

Volume 1

**Summary and State Data**

Part 51

**United States**

AC78-A-51

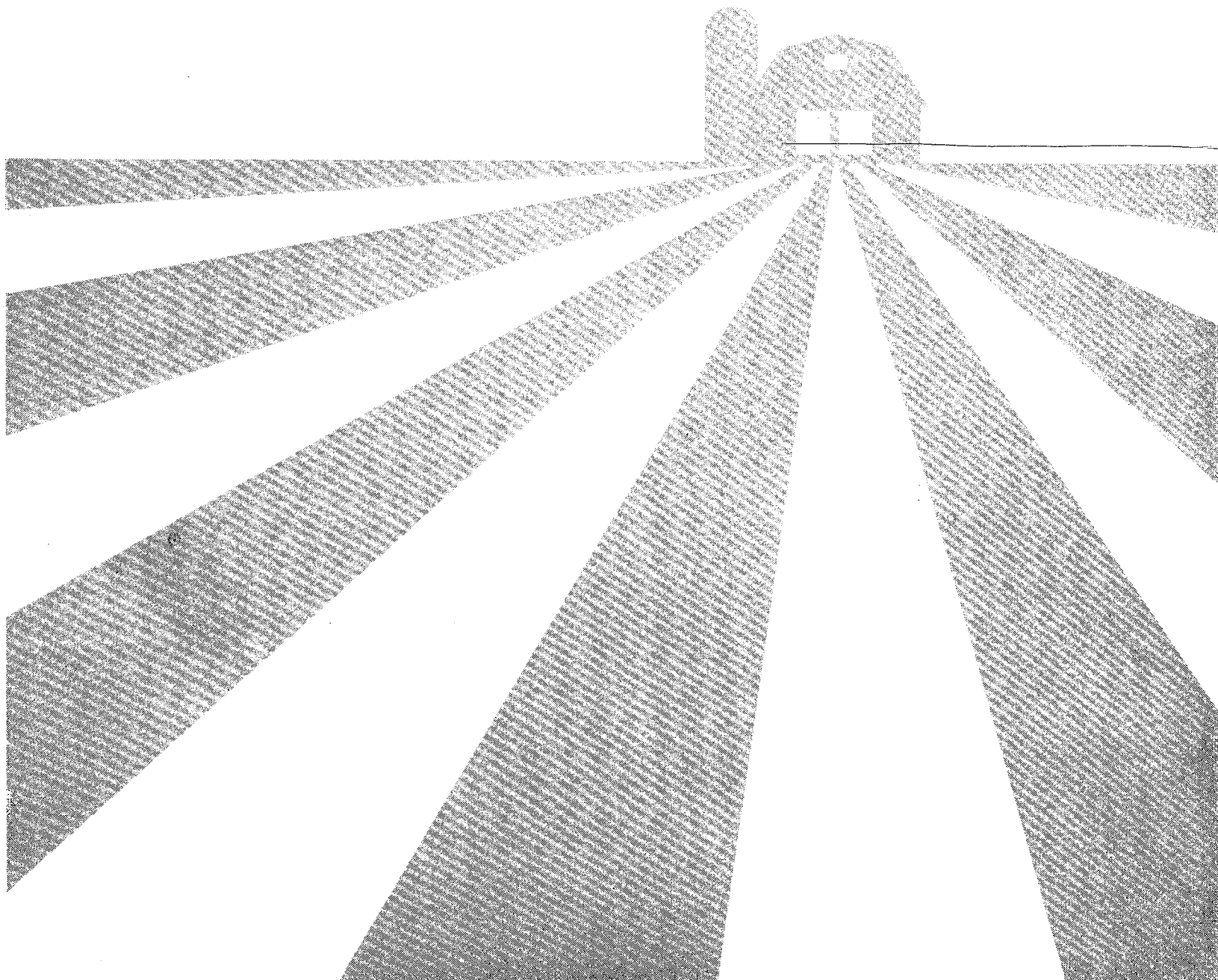
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1978

CENSUS OF  
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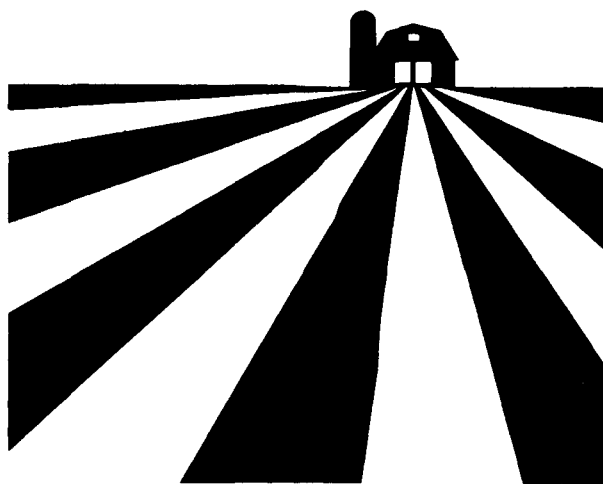
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Volume 1  
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Part 51  
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Issued July, 1981



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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 the United States, regions, and 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

The U.S., region, and 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 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 shown in reports for individual States 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 U.S., region, and 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 the United States.

## TABULAR PRESENTATION

**U.S. data**—In chapter 1, tables 1 through 28 show detailed data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more censuses. Tables 29 through 35 provide 1978 U.S. data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

**State summary data**—Selected data items are presented by State in chapter 2. Tables 1 through 16 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 specialities are contained in tables 17 through 28 and detailed crop data in tables 29 through 36. Tables 37 through 44 present data on foreign ownership, income from customwork, direct sales to consumers, operators by racial group, and female operators.

**Individual State data**—Five pages of tables are presented in chapter 3 for each State. The tables include final data for each State 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 United States and the regions for all farms and for those farms not on the mail list.

## 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 except in table 3 where the selected crops varied by area according to their relative importance in the area. The United States, region, and State preliminary reports 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 Nation'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      | 2 478 642     | 220 867          | 2 314 013         | 1 864 687                           | 69 749           | 1 695 047         |
| Land in farms.....   | acres       | 1 029 694 535 | 14 917 301       | 1 017 030 357     | 926 885 485                         | 8 477 990        | 905 640 107       |
| Average size of farm.....  | acres       | 415           | 68               | 440               | 497                                 | 122              | 534               |
| Harvested cropland.....  | acres       | 320 666 222   | 3 520 267        | 303 001 943       | 313 921 374                         | 2 611 454        | 296 133 940       |
| Average per farm.....  | acres       | 129           | 16               | 131               | 168                                 | 37               | 175               |
| <b>Farms by size:</b>  |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| 1 to 49 acres.....   | number      | 690 329       | 147 542          | 507 797           | 334 583                             | 34 930           | 228 723           |
| 50 to 499 acres.....   | number      | 1 411 045     | 70 367           | 1 443 982         | 1 161 320                           | 32 358           | 1 113 525         |
| 500 to 999 acres.....  | number      | 215 112       | 1 903            | 207 297           | 209 600                             | 1 460            | 200 774           |
| 1,000 acres or more.....   | number      | 162 156       | 1 055            | 154 937           | 159 184                             | 1 001            | 152 025           |
| <b>Value of land and buildings:<sup>2</sup></b>                      |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Average per farm.....  | dollars     | 262 252       | 84 177           | 147 838           | 318 723                             | 125 106          | 182 231           |
| Average per acre.....  | dollars     | 628           | 1 246            | 336               | 639                                 | 1 029            | 341               |
| <b>Value of machinery and equipment on farms:<sup>2</sup></b>        |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Average per farm.....  | \$1,000     | 79 482 285    | 1 881 596        | 48 402 624        | 74 903 345                          | 976 722          | 43 956 691        |
| Average per acre.....  | dollars     | 32 067        | 8 519            | 20 917            | 40 169                              | 14 003           | 25 932            |
| <b>Value of agricultural products sold:</b>                          |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Average per farm.....  | \$1,000     | 108 113 519   | 1 040 061        | 81 526 126        | 107 163 844                         | 908 251          | 80 593 405        |
| Crops sold.....  | dollars     | 43 618        | 4 709            | 35 231            | 57 470                              | 13 022           | 47 546            |
| Average per farm.....  | \$1,000     | 48 617 400    | 414 200          | 41 790 365        | 48 296 531                          | 377 985          | 41 450 308        |
| Livestock and livestock products sold.....                           | dollars     | 19 615        | 1 875            | 18 060            | 25 901                              | 5 419            | 24 454            |
| Average per farm.....  | \$1,000     | 50 912 865    | 506 093          | 33 301 560        | 50 303 035                          | 413 823          | 32 733 467        |
| Poultry and poultry products sold.....                               | dollars     | 20 541        | 2 291            | 14 391            | 26 977                              | 5 933            | 19 311            |
| Average per farm.....  | \$1,000     | 8 583 253     | 119 768          | 6 202 291         | 8 564 278                           | 116 442          | 6 186 376         |
| Average per acre.....  | dollars     | 3 463         | 542              | 2 680             | 4 593                               | 1 669            | 3 650             |
| <b>Farms by value of agricultural products sold:</b>                 |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Less than \$2,500.....   | number      | 611 653       | 151 118          | 649 448           | (X)                                 | (X)              | 32 720            |
| \$2,500 to \$9,999.....  | number      | 662 916       | 48 129           | 553 636           | 662 916                             | 48 129           | 553 636           |
| \$10,000 to \$39,999.....  | number      | 615 706       | 17 316           | 631 782           | 615 706                             | 17 316           | 631 782           |
| \$40,000 to \$99,999.....  | number      | 363 383       | 3 290            | 324 310           | 363 383                             | 3 290            | 324 310           |
| \$100,000 to \$199,999.....  | number      | 141 926       | 876              | 101 153           | 141 926                             | 876              | 101 153           |
| \$200,000 or more.....   | number      | 80 756        | 138              | 51 446            | 80 756                              | 138              | 51 446            |
| Abnormal farms.....  | number      | 2 302         | (X)              | 2 238             | (X)                                 | (X)              | (X)               |
| <b>Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—</b> |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Less than \$2,500.....   | \$1,000     | 704 856       | 131 810          | 742 393           | (X)                                 | (X)              | 45 450            |
| \$2,500 to \$9,999.....  | \$1,000     | 3 552 178     | 224 166          | 3 074 822         | 3 552 178                           | 224 166          | 3 074 822         |
| \$10,000 to \$39,999.....  | \$1,000     | 13 213 245    | 333 951          | 13 707 036        | 13 213 245                          | 333 951          | 13 707 036        |
| \$40,000 to \$99,999.....  | \$1,000     | 23 058 948    | 189 959          | 20 071 570        | 23 058 948                          | 189 959          | 20 071 570        |
| \$100,000 to \$199,999.....  | \$1,000     | 19 476 792    | 121 980          | 13 758 044        | 19 476 792                          | 121 980          | 13 758 044        |
| \$200,000 or more.....   | \$1,000     | 47 862 681    | 38 196           | 29 936 483        | 47 862 681                          | 38 196           | 29 936 483        |
| Abnormal farms.....  | \$1,000     | 244 819       | (X)              | 235 777           | (X)                                 | (X)              | (X)               |
| <b>Farm production expenses for selected items:<sup>2</sup></b>      |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Feed for livestock and poultry.....                                  | \$1,000     | 16 035 645    | 249 649          | 13 647 816        | 15 746 333                          | 174 800          | 13 362 796        |
| Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees.....                                 | \$1,000     | 2 638 166     | 31 048           | 1 798 643         | 2 603 710                           | 25 415           | 1 773 488         |
| Commercial fertilizer.....   | \$1,000     | 6 388 998     | 58 416           | 5 137 361         | 6 274 877                           | 45 146           | 5 028 120         |
| Other agricultural chemicals.....                                    | \$1,000     | 2 914 958     | 25 455           | 1 757 779         | 2 869 440                           | 20 764           | 1 741 188         |
| Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc.....                        | \$1,000     | 4 769 231     | 77 806           | 3 087 606         | 4 629 221                           | 53 818           | 2 974 861         |
| Hired farm labor.....  | \$1,000     | 6 849 036     | 34 608           | 4 652 075         | 6 721 818                           | 28 914           | 4 566 000         |
| <b>Livestock and poultry inventory:</b>                              |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Cattle and calves.....   | number      | 105 715 399   | 1 850 290        | 113 174 700       | 100 620 888                         | 1 037 479        | 104 291 803       |
| Hogs and pigs.....   | number      | 58 809 991    | 1 112 673        | 45 503 604        | 57 280 069                          | 519 955          | 44 454 275        |
| Sheep and lambs.....   | number      | 12 371 786    | 128 310          | 15 379 604        | 11 503 508                          | 67 543           | 14 173 007        |
| Chickens 3 months old or older.....                                  | number      | 359 064 123   | 4 706 696        | 335 740 245       | 354 360 477                         | 2 944 412        | 331 166 204       |
| <b>Crops harvested:</b>  |             |               |                  |                   |                                     |                  |                   |
| Corn for all purposes.....   | acres       | 79 114 740    | 764 373          | 72 330 443        | 78 202 616                          | 638 588          | 71 220 393        |
| Corn for grain or seed.....  | acres       | 70 734 094    | 690 614          | 61 653 842        | 69 944 685                          | 586 785          | 60 701 540        |
| Sorghums for grain or seed.....                                      | bushels     | 6 857 786 573 | 52 600 712       | 4 396 912 922     | 6 815 513 684                       | 47 684 716       | 4 355 299 202     |
| Wheat for grain.....   | acres       | 12 961 799    | 61 970           | 12 929 130        | 12 849 322                          | 56 417           | 12 827 885        |
| Oats for grain.....  | acres       | 661 799 233   | 3 226 092        | 554 243 954       | 658 274 064                         | 3 036 055        | 551 303 973       |
| Barley for grain.....  | acres       | 54 457 876    | 302 708          | 62 957 215        | 54 126 878                          | 289 465          | 62 594 072        |
| Rice.....  | bushels     | 1 616 060 121 | 8 519 691        | 1 691 553 354     | 1 609 005 762                       | 8 165 332        | 1 682 690 982     |
| Soybeans for beans.....  | acres       | 10 240 993    | 119 090          | (NA)              | 9 983 045                           | 85 545           | 11 142 686        |
| Cotton.....  | bushels     | 518 844 294   | 5 359 069        | (NA)              | 509 249 572                         | 4 386 867        | 526 122 768       |
| Tobacco.....   | acres       | 8 975 538     | 31 726           | (NA)              | 8 909 266                           | 29 294           | 7 286 041         |
| Peanuts for nuts.....  | bushels     | 429 172 703   | 1 614 042        | (NA)              | 426 451 778                         | 1 540 751        | 273 264 963       |
| Hay crops.....   | acres       | 3 003 344     | 1 673            | (NA)              | 2 999 658                           | 1 568            | 2 547 262         |
| Irish potatoes.....  | 100 lb bags | 133 783 910   | 69 375           | (NA)              | 133 637 555                         | 65 973           | 114 286 126       |
| Peanuts for nuts.....  | acres       | 61 832 897    | 493 048          | 48 118 849        | 61 362 564                          | 455 875          | 47 787 723        |
| Cotton.....  | bushels     | 1 734 777 847 | 12 623 618       | 1 145 788 470     | 1 726 469 524                       | 11 893 877       | 1 140 002 718     |
| Tobacco.....   | acres       | 12 737 497    | 43 725           | 12 223 500        | 12 687 391                          | 37 725           | 12 128 978        |
| Peanuts for nuts.....  | bales       | 10 716 080    | 29 633           | 10 887 205        | 10 675 772                          | 27 801           | 10 815 354        |
| Hay crops.....   | acres       | 1 004 697     | 41 473           | 877 113           | 971 928                             | 36 300           | 842 041           |
| Irish potatoes.....  | pounds      | 1 988 287 140 | 70 097 358       | 1 733 365 121     | 1 938 747 881                       | 63 117 907       | 1 673 560 673     |
| Cotton.....  | acres       | 1 395 150     | 9 264            | 1 345 121         | 1 386 874                           | 7 232            | 1 334 060         |
| Peanuts for nuts.....  | acres       | 353 080 816   | 1 863 394        | 316 163 531       | 352 075 282                         | 1 638 500        | 314 929 746       |
| Hay crops.....   | acres       | 1 434 353     | 8 878            | 1 368 990         | 1 426 193                           | 7 294            | 1 358 514         |
| Hay crops.....   | pounds      | 3 615 638 315 | 18 403 911       | 3 168 918 169     | 3 606 079 044                       | 17 655 276       | 3 156 858 256     |
| All vegetables harvested for sale.....                               | acres       | 61 757 610    | 1 516 219        | 56 236 381        | 57 654 442                          | 907 022          | 52 067 694        |
| Land in orchards.....  | acres       | 133 186 682   | 2 472 997        | 115 028 236       | 127 648 855                         | 1 743 609        | 108 751 973       |
| Land in orchards.....  | acres       | 3 569 304     | 35 162           | 3 124 257         | 3 511 833                           | 21 402           | 3 070 068         |
| Land in orchards.....  | acres       | 4 546 138     | 82 511           | 4 184 842         | 4 211 787                           | 32 559           | 4 042 624         |

<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.

REGIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

