

Volume 1

State and County Data

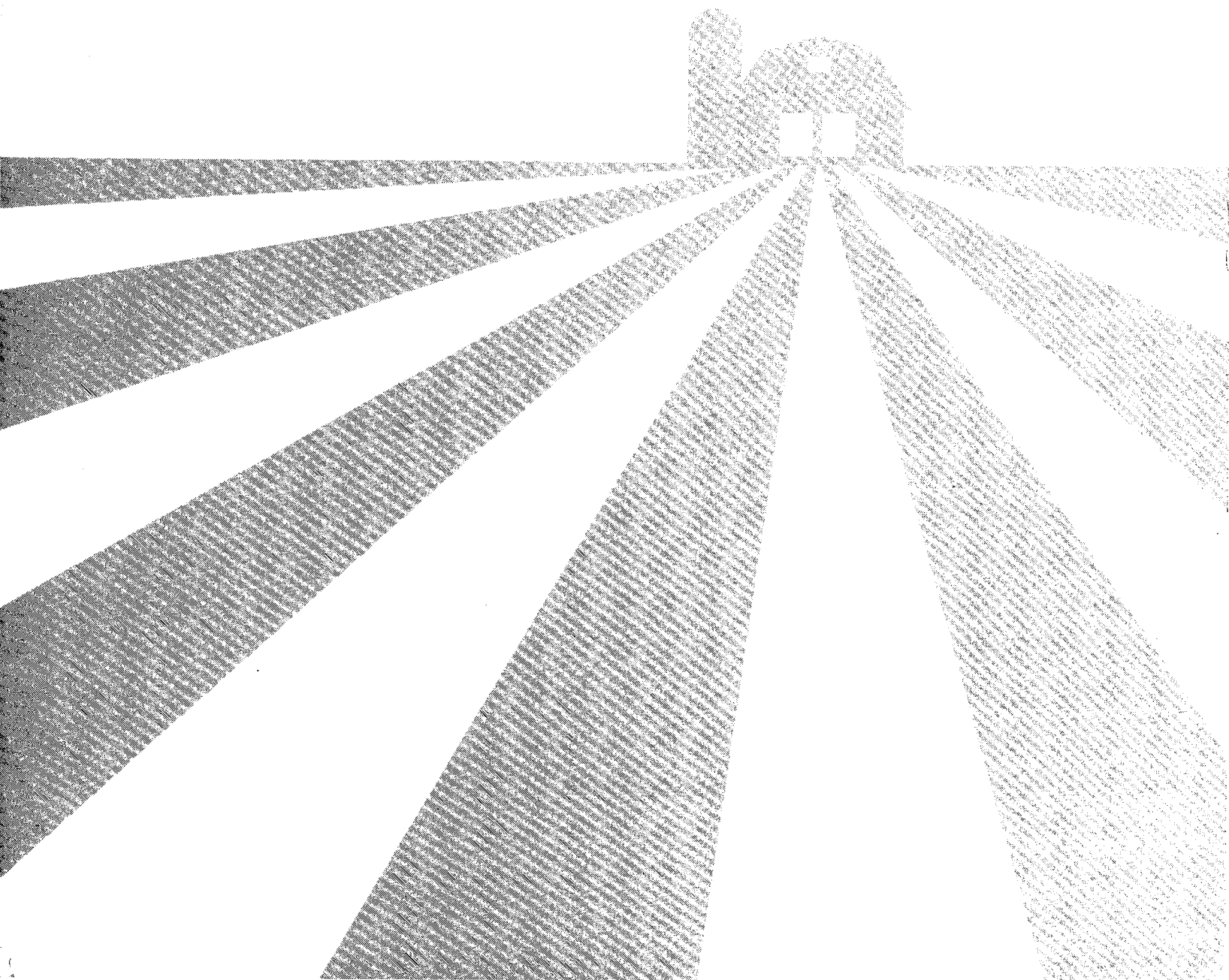
Part 48

West Virginia

AC78-A-48

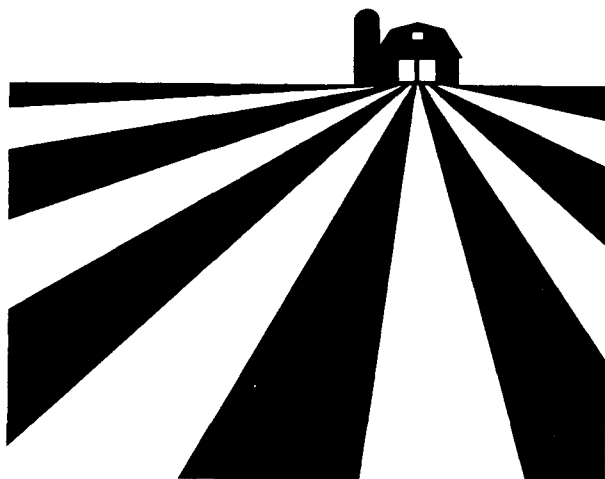
1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 48
West Virginia
AC78-A-48

Issued March 1981



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8. Hired Farm Workers: 1978 and 1974
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Barbour	175	Mingo	(¹)
Berkeley	180	Monongalia	315
Boone	185	Monroe	320
Braxton	190	Morgan	325
Brooke	195	Nicholas	330
Cabell	200	Ohio	335
Calhoun	205	Pendleton	340
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Doddridge	215	Pocahontas	350
Fayette	220	Preston	355
Gilmer	225	Putnam	360
Grant	230	Raleigh	365
Greenbrier	235	Randolph	370
Hampshire	240	Ritchie	375
Hancock	245	Roane	380
Hardy	250	Summers	385
Harrison	255	Taylor	390
Jackson	260	Tucker	395
Jefferson	265	Tyler	400
Kanawha	270	Upshur	405
Lewis	275	Wayne	410
Lincoln	280	Webster	415
Logan	285	Wetzel	420
McDowell	(¹)	Wirt	425
Marion	290	Wood	430
Marshall	295	Wyoming	435
Mason	300		

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¹ Not shown separately to avoid disclosing data for individual farms. However, the data for the county are included in the State totals.

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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.

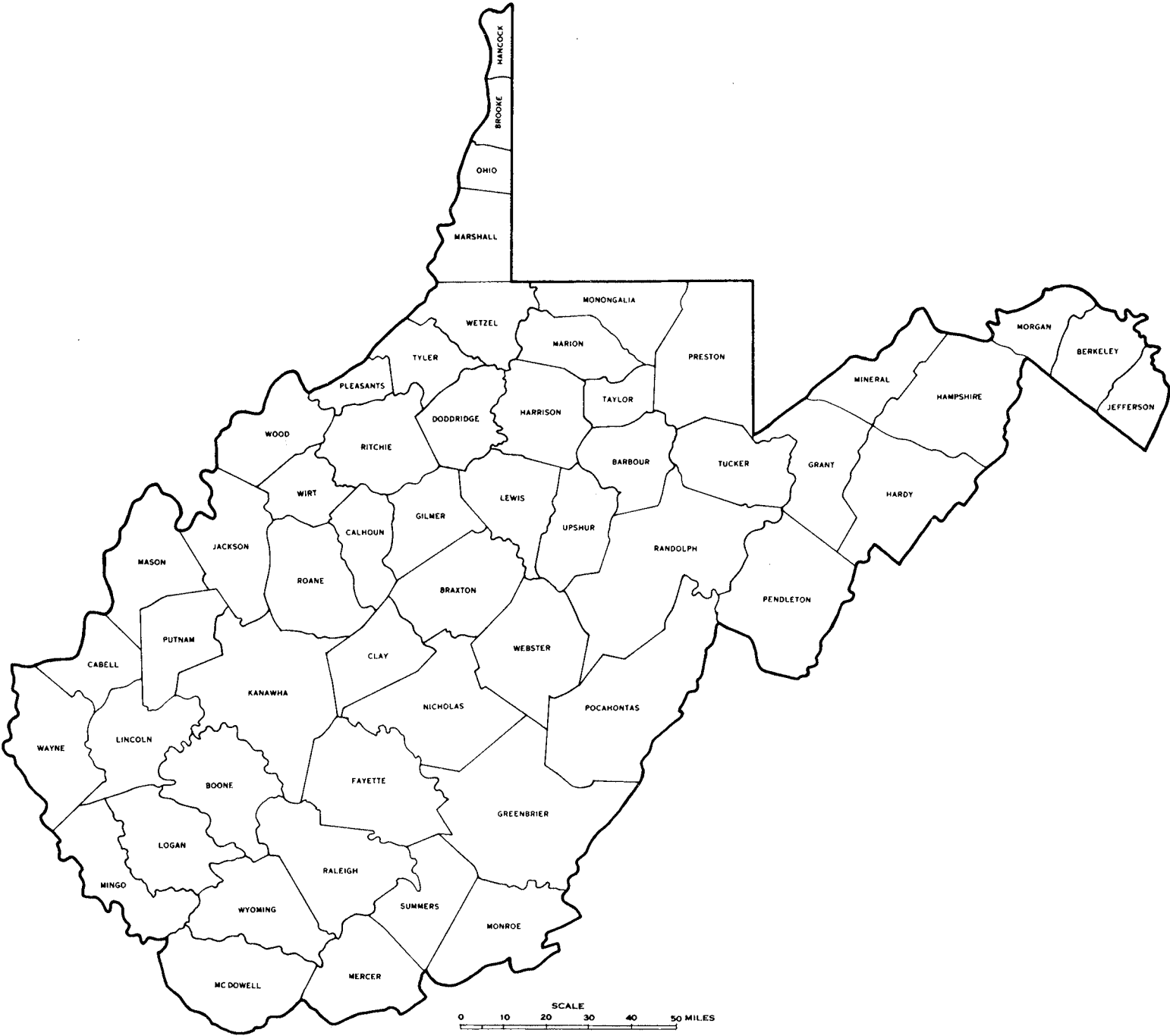
Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	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	20 532	3 057	16 909	9 554	671	6 099
Land in farms..... acres	3 867 996	338 730	3 496 606	2 555 376	98 153	2 067 066
Average size of farm..... acres	188	111	207	267	146	339
Harvested cropland..... acres	604 155	43 503	511 182	437 607	15 167	345 554
Average per farm..... acres	29	14	30	46	23	57
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number	3 970	1 150	2 614	996	165	442
50 to 499 acres..... number	15 209	1 848	12 984	7 364	467	4 520
500 to 999 acres..... number	1 050	59	972	904	39	821
1,000 acres or more..... number	303	-	339	290	-	316
Value of land and buildings: ²						
Average per farm..... dollars	112 830	76 688	62 094	156 140	95 931	102 284
Average per acre..... dollars	592	692	300	578	656	302
Value of machinery and equipment on farms ² \$1,000	259 199	19 868	180 806	178 552	5 473	98 850
Average per farm..... dollars	12 624	6 499	10 693	18 689	8 157	16 208
Value of agricultural products sold..... \$1,000	199 928	6 218	133 088	186 407	4 190	120 601
Average per farm..... dollars	9 737	2 034	7 871	19 511	6 244	19 774
Crops sold..... \$1,000	46 452	1 619	34 473	43 463	1 149	31 027
Average per farm..... dollars	2 262	530	2 039	4 549	1 712	5 087
Livestock and livestock products sold..... \$1,000	118 254	4 182	71 669	107 861	2 659	62 904
Average per farm..... dollars	5 759	1 368	4 239	11 290	3 962	10 314
Poultry and poultry products sold..... \$1,000	35 223	417	25 189	35 083	383	25 036
Average per farm..... dollars	1 715	136	1 490	3 672	570	4 105
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number	10 952	2 386	10 984	-	-	198
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number	6 811	615	3 784	6 811	615	3 784
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number	1 891	47	1 444	1 891	47	1 444
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number	502	9	463	502	9	463
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number	210	-	138	210	-	138
\$200,000 or more..... number	140	-	72	140	-	72
Abnormal farms..... number	26	(X)	24	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000	12 004	2 028	11 297	-	-	281
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000	32 778	2 742	18 732	32 778	2 742	18 732
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000	35 380	806	27 935	35 380	806	27 935
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000	31 556	642	28 676	31 556	642	28 676
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000	28 426	-	18 999	28 426	-	18 999
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000	58 267	-	25 977	58 267	-	25 977
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000	1 516	(X)	1 471	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items: ²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000	42 049	1 516	34 431	38 734	906	30 763
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000	3 574	154	2 120	3 273	111	1 830
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000	9 461	278	6 694	8 037	126	5 565
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000	4 698	177	2 400	4 147	84	2 171
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000	11 045	579	7 105	8 867	224	5 277
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000	16 830	187	11 136	15 259	120	9 943
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number	456 925	28 162	495 460	353 068	7 899	336 359
Hogs and pigs..... number	54 816	3 047	47 866	45 478	1 090	37 209
Sheep and lambs..... number	111 840	4 534	135 483	88 428	2 315	91 020
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number	631 984	97 485	696 046	555 751	76 424	612 170
Crops harvested:						
Corn for all purposes..... acres	101 698	3 668	91 564	93 089	2 200	81 767
Wheat for grain..... acres	5 405	47	9 779	4 884	39	8 580
Hay crops..... bushels	179 632	1 344	323 573	166 800	1 248	289 689
Land in orchards..... tons, dry	465 347	38 291	372 000	310 717	11 970	222 173
Land in orchards..... acres	768 738	52 910	652 606	579 958	20 850	442 271
Land in orchards..... acres	23 039	392	21 233	21 248	56	20 318

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

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

WEST VIRGINIA



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