

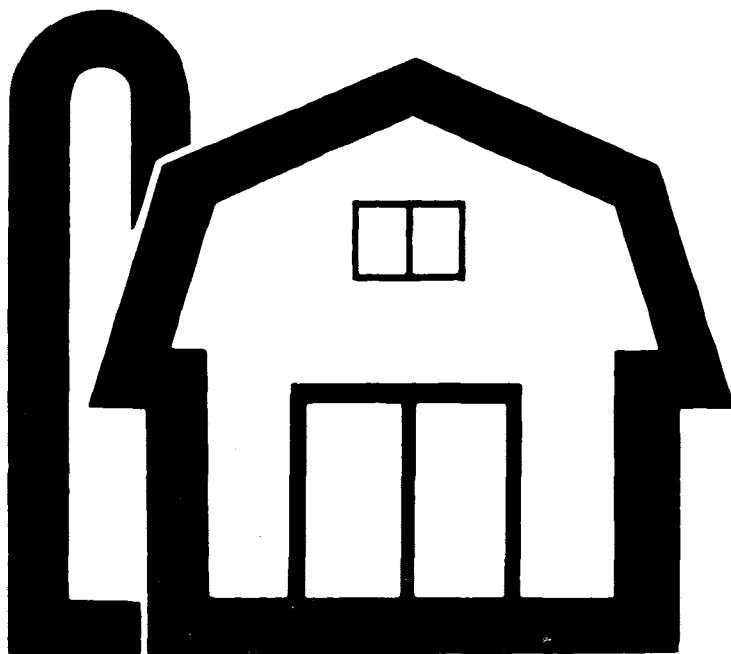
1982 Census of Agriculture

AC82-SS-3

Volume 2
SUBJECT SERIES

Part 3

Ranking of States and Counties



The publications
from the 1982 Economic and
Agriculture Censuses are dedicated
to the memory of Shirley Kallek,
Associate Director for Economic Fields.
During her career at the Bureau of the
Census (1955 to 1983), she continually
directed efforts to improve
the timeliness and accuracy of
economic statistics.

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Issued February 1985



U.S. Department of Commerce
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Clarence J. Brown, Deputy Secretary
Sidney Jones, Under Secretary for
Economic Affairs

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John G. Keane,
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS—Many persons participated in conducting the 1982 Census of Agriculture. Primary direction was by **Shirley Kallek**, Associate Director for Economic Fields (to May 1983), **Charles A. Waite**, her successor, and **Michael G. Farrell**, Assistant Director for Economic and Agriculture Censuses (until August 1984), and **John H. Berry**, his successor.

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division under the general supervision of **Orvin L. Wilhite**, Chief (to January 1980); **Arnold L. Bollenbacher**, Chief (to June 1982); and **John H. Berry**, Chief (to August 1984), and **Charles P. Pautler, Jr.**, his successor.

Many divisions contributed to this report. Publications Services contributed in publication planning and design, editorial review, composition, and printing procurement; Computer Services provided the computer processing facilities.

Members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and representatives of both public and private organizations made significant recommendations which helped establish data content.

Members of various agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided valuable advice in the planning, publicizing, and processing phases of the census, and in helping farmers and ranchers complete the report forms.

The press, farm magazines, radio and television stations, and farm organizations were most helpful in publicizing the census and encouraging cooperation of farm and ranch operators.

Special tribute is paid to the millions of farm and ranch operators who furnished the information requested. Only through their cooperation was it possible to collect and publish the data in this report.

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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	V

TABLES

SELECTED MEASURES OF AGRICULTURE

1. Number of Farms: 1982 and 1978	1
2. Number of Farms With Sales of \$100,000 or More: 1982 and 1978	2
3. Total Cropland: 1982 and 1978	3
4. Harvested Cropland: 1982 and 1978	4
5. Irrigated Land: 1982 and 1978	5
6. Irrigated Harvested Cropland: 1982 and 1978	6
7. Expenses for Feed for Livestock and Poultry: 1982 and 1978	7
8. Expenses for Commercial Fertilizer: 1982 and 1978	8
9. Expenses for Other Agricultural Chemicals: 1982 and 1978	9
10. Expenses for Hired Farm Labor: 1982 and 1978	10
11. Expenses for Energy and Petroleum Products: 1982 and 1978	11
12. Interest Expense Reported: 1982	12
13. Estimated Market Value of All Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1982 and 1978	13

VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD

14. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1982 and 1978	14
15. Value of Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products Sold: 1982 and 1978	15
16. Value of Poultry and Poultry Products Sold: 1982 and 1978	16
17. Value of Dairy Products Sold: 1982 and 1978	17
18. Value of Cattle and Calves Sold: 1982 and 1978	18
19. Value of Hogs and Pigs Sold: 1982 and 1978	19
20. Value of Sheep, Lambs, and Wool Sold: 1982 and 1978	20
21. Value of Crops Sold, Including Nursery and Greenhouse Products: 1982 and 1978	21
22. Value of Crops Sold Per Acre of Harvested Cropland: 1982 and 1978	22
23. Value of Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons Sold: 1982 and 1978	23
24. Value of Fruits, Nuts, and Berries Sold: 1982 and 1978	24
25. Value of Nursery and Greenhouse Products, Mushrooms, and Sod Sold: 1982 and 1978	25

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND THEIR PRODUCTS—INVENTORY AND SALES

26. Cattle and Calves—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	26
27. Cows and Heifers That Had Calved—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	27
28. Beef Cows—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	28
29. Milk Cows—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	29
30. Cattle and Calves Sold: 1982 and 1978	30
31. Cattle Fattened on Grain and Concentrates Sold: 1982 and 1978	31
32. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	32
33. Hogs and Pigs Other Than Feeder Pigs Sold: 1982 and 1978	33
34. Feeder Pigs Sold: 1982 and 1978	34
35. Litters of Pigs Farrowed Between December 1 of Preceding Year and November 30 of Census Year: 1982 and 1978	35
36. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	36
37. Ewes 1 Year Old or Older—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	37
38. Sheep and Lambs Sold: 1982 and 1978	38

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND THEIR PRODUCTS—INVENTORY AND SALES—Con.

39. Horses and Ponies—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	39
40. Chickens 3 Months Old or Older—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	40
41. Hens and Pullets of Laying Age—Inventory: 1982 and 1978	41
42. Pullets 3 Months Old or Older Not of Laying Age Sold: 1982 and 1978	42
43. Broilers and Other Meat-Type Chickens Sold: 1982 and 1978	43
44. Turkeys Sold: 1982 and 1978	44

FIELD CROPS—QUANTITY AND ACRES HARVESTED

45. Corn Harvested for Grain or Seed: 1982 and 1978	45
46. Sorghum Harvested for Grain or Seed: 1982 and 1978	47
47. Wheat Harvested for Grain: 1982 and 1978	49
48. Barley Harvested for Grain: 1982 and 1978	51
49. Oats Harvested for Grain: 1982 and 1978	53
50. Rice Harvested: 1982 and 1978	55
51. Soybeans Harvested for Beans: 1982 and 1978	56
52. Peanuts Harvested for Nuts: 1982 and 1978	58
53. Dry Edible Beans Harvested, Excluding Dry Limas: 1982 and 1978	60
54. Cotton Harvested: 1982 and 1978	62
55. Tobacco Harvested: 1982 and 1978	64
56. Irish Potatoes Harvested: 1982 and 1978	66
57. Sugar Beets Harvested for Sugar: 1982 and 1978	68
58. Hay Harvested—Alfalfa, Other Tame, Small Grain, Wild, Grass Silage, Green Chop, Etc.: 1982 and 1978	69
59. Alfalfa Hay Harvested: 1982 and 1978	71
60. Tame Hay Harvested Other Than Alfalfa, Small Grain, and Wild Hay: 1982 and 1978	73

VEGETABLES HARVESTED FOR SALE—ACREAGE

61. Vegetables Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	75
62. Snap Beans Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	76
63. Cucumbers and Pickles Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	77
64. Lettuce and Romaine Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	78
65. Green Peas, Excluding Green Cowpeas, Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	79
66. Sweet Corn Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	80
67. Tomatoes Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	81
68. Watermelons Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	82

FRUITS, PECANS, AND STRAWBERRIES

69. Land in Orchards: 1982 and 1978	83
70. Apples: 1982 and 1978	84
71. Cherries: 1982 and 1978	86
72. Grapefruit: 1982 and 1978	87
73. Grapes: 1982 and 1978	88
74. Oranges: 1982 and 1978	89
75. Peaches: 1982 and 1978	90
76. Pears: 1982 and 1978	92
77. Plums and Prunes: 1982 and 1978	93
78. Pecans: 1982 and 1978	94
79. Strawberries Harvested for Sale: 1982 and 1978	96

APPENDIXES

A. General Explanation	A-1
B. Report Form and Information Sheet	B-1

Publication Program Inside back cover

INTRODUCTION

	Page
HISTORY	V
USES OF THE CENSUS	V
AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED	V
FARM DEFINITION	V
COMPARABILITY OF DATA	V
TABULAR PRESENTATION	V
QUALIFICATIONS OF DATA AND RANKINGS	VI
CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES	VI
DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS	VI
"SEE TEXT" REFERENCE	VI
INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA	VI
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS	VI

HISTORY

The census of agriculture provides a periodic statistical picture of the Nation's farming, ranching, and related activities. The 1982 Census of Agriculture is the 22d 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 of population. From 1840 to 1950, an agriculture census was taken as part of the decennial census. A separate 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. After 1982, the agriculture census will revert to a 5-year cycle and be taken covering years ending in 2 and 7.

This report presents statistics for the leading States and counties in the United States for selected items based on data from the 1982 census.

USES OF THE CENSUS

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the Nation's agriculture and the only source of consistent, comparable data about agriculture at the county, State, and national levels. Census statistics are used by Congress in developing and changing farm programs and for determining the effects of these programs. Many national and State programs affecting agriculture are designed or allocated on the basis of census data, such as funds for extension services, research, and soil conservation projects. Private industry uses census statistics to provide a more effective production and distribution system for the farm community.

AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

The census of agriculture is required by law under title 13, United States Code, sections 142(a) and 191, which directs that the census be taken in 1979, in 1983, and in every fifth year

after 1983 covering the prior year. The 1982 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

FARM DEFINITION

Since 1850, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes were first established, the farm definition has been changed nine times. The current definition, first used for the 1974 final reports, is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural 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 reports) was 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.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

All censuses since 1969 were conducted primarily by mail. To improve the coverage of the 1978 census, especially in counting the number of small farms, the mailout/mailback enumeration was supplemented by the direct enumeration of all households in approximately 6,400 sample segments in rural areas in all States, except Alaska and Hawaii. Due to budget reductions, the direct enumeration area sample was eliminated for 1982.

The U.S., region, and State data for 1978 shown in the 1978 Census of Agriculture publications included data for farms represented on the mail list plus estimates from the area sample for farms not on the mail list. The 1978 county data included only farms represented on the mail list as the sample was not large enough to provide reliable estimates for each county.

To provide comparable data for 1982 and 1978, estimates from the 1978 area sample have been subtracted from the 1978 data. Thus, the 1978 data in this report include only farms represented on the mail list.

Data on acreages and inventories for 1982 and 1978 are generally comparable. Dollar figures shown for expenses and agricultural product sales have not been adjusted for changes in price levels between census years.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

All of the tables, except table 12, in this report show data and rank for the leading agricultural States and counties for selected items from the 1982 and 1978 censuses. Statistics from all places qualifying as farms in the 1982 census are included. Statistics from the 1978 census also represent data from all places qualifying as farms but, as mentioned before, exclude those estimates from the area sample for farms not on the

1978 mail list. Also, shown in most tables is the cumulative percent of the U.S. total as each leading State or county is ranked.

For all but one table, the leading States or counties were determined by the size of the item of agricultural resource, inventory, or production. The State or county with the largest total for the selected item was ranked first, the State or county with the next largest total, second, and so forth. However, Table 22, Value of Crops Sold Per Acre of Harvested Cropland, is the only table ranked on a ratio of agricultural measures. This table shows States and counties ranked by the proportion of the gross value of crops sold to the total acres of harvested cropland in the area.

Tables on fruits and field crops harvested present the number of acres harvested along with the primary quantity of the harvested item, which determines the rank of State or county. The leading counties for the primary item are often not the same for the acres harvested.

Comparative data and rank for the 1978 census are shown for the leading 1982 States and counties in most of the tables presented. Depending on the specified item ranked, the 1978 data and rank may be very similar to 1982.

Total lines for the leading States and counties show the sums of the data items for the States and counties listed. The crop tables show rank for both quantity harvested and acres harvested. In these tables the primary ranking of States and counties is by quantity harvested; also, the related ranking of the acres harvested is shown.

QUALIFICATIONS OF DATA AND RANKINGS

Data for the leading agricultural States and counties usually indicate agricultural areas of commercial importance. The leading counties usually account for a significant part of the U.S. total as shown by the cumulative statistics in each table. For certain specialty crops and fruits grown in a few areas, the leading counties account for nearly all the production. For other more widespread items such as alfalfa hay and cattle and calves on farms, the leading counties account for a lesser proportion of the U.S. totals.

It is important to note that the rank of counties is based only on data for the census year. Unusual weather or economic conditions during 1982 may have had a significant effect on the ranking of counties for certain items in certain areas. A ranking of counties based on the average of data for several

years would undoubtedly show a number of differences in the rankings.

Occasionally the ranking of a county may be influenced by the assignment of all land, agricultural operations, and sales of farms with land in two or more counties to the county with the largest value of agricultural products raised or produced.

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of title 13, United States Code, no data are published that would disclose the operations of an individual farm. However, the number of farms in a given size category or other classification is not considered a disclosure, so this information may be given even though other information is withheld.

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.

INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA

Inventories of livestock, poultry, and machinery and equipment are as of December 31 of the census year. Crop and livestock production, sales, and expense data are for the calendar year, except for a few crops (such as citrus) for which the production year overlaps the calendar year.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Represents zero.
- (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (NA) Not available.