

Volume 1

**State and County Data**

Part 50

**Wyoming**

AC78-A-50

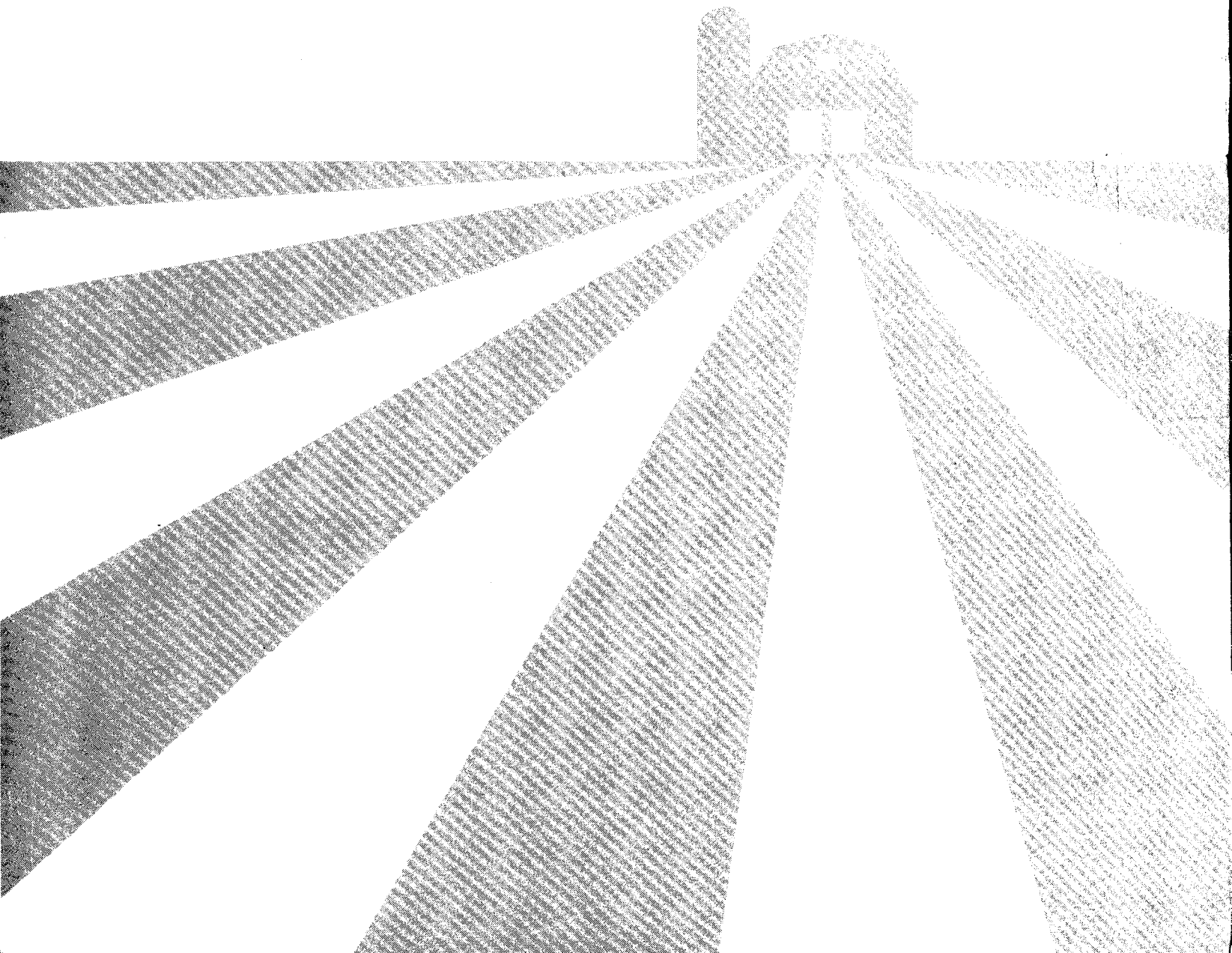
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1978

CENSUS OF  
AGRICULTURE

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
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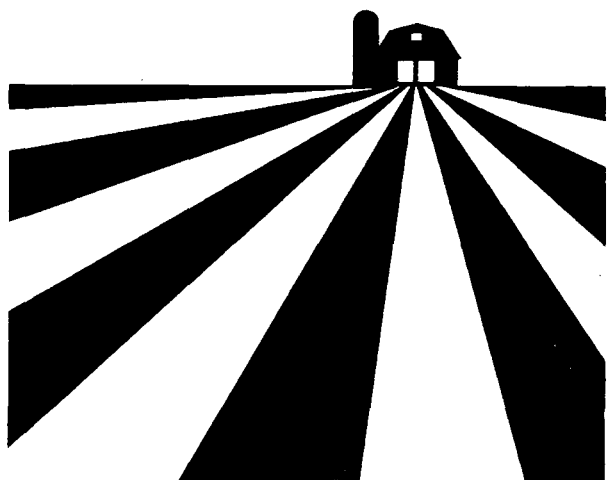


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CENSUS OF  
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Issued March 1981



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Acting Chief Economist

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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.

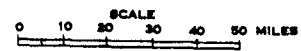
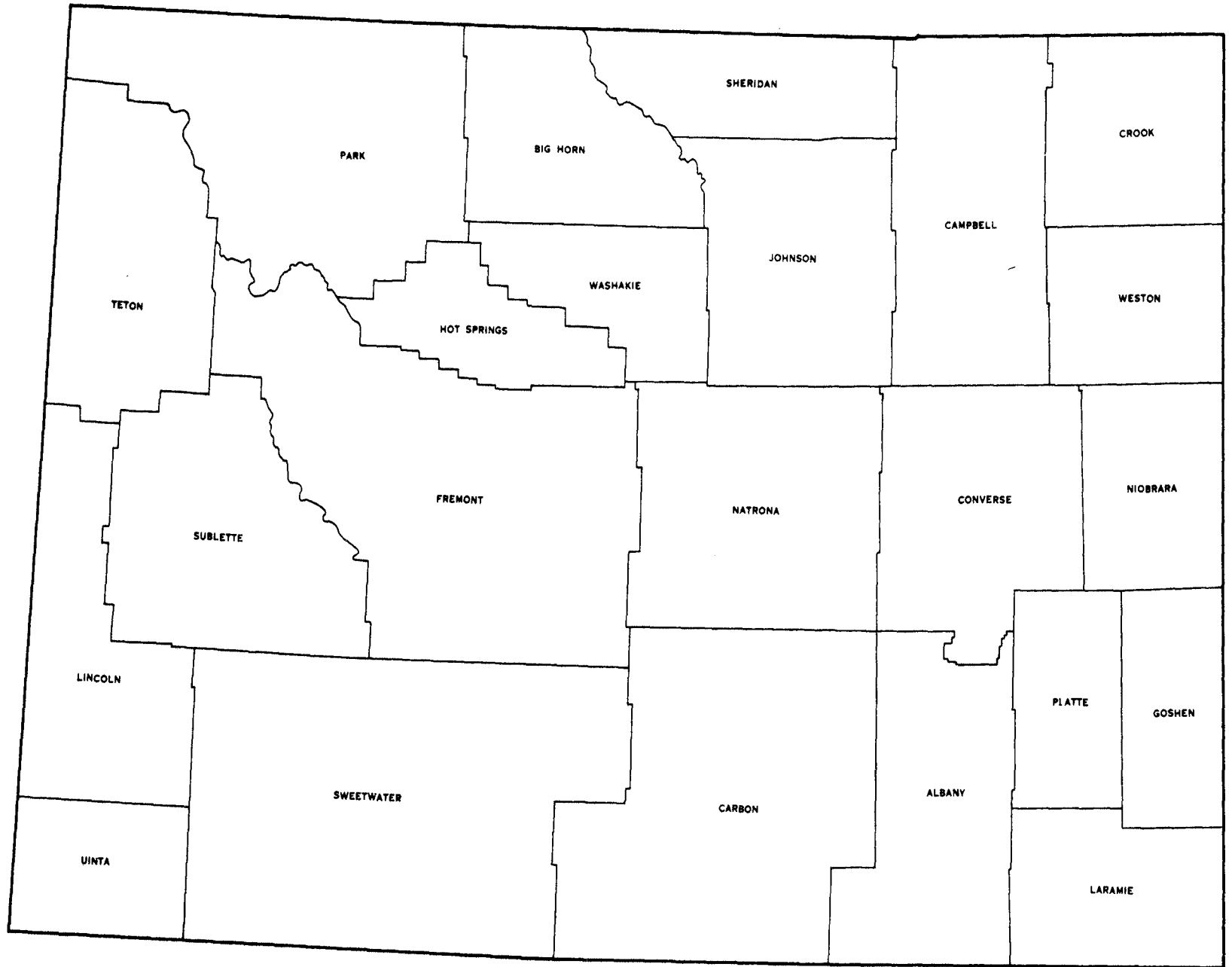


# Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

	All farms			Farms with sales of \$2,500 or more		
	1978		1974 <sup>1</sup>	1978		1974 <sup>1</sup>
	Total	Not on mail list	Total	Total	Not on mail list	Total
Farms..... number.....	8 495	455	8 018	7 024	120	6 885
Land in farms..... acres.....	33 718 235	90 978	34 271 918	29 546 833	68 060	30 376 010
Average size of farm..... acres.....	3 969	200	4 274	4 207	567	4 412
Harvested cropland..... acres.....	1 806 794	26 461	1 680 679	1 770 880	22 115	1 654 395
Average per farm..... acres.....	213	58	210	252	184	240
<b>Farms by size:</b>						
1 to 49 acres..... number.....	1 209	249	794	535	8	365
50 to 499 acres..... number.....	2 866	179	2 719	2 256	85	2 168
500 to 999 acres..... number.....	1 033	9	987	950	9	912
1,000 acres or more..... number.....	3 387	18	3 518	3 283	18	3 440
<b>Value of land and buildings:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Average per farm..... dollars.....	574 502	148 330	343 063	631 468	262 973	364 542
Average per acre..... dollars.....	144	742	80	150	464	83
<b>Value of machinery and equipment on farms<sup>2</sup></b>						
..... \$1,000.....	374 441	7 093	235 697	356 054	4 215	224 781
Average per farm..... dollars.....	44 078	15 589	29 396	50 691	35 124	32 648
<b>Value of agricultural products sold</b>						
..... \$1,000.....	534 434	4 126	360 925	531 055	3 859	358 229
Average per farm..... dollars.....	62 912	9 069	45 014	75 606	32 156	52 030
<b>Crops sold</b> ..... \$1,000.....	91 114	2 003	122 209	90 521	1 950	121 544
Average per farm..... dollars.....	10 726	4 403	15 242	12 887	16 250	17 653
<b>Livestock and livestock products sold</b> ..... \$1,000.....	443 024	2 122	238 013	440 259	1 909	236 012
Average per farm..... dollars.....	52 151	4 664	29 685	62 679	15 906	34 279
<b>Poultry and poultry products sold</b> ..... \$1,000.....	297	(2)	610	274	-	584
Average per farm..... dollars.....	35	1	76	39	-	85
<b>Farms by value of agricultural products sold:</b>						
Less than \$2,500..... number.....	1 420	335	1 276	-	-	197
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... number.....	1 694	49	1 687	1 694	49	1 687
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... number.....	2 527	44	2 791	2 527	44	2 791
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... number.....	1 653	18	1 434	1 653	18	1 434
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... number.....	711	9	502	711	9	502
\$200,000 or more..... number.....	439	-	274	439	-	274
Abnormal farms..... number.....	51	(X)	54	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of—</b>						
Less than \$2,500..... \$1,000.....	1 529	267	1 560	-	-	262
\$2,500 to \$9,999..... \$1,000.....	9 686	328	9 929	9 686	328	9 929
\$10,000 to \$39,999..... \$1,000.....	56 198	966	60 168	56 198	966	60 168
\$40,000 to \$99,999..... \$1,000.....	106 149	1 282	87 809	106 149	1 282	87 809
\$100,000 to \$199,999..... \$1,000.....	98 105	1 282	68 389	98 105	1 282	68 389
\$200,000 or more..... \$1,000.....	260 917	-	131 672	260 917	-	131 672
Abnormal farms..... \$1,000.....	1 850	(X)	1 398	(X)	(X)	(X)
<b>Farm production expenses for selected items:<sup>2</sup></b>						
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	53 575	430	53 412	52 469	148	52 524
Seeds, bulbs, plants, and trees..... \$1,000.....	5 365	170	3 846	5 203	143	3 816
Commercial fertilizer..... \$1,000.....	16 436	440	11 753	16 252	392	11 653
Other agricultural chemicals..... \$1,000.....	4 872	93	2 648	4 781	68	2 631
Petroleum products—gasoline, diesel, etc..... \$1,000.....	25 470	461	17 740	24 908	408	17 361
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	32 691	420	24 631	31 905	413	24 024
<b>Livestock and poultry inventory:</b>						
Cattle and calves..... number.....	1 487 115	10 035	1 599 108	1 464 844	9 026	1 572 707
Hogs and pigs..... number.....	30 175	363	28 565	28 570	36	26 945
Sheep and lambs..... number.....	1 046 780	1 823	1 394 040	1 041 534	904	1 383 972
Chickens 3 months old or older..... number.....	62 736	5 535	99 232	50 796	567	89 653
<b>Crops harvested:</b>						
Corn for all purposes..... acres.....	92 021	5 667	85 303	88 964	3 642	84 351
Wheat for grain..... acres.....	289 495	-	302 986	287 583	-	302 031
..... bushels.....	6 641 767	-	7 170 544	6 609 702	-	7 148 360
Barley for grain..... acres.....	147 846	3 045	(NA)	146 253	3 015	115 087
..... bushels.....	8 749 059	224 400	(NA)	8 694 399	223 200	5 973 492
Hay crops..... acres.....	1 156 136	14 640	1 051 305	1 127 861	12 349	1 029 832
..... tons, dry.....	1 928 464	25 014	1 723 396	1 889 018	21 170	1 695 495

<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.

# WYOMING



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