

Volume 1

State and County Data

Part 49

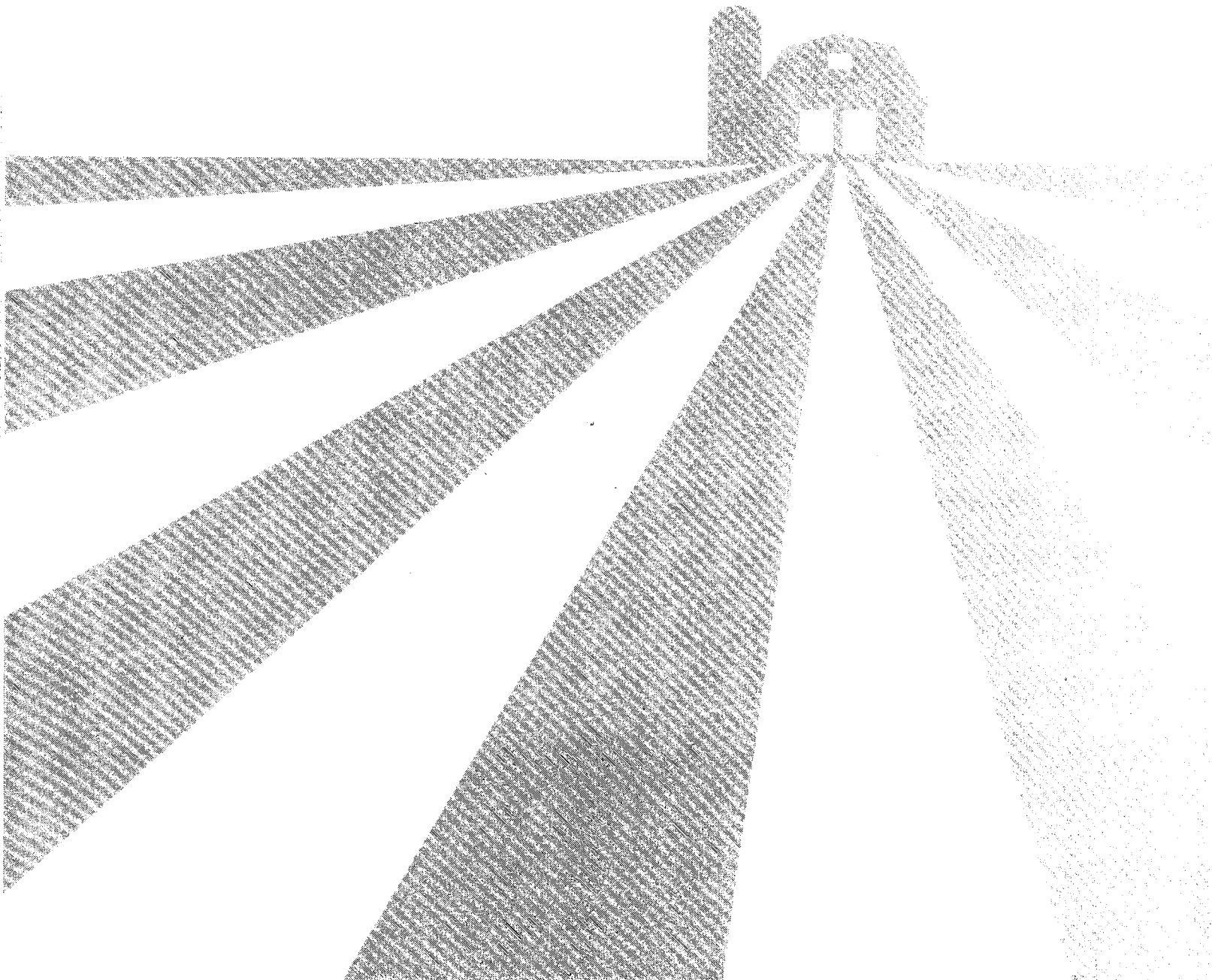
Wisconsin

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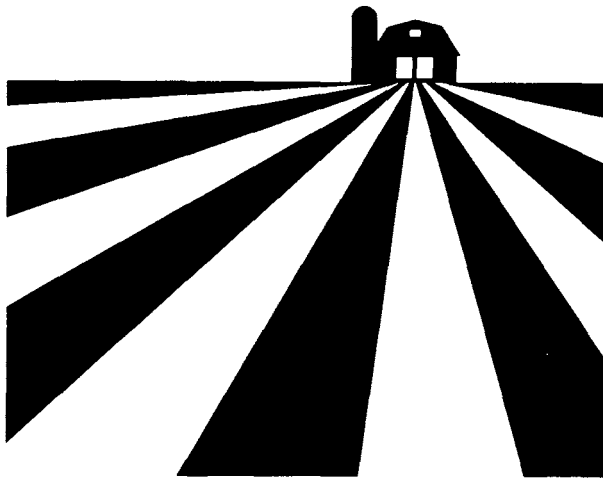
CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



1978
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AGRICULTURE

Volume 1
State and County Data



Part 49
Wisconsin

AC78-A-49

Issued February 1981



U.S. Department of Commerce

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Chief, Economist

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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.

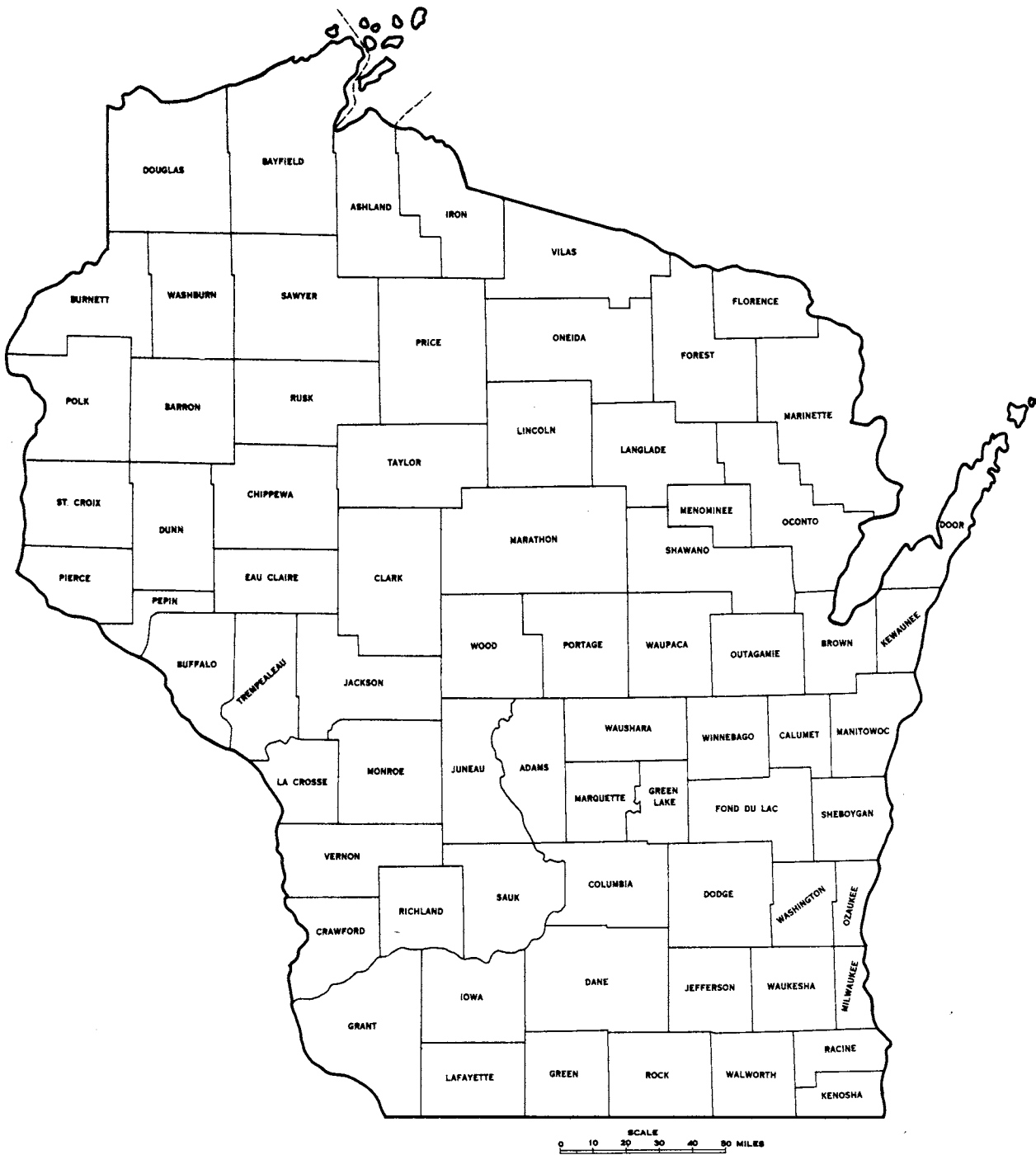
Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	All forms			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.....	89 945	3 440	89 479	76 293	1 473	74 852
Land in farms..... acres.....	18 106 245	267 263	17 624 826	17 031 073	152 232	16 338 641
Average size of farm..... acres.....	201	78	197	223	103	218
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	9 965 480	102 429	9 340 375	9 707 752	81 630	9 018 530
Average per farm..... acres.....	111	30	104	127	55	120
Farms by size:						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	14 499	1 935	10 568	7 671	431	5 121
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	70 203	1 505	74 772	63 465	1 042	65 653
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	4 437	-	3 527	4 362	-	3 476
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	806	-	612	795	-	602
Value of land and buildings:²						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	171 616	84 122	85 560	189 698	103 080	95 386
Average per acre..... dollars.....	856	1 083	423	854	997	437
Value of machinery and equipment on farms:²						
Average per farm..... \$1,000.....	3 511 869	36 811	2 074 183	3 399 004	22 962	1 951 436
Average per farm..... dollars.....	39 045	10 701	23 181	44 552	15 589	26 071
Value of agricultural products sold \$1,000.....	3 467 821	23 221	2 352 996	3 448 683	21 389	2 327 488
Average per farm..... dollars.....	38 555	6 750	26 297	45 203	14 521	31 095
Crops sold \$1,000.....	674 910	3 816	478 736	666 693	3 318	469 049
Average per farm..... dollars.....	7 504	1 109	5 350	8 739	2 252	6 266
Livestock and livestock products sold \$1,000.....	2 676 648	19 132	1 780 261	2 666 375	18 071	1 765 176
Average per farm..... dollars.....	29 759	5 562	19 896	34 949	12 268	23 582
Poultry and poultry products sold \$1,000.....	116 263	273	87 016	115 615	-	86 534
Average per farm..... dollars.....	1 293	79	972	1 515	-	1 156
Farms by value of agricultural products sold:						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	13 620	1 967	15 233	-	-	645
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	18 693	673	19 119	18 693	673	19 119
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	28 363	720	38 188	28 363	720	38 188
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	22 795	80	14 526	22 795	80	14 526
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	5 091	-	1 783	5 091	-	1 783
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	1 351	-	591	1 351	-	591
Abnormal farms..... number.....	32	(X)	39	(X)	(X)	(X)
Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	15 653	1 832	18 061	-	-	887
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	105 884	4 642	113 041	105 884	4 642	113 041
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	659 682	12 955	862 540	659 682	12 955	862 540
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	1 425 627	3 792	837 703	1 425 627	3 792	837 703
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	671 058	-	236 413	671 058	-	236 413
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	586 432	-	276 906	586 432	-	276 906
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	3 485	(X)	8 333	(X)	(X)	(X)
Farm production expenses for selected items:²						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	453 859	3 297	380 336	449 361	2 467	375 299
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	86 676	445	59 704	85 601	361	58 682
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	182 135	870	126 706	179 996	724	124 820
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	59 929	227	35 460	59 173	180	35 076
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	142 950	1 530	97 613	139 531	1 171	94 171
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	181 680	144	93 914	179 492	80	91 975
Livestock and poultry inventory:						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	4 010 848	39 634	4 218 103	3 933 400	30 096	4 070 429
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	1 491 178	17 360	1 240 808	1 473 945	15 280	1 215 850
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	79 439	40	95 370	69 540	-	78 331
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	4 556 208	56 238	4 397 849	4 427 972	10 126	4 262 016
Crops harvested:						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	3 854 675	28 874	3 451 232	3 809 090	24 074	3 390 313
Oats for grain..... acres.....	1 110 053	17 745	(NA)	1 074 112	15 151	1 262 349
Hay crops..... acres.....	61 391 003	808 415	(NA)	59 891 880	706 375	76 170 297
Hay crops..... tons, dry.....	4 829 796	57 956	4 105 994	4 660 988	44 165	3 906 346
All vegetables harvested for sale..... acres.....	13 063 809	155 677	10 168 458	12 787 662	136 922	9 818 483
All vegetables harvested for sale..... acres.....	320 344	1 253	(NA)	316 342	-	342 413

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

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

WISCONSIN



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS