock and Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974			
10. Crops: 1978 and 1974			
Tennessee . . . . .	197	Hamblen . . . . .	362
Farms Not on Mail List . . . . .	202	Hamilton . . . . .	367
Anderson . . . . .	207	Hancock . . . . .	372
Bedford . . . . .	212	Hardeman . . . . .	377
Benton . . . . .	217	Hardin . . . . .	382
Bledsoe . . . . .	222	Hawkins . . . . .	387
Blount . . . . .	227	Haywood . . . . .	392
Bradley . . . . .	232	Henderson . . . . .	397
Campbell . . . . .	237	Henry . . . . .	402
Cannon . . . . .	242	Hickman . . . . .	407
Carroll . . . . .	247	Houston . . . . .	412
Carter . . . . .	252	Humphreys . . . . .	417
Cheatham . . . . .	257	Jackson . . . . .	422
Chester . . . . .	262	Jefferson . . . . .	427
Claiborne . . . . .	267	Johnson . . . . .	432
Clay . . . . .	272	Knox . . . . .	437
Cocke . . . . .	277	Lake . . . . .	442
Coffee . . . . .	282	Lauderdale . . . . .	447
Crockett . . . . .	287	Lawrence . . . . .	452
Cumberland . . . . .	292	Lewis . . . . .	457
Davidson . . . . .	297	Lincoln . . . . .	462
Decatur . . . . .	302	Loudon . . . . .	467
De Kalb . . . . .	307	McMinn . . . . .	472
Dickson . . . . .	312	McNairy . . . . .	477
Dyer . . . . .	317	Macon . . . . .	482
Fayette . . . . .	322	Madison . . . . .	487
Fentress . . . . .	327	Marion . . . . .	492
Franklin . . . . .	332	Marshall . . . . .	497
Gibson . . . . .	337	Maury . . . . .	502
Giles . . . . .	342	Meigs . . . . .	507
Grainger . . . . .	347	Monroe . . . . .	512
Greene . . . . .	352	Montgomery . . . . .	517
Grundy . . . . .	357	Moore . . . . .	522

## TABLES—Con.

## CHAPTER 3—Con.

Morgan . . . . .	527	Stewart . . . . .	607
Obion . . . . .	532	Sullivan . . . . .	612
Overton . . . . .	537	Sumner . . . . .	617
Perry . . . . .	542	Tipton . . . . .	622
Pickett . . . . .	547	Trousdale . . . . .	627
Polk . . . . .	552	Unicoi . . . . .	632
Putnam . . . . .	557	Union . . . . .	637
Rhea . . . . .	562	Van Buren . . . . .	642
Roane . . . . .	567	Warren . . . . .	647
Robertson . . . . .	572	Washington . . . . .	652
Rutherford . . . . .	577	Wayne . . . . .	657
Scott . . . . .	582	Weakley . . . . .	662
Sequatchie . . . . .	587	White . . . . .	667
Sevier . . . . .	592	Williamson . . . . .	672
Shelby . . . . .	597	Wilson . . . . .	677
Smith . . . . .	602		

## APPENDIXES

A. General Explanation . . . . .	A-1
B. Farms by Current and Prior Definitions and Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978 and 1974 . . . . .	B-1
C. Comparison of 1974 Farm Counts With 1978 Farm Counts . . . . .	C-1
D. Report Forms . . . . .	D-1
Index . . . . .	Index-1
Publication Program . . . . .	Inside back cover

## INTRODUCTION

	Page
HISTORY .....	VII
AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED .....	VII
FARM DEFINITION .....	VII
METHOD OF ENUMERATION .....	VII
COMPARABILITY OF DATA .....	VII
USE OF SAMPLING .....	VIII
GRAPHICS .....	VIII
TABULAR PRESENTATION .....	VIII
PRELIMINARY REPORTS .....	VIII
CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES .....	VIII
DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS .....	VIII
"SEE TEXT" REFERENCE .....	VIII
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS .....	VIII

### 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:

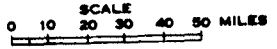
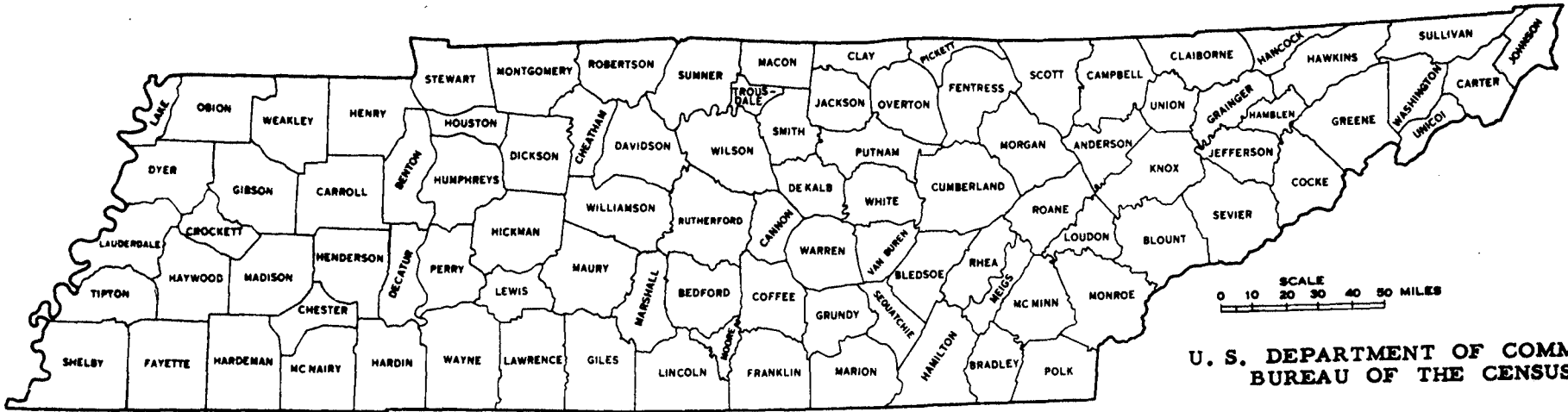
- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.
- \* Independent city.

# 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
Farms..... number.....	97 036	10 126	93 659	63 504	3 284	48 292
Land in farms..... acres.....	13 150 498	469 685	13 103 224	11 257 722	223 939	9 911 444
Average size of farm..... acres.....	136	46	140	177	68	205
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	4 480 881	71 550	3 746 117	4 245 438	45 181	3 402 034
Average per farm..... acres.....	46	7	40	67	14	70
<b>Farms by size:</b>						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	37 785	7 033	31 362	16 960	1 895	8 646
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	54 901	3 038	58 322	42 322	1 336	35 840
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	3 092	55	2 870	2 986	53	2 729
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	1 258	-	1 105	1 236	-	1 077
<b>Value of land and buildings:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	116 883	45 181	65 308	148 955	47 192	93 992
Average per acre..... dollars.....	860	974	467	838	692	458
<b>Value of machinery and equipment on farms:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	1 637 831	76 804	1 034 937	1 416 665	37 640	746 788
Average per farm..... dollars.....	16 879	7 585	11 050	22 308	11 462	15 464
<b>Value of agricultural products sold</b>						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	1 425 865	30 330	933 168	1 375 749	23 442	874 192
Average per farm..... dollars.....	14 694	2 995	9 963	21 664	7 138	18 102
<b>Crops sold</b>						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	672 734	14 330	455 513	650 956	11 028	429 097
Average per farm..... dollars.....	6 933	1 415	4 864	10 251	3 358	8 885
<b>Livestock and livestock products sold</b>						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	651 499	13 037	397 086	623 913	9 455	365 490
Average per farm..... dollars.....	6 714	1 288	4 240	9 825	2 879	7 568
<b>Poultry and poultry products sold</b>						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	101 633	2 962	74 077	100 880	2 959	73 476
Average per farm..... dollars.....	1 047	293	791	1 589	901	1 521
<b>Farms by value of agricultural products sold:</b>						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	33 492	6 842	46 356	-	-	1 021
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	39 167	2 829	29 981	39 167	2 829	29 981
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	17 165	402	12 479	17 165	402	12 479
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	4 600	53	3 470	4 600	53	3 470
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	1 713	-	985	1 713	-	985
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	859	-	356	859	-	356
Abnormal farms..... number.....	40	(X)	32	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—</b>						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	43 786	6 888	55 854	-	-	1 518
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	201 832	12 982	152 654	201 832	12 982	152 654
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	325 113	7 503	237 626	325 113	7 503	237 626
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	285 660	2 957	212 123	285 660	2 957	212 123
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	235 918	-	133 451	235 918	-	133 451
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	327 226	-	136 820	327 226	-	136 820
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	6 330	(X)	4 639	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Farm production expenses for selected items:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	216 555	6 668	178 820	206 310	4 495	162 905
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	37 919	524	23 316	36 770	323	21 945
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	109 122	1 682	81 352	103 606	1 174	73 429
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	41 299	475	20 575	39 993	321	19 758
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	68 286	2 087	42 791	62 637	1 100	36 812
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	82 237	831	48 754	77 381	434	45 134
<b>Livestock and poultry inventory:</b>						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	2 124 738	68 397	2 751 114	1 882 467	36 211	2 121 833
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	1 077 379	61 329	701 629	987 711	28 830	626 130
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	11 886	-	23 699	10 668	-	18 961
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	4 944 148	87 463	4 832 565	4 724 326	30 250	4 562 938
<b>Crops harvested:</b>						
Corn for grain or seed..... acres.....	626 659	11 106	426 926	597 032	6 761	381 167
Soybeans for beans..... bushels.....	42 866 607	701 389	25 685 139	41 559 724	547 615	23 755 843
Cotton..... acres.....	2 111 414	5 529	1 401 705	2 086 903	4 734	1 379 503
Tobacco..... bales.....	49 202 722	101 536	29 315 109	48 778 970	90 565	28 934 575
..... acres.....	231 707	3 712	497 362	230 777	3 604	484 368
..... pounds.....	235 239	3 234	310 287	234 465	3 180	303 045
..... pounds.....	71 763	4 950	49 486	63 003	3 332	40 042
..... pounds.....	134 468 422	8 660 051	91 360 581	121 020 152	6 145 560	74 967 068

<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.

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