

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 47

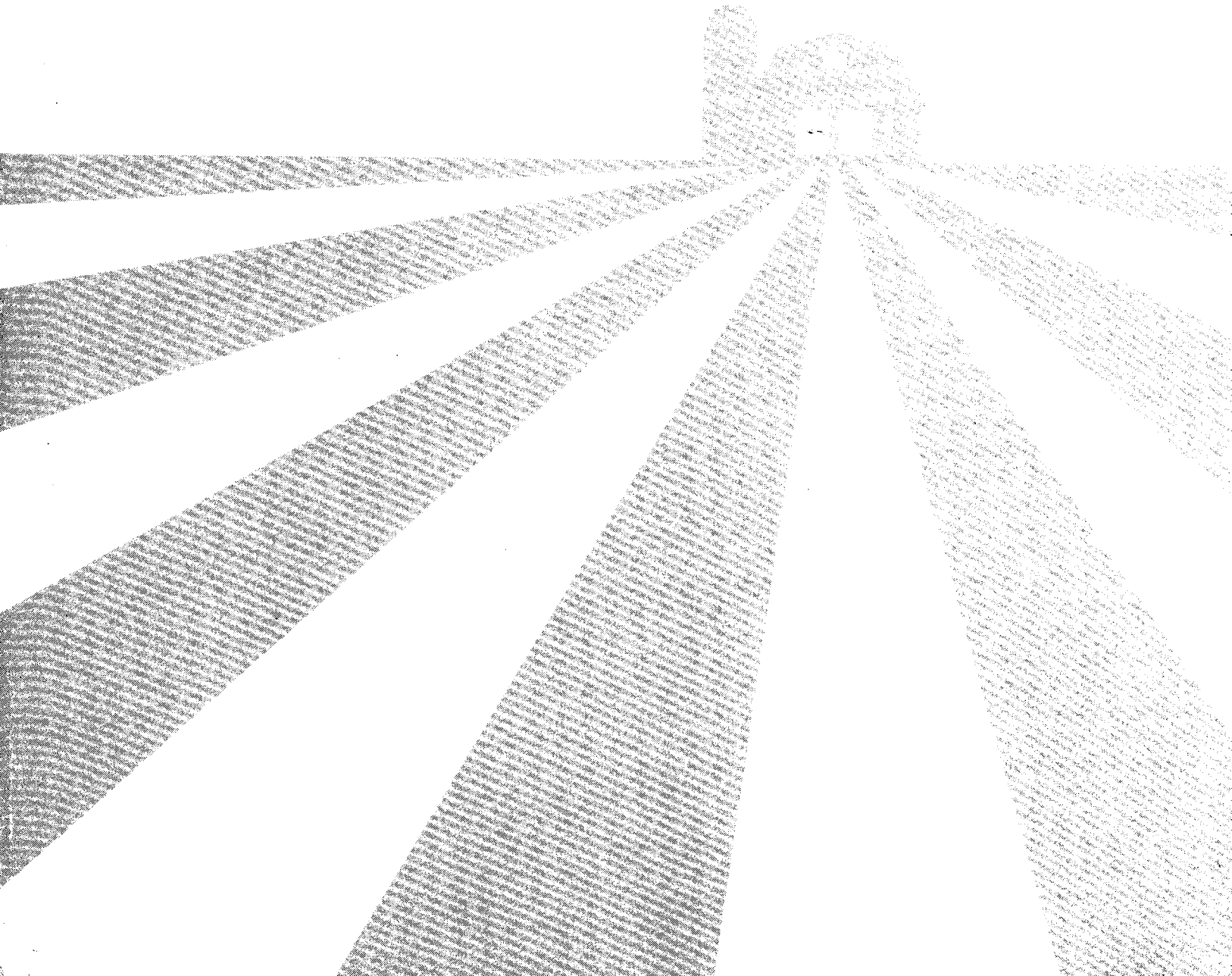
Washington

AC78-A-47

1978

CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

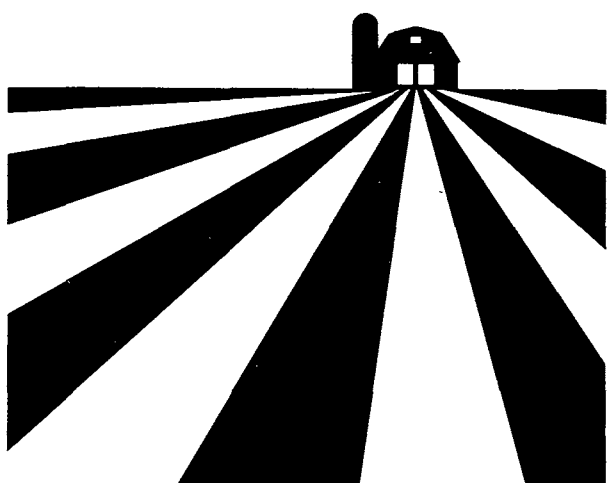
U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data

Part 47
Washington
AC78-A-47



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. Gauden**, 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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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	37 730	6 743	29 410	24 664	1 470	21 056
Land in farms..... acres	17 002 288	280 452	16 661 902	14 071 419	82 573	13 909 191
Average size of farm..... acres	451	42	567	571	56	661
Harvested cropland..... acres	5 073 078	58 850	4 946 306	4 967 952	30 162	4 862 628
Average per farm..... acres	134	9	168	201	21	231
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number	19 242	5 185	12 069	9 394	986	6 354
50 to 499 acres..... number	13 114	1 545	11 913	10 017	471	9 380
500 to 999 acres..... number	2 013	13	2 051	1 944	13	1 986
1,000 acres or more..... number	3 361	-	3 377	3 309	-	3 336
Value of land and buildings: ²						
Average per farm..... dollars	314 296	110 346	198 154	403 719	172 244	237 483
Average per acre..... dollars	692	2 653	350	701	3 066	360
Value of machinery and equipment on farms ² \$1,000	1 343 454	50 494	761 653	1 246 784	18 508	695 966
Average per farm..... dollars	35 607	7 488	25 898	50 551	12 591	33 053
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000	2 096 510	21 356	1 658 077	2 079 873	17 435	1 646 730
Average per farm..... dollars	55 566	3 167	56 378	84 328	11 861	78 207
Crops sold..... \$1,000	1 303 396	9 539	1 154 631	1 299 359	8 846	1 150 951
Average per farm..... dollars	34 545	1 415	39 260	52 682	6 018	54 661
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000	719 390	10 714	434 589	707 076	7 531	427 328
Average per farm..... dollars	19 067	1 589	14 777	28 668	5 123	20 295
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000	73 725	1 103	61 542	73 438	1 059	61 251
Average per farm..... dollars	1 954	164	2 093	2 978	720	2 909
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number	13 024	5 273	8 760	-	-	442
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number	8 535	1 147	5 685	8 535	1 147	5 685
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number	6 313	167	6 234	6 313	167	6 234
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number	4 985	156	4 697	4 985	156	4 697
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number	2 722	-	2 400	2 722	-	2 400
\$200,000 or more..... number	2 109	-	1 598	2 109	-	1 598
Abnormal farms..... number	42	(X)	36	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of -						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000	13 333	3 920	9 715	-	-	503
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000	42 997	4 927	30 986	42 997	4 927	30 986
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000	136 097	3 307	137 181	136 097	3 307	137 181
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000	322 035	9 201	303 645	322 035	9 201	303 645
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000	378 384	-	335 060	378 384	-	335 060
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000	1 200 359	-	839 354	1 200 359	-	839 354
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000	3 305	(X)	2 136	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: ²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000	253 371	6 674	204 119	245 118	3 744	199 188
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000	41 892	896	32 632	40 976	598	32 382
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000	124 779	897	100 158	123 839	694	99 505
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000	56 370	399	33 587	55 720	294	33 386
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000	73 804	1 802	47 190	71 026	828	45 692
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000	238 713	2 057	155 316	235 914	1 754	153 885
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number	1 284 638	46 816	1 222 893	1 191 615	18 609	1 131 744
Hogs and pigs..... number	89 403	10 166	64 694	76 205	5 240	57 313
Sheep and lambs..... number	81 904	577	86 718	71 986	199	75 386
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number	5 780 398	60 606	4 784 634	5 679 025	7 424	4 731 647
Crops harvested:						
Wheat for grain..... acres	2 845 313	2 877	3 022 861	2 842 392	2 630	3 019 603
Barley for grain..... bushels	123 755 470	228 244	118 994 947	123 653 204	218 364	118 894 694
Hay crops..... acres	374 978	1 093	(NA)	372 067	780	254 351
All vegetables harvested for sale..... tons, dry	22 787 581	64 859	(NA)	22 660 193	53 859	11 731 175
	828 167	45 647	741 981	738 957	19 332	671 730
	2 648 126	106 828	2 177 510	2 506 104	73 000	2 061 556
	168 663	788	(NA)	168 206	652	166 901

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

WASHINGTON



SCALE
0 10 20 30 40 50 MILES

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