

1987

Census of

Agriculture

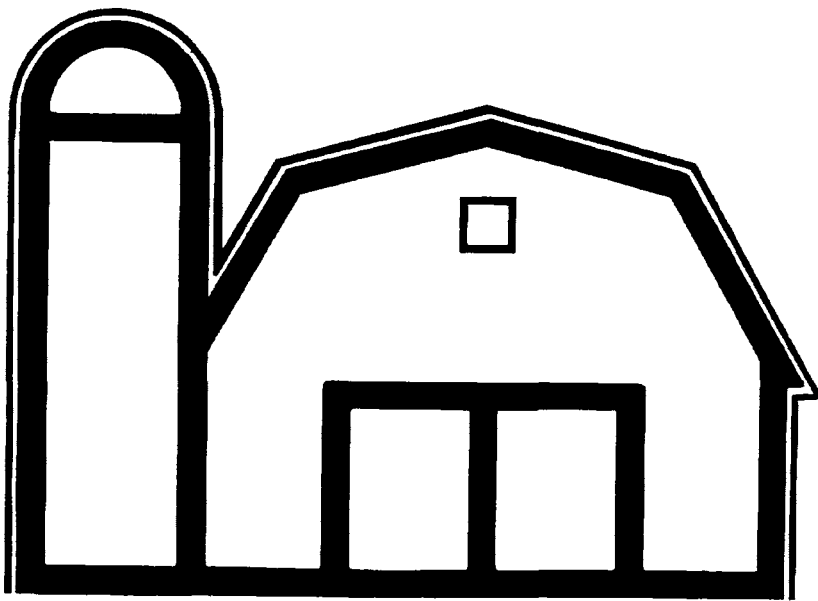
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Volume 1
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 1

Alabama

State and County Data



U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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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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Issued July 1989



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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



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HISTORY

The 1987 Census of Agriculture is the 23d 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 so that it coincided with the economic censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. This adjustment in timing established the agriculture census on a 5-year cycle collecting data for years ending in 2 and 7.

USES OF THE CENSUS

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the Nation's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data 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 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 agricultural 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 a census be taken in 1979, 1983, and in every

fifth year after 1983 covering the prior year. The 1987 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Island of the United States. A census of agriculture will be conducted in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in conjunction with the 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

FARM DEFINITION

Since 1850, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes first were established, the farm definition has been changed nine times. The current definition, first used for the 1974 census, is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. The farm definition used for the outlying areas varies according to area. The report for each area includes a discussion of the farm definition.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Data on acreages and inventories for 1987 and 1982 are generally comparable. Dollar figures shown for expenses and agricultural product sales are expressed in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation or deflation. In general, data for censuses since 1974 are not fully comparable with data for 1969 and earlier censuses due to changes in the farm definition.

The 1978 U.S., region, and State data shown in the 1978 Census of Agriculture publications included data for farms on the mail list plus estimates from an area sample for farms not on the mail list. For comparability, the 1978 data in the 1987 publications include only farms on the mail list.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

State data—Tables 1 through 47 in chapter 1 show detailed State-level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more past censuses. Tables 48 through 53 provide 1987 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

County data—Chapter 2 presents selected data items by county. Tables 1 through 16 include general data for all counties. The counties are listed in alphabetical order in the column headings. Tables 17 through 36 include only

counties reporting the data item. Counties not having the item, or with a limited number of farms reporting the item, have data combined and presented as "all other counties."

ADVANCE REPORTS

Advance reports of 1987 census data have been published separately for each county with 10 farms or more, each State, and the United States. This series provided, at the earliest possible date, final data on major data items together with comparable final data from the 1982 census. Data items are standard across States except information on selected crops harvested, which vary by State according to their relative importance in the State.

ELECTRONIC DATA DISSEMINATION

The volume 1 data are available on computer tapes and compact disc. The advance report data are available on computer tapes, computer diskettes, and through electronic data services such as the AGRIDATA network, the CENDATA package on Dialog, CompuServe on-line services, and the Census Bureau's State Data Center Bulletin Board. Computer tapes, diskettes, and compact discs are sold by the Customer Services Branch, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233 (telephone (301) 763-4100).

SPECIAL TABULATIONS

Custom designed tabulations can be developed to individual user specifications on a programming cost reimbursable basis. Inquiries about special tabulations should be directed to the Chief, Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

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, such as size of farm, is not considered a release of confidential information and is provided even though other information is withheld.

INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA

Inventories of livestock, poultry, and machinery and equipment are measured 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.
(IC)	Independent city.
(NA)	Not available.
(S)	Withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the response rate (associated relative standard error) or a consistency review.
(X)	Not applicable.
(Z)	Less than half of the unit shown.
cwt	Hundredweight.
sq ft	Square feet.

Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1987 and 1982

[Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	All farms		
	1987	1982	Percent change from 1982 to 1987
Farms.....number.....	43 318	48 448	-10.6
Land in farms.....acres.....	9 145 753	10 200 547	-10.3
Average size of farm.....acres.....	211	211	-
Value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm.....dollars.....	168 161	171 210	-1.8
Average per acre.....dollars.....	800	826	-3.1
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres.....	2 602	3 043	-14.5
10 to 49 acres.....	12 356	14 132	-12.6
50 to 179 acres.....	16 514	18 277	-9.6
180 to 499 acres.....	7 776	8 471	-8.2
500 to 999 acres.....	2 469	2 786	-11.4
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	1 111	1 186	-6.3
2,000 acres or more.....	490	553	-11.4
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	28 509	33 351	-14.5
.....acres.....	2 231 623	3 265 361	-31.7
Irrigated land.....farms.....	1 344	1 040	29.2
.....acres.....	84 054	66 020	27.3
Market value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000.....	1 908 303	1 704 160	12.0
Average per farm.....dollars.....	44 053	35 175	25.2
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	497 992	606 916	-17.9
Grains.....\$1,000.....	98 192	268 956	-63.5
Cotton and cottonseed.....\$1,000.....	123 137	113 086	8.9
Tobacco.....\$1,000.....	567	1 003	-43.5
Hay, silage, and field seeds.....\$1,000.....	17 217	13 472	27.8
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons.....\$1,000.....	19 395	15 564	24.6
Fruits, nuts, and berries.....\$1,000.....	8 138	7 886	3.2
Nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	103 596	56 837	82.3
Other crops.....\$1,000.....	127 751	130 111	-1.8
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	1 410 311	1 097 244	28.5
Poultry and poultry products.....\$1,000.....	950 942	685 475	38.7
Dairy products.....\$1,000.....	69 213	75 221	-8.0
Cattle and calves.....\$1,000.....	304 469	242 615	25.5
Hogs and pigs.....\$1,000.....	61 869	78 714	-21.4
Sheep, lambs, and wool.....\$1,000.....	176	110	59.9
Other livestock and livestock products (see text).....\$1,000.....	23 642	15 108	56.5
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	39 553	44 009	-10.1
Partnership (sole proprietorship).....	3 014	3 754	-19.7
Corporation.....	570	513	11.1
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	181	172	5.2
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming.....	16 398	18 316	-10.5
Other.....	26 920	30 132	-10.7
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any.....	26 899	29 776	-9.7
200 days or more.....	20 154	22 074	-8.7
Average age of operator.....years.....	53.1	51.8	2.5
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	1 610 833	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :			
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	290 518	203 688	42.6
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	570 084	467 749	21.9
Commercial fertilizer ²\$1,000.....	86 491	110 580	-21.8
Agricultural chemicals ²\$1,000.....	64 530	63 014	2.4
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	64 535	95 501	-32.4
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	123 018	87 505	40.6
Interest expense ³\$1,000.....	81 110	110 691	-26.7
Livestock and poultry inventory:			
Cattle and calves.....farms.....	29 844	33 671	-11.4
.....number.....	1 450 416	1 652 524	-12.2
Milk cows.....farms.....	1 336	2 361	-43.4
.....number.....	45 994	58 946	-22.0
Hogs and pigs.....farms.....	3 585	6 061	-40.9
.....number.....	353 062	463 840	-23.9
Chickens 3 months old or older.....farms.....	2 785	4 580	-39.2
.....number.....	15 107 005	17 734 581	-14.8
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed.....farms.....	7 413	10 390	-28.7
.....acres.....	234 669	310 680	-24.5
Wheat for grain.....farms.....	1 914	4 090	-53.2
.....acres.....	156 466	474 467	-67.0
Cotton.....farms.....	1 820	1 458	24.8
.....acres.....	346 013	294 792	17.4
Soybeans for beans.....farms.....	4 124	9 897	-58.3
.....acres.....	575 370	1 589 247	-63.8
Peanuts for nuts.....farms.....	2 655	3 291	-19.3
.....acres.....	207 963	170 931	21.7
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text).....farms.....	19 061	18 492	3.1
.....acres.....	647 843	568 456	14.0

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

²Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications.

³Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.