

Book 1
Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 43

Texas

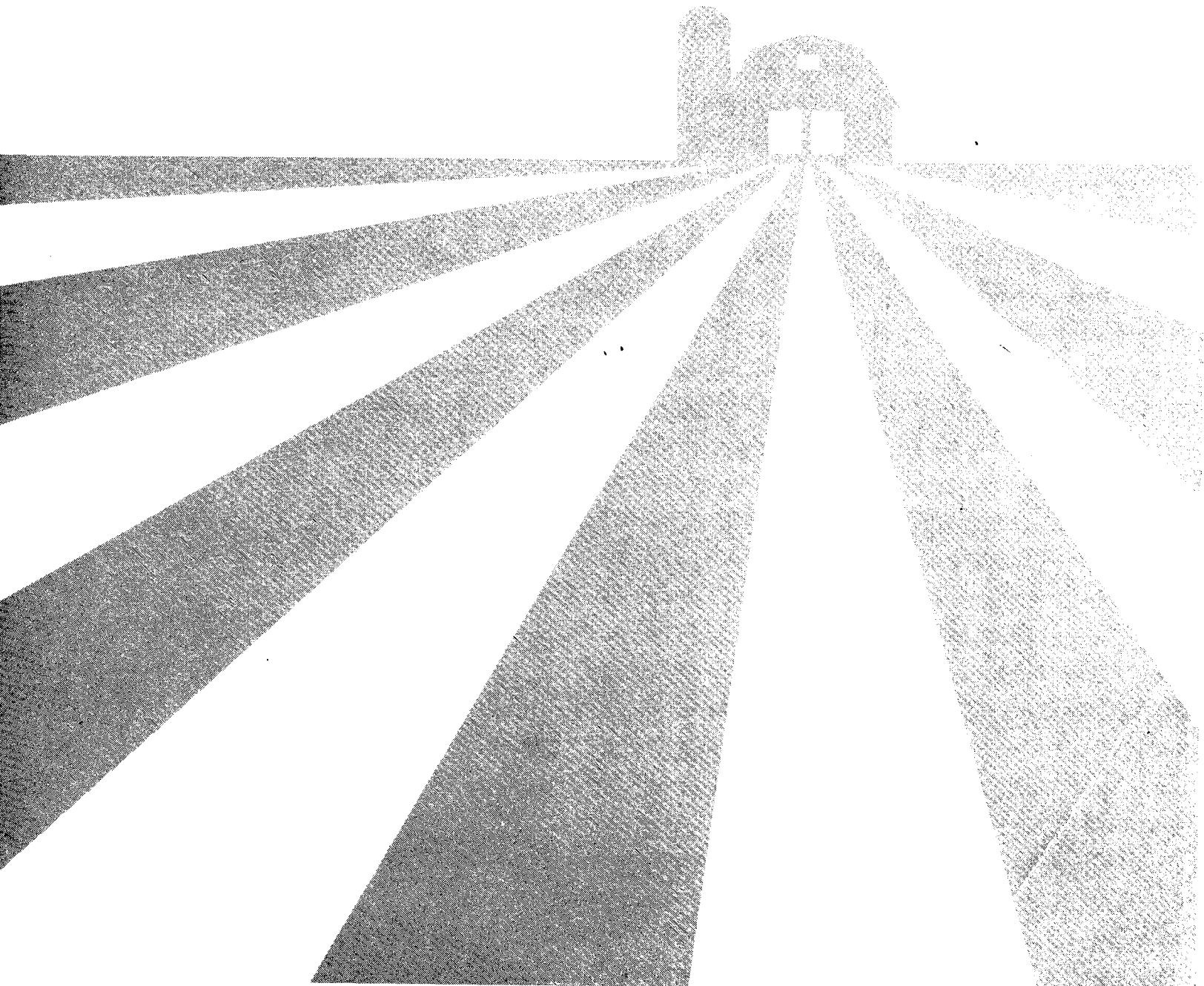
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State, Anderson County-
Gonzales County

1978

CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

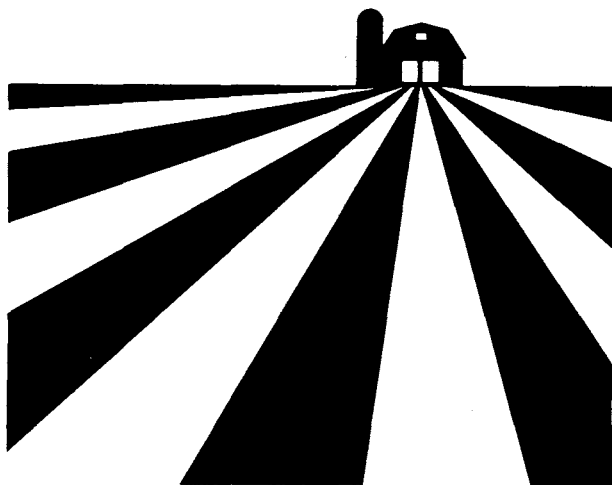
U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

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State and County Data



Part 43

Texas

State, Anderson County-
Gonzales County

Issued June 1981



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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.....	194 253	18 858	174 068	134 112	5 411	106 008
Land in farms..... acres.....	137 547 468	1 927 851	134 185 289	130 294 254	1 111 903	124 655 249
Average size of farm..... acres.....	708	102	771	972	205	1 176
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	20 780 738	181 915	19 014 079	20 291 383	136 554	18 475 459
Average per farm..... acres.....	107	10	109	151	25	174
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	41 185	10 707	27 794	14 882	2 316	7 477
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	107 799	7 701	102 394	75 535	2 701	56 854
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	21 928	168	21 763	20 826	112	20 095
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	23 341	282	22 117	22 869	282	21 582
Value of land and buildings:²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	275 047	94 365	187 073	357 409	159 105	266 397
Average per acre..... dollars.....	386	923	243	366	774	227
Value of machinery and equipment on farms²						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	4 638 781	148 589	2 749 766	4 211 787	67 157	2 336 255
Average per farm..... dollars.....	23 880	7 879	15 797	31 405	12 411	22 038
Value of agricultural products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	8 319 725	90 427	5 638 180	8 227 240	77 461	5 544 911
Average per farm..... dollars.....	42 829	4 795	32 391	61 346	14 315	52 307
Crops sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	2 704 748	10 196	2 171 042	2 686 060	8 312	2 151 080
Average per farm..... dollars.....	13 924	541	12 472	20 028	1 536	20 292
Livestock and livestock products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	5 195 015	79 716	3 149 259	5 122 809	69 040	3 077 241
Average per farm..... dollars.....	26 744	4 227	18 092	38 198	12 759	29 028
Poultry and poultry products sold						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	419 962	515	310 807	418 371	109	309 815
Average per farm..... dollars.....	2 162	27	1 786	3 120	20	2 923
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	60 029	13 447	73 094	-	-	5 133
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	65 182	4 364	46 527	65 182	4 364	46 527
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	39 238	645	32 309	39 238	645	32 309
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	16 614	132	13 115	16 614	132	13 115
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	7 647	270	5 320	7 647	270	5 320
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	5 431	-	3 604	5 431	-	3 604
Abnormal farms..... number.....	112	(X)	99	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	72 256	12 966	81 589	-	-	7 190
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	339 487	19 010	245 507	339 487	19 010	245 507
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	792 632	11 457	658 738	792 632	11 457	658 738
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	1 051 726	7 227	824 133	1 051 726	7 227	824 133
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	1 067 955	39 766	738 556	1 067 955	39 766	738 556
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	4 975 441	-	3 070 787	4 975 441	-	3 070 787
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	20 229	(X)	18 870	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items:²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	1 527 922	24 695	1 317 088	1 492 468	15 733	1 278 737
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	156 135	2 857	101 472	153 170	2 404	99 312
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	334 672	5 490	285 918	322 990	3 723	274 423
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	169 054	1 636	89 312	165 088	1 439	88 015
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	409 537	5 441	226 295	395 698	3 170	214 233
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	434 082	2 240	300 700	424 156	1 875	293 828
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	12 983 758	282 709	13 377 867	12 185 107	164 279	11 882 023
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	831 852	49 679	811 559	732 314	12 720	752 114
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	2 446 898	3 326	3 050 824	2 410 093	1 151	2 968 537
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	13 960 086	221 200	14 155 071	13 532 566	53 811	13 776 937
Crops harvested:						
Sorghums for grain or seed..... acres.....	4 513 451	14 940	5 612 585	4 471 915	13 834	5 561 728
Wheat for grain..... bushels.....	205 988 020	917 174	263 602 187	204 703 261	883 907	262 075 225
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	2 704 184	12 834	3 489 127	2 675 641	11 424	3 463 092
Cotton..... bushels.....	55 524 963	342 428	60 811 842	55 173 928	315 728	60 492 087
Cotton..... acres.....	6 489 514	13 330	4 493 986	6 466 109	8 044	4 474 039
Hay crops..... bales.....	3 753 276	7 238	2 505 597	3 743 586	5 648	2 494 599
Hay crops..... acres.....	3 142 201	117 260	2 350 721	2 850 935	90 468	2 036 290
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	5 412 097	222 707	4 415 658	5 082 200	196 371	3 960 662

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

TEXAS

