

**Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1987 and Earlier Census Years**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

All farms	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964	1959	1954
Farms.....number.....	43 318	48 448	50 780	56 678	72 491	92 530	115 788	176 956
Land in farms.....acres.....	9 145 753	10 200 547	11 147 825	11 852 946	13 654 215	15 225 797	16 542 730	20 810 492
Average size of farm.....acres.....	211	211	220	209	188	165	143	118
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	168 161	171 210	138 257	76 049	37 596	20 552	12 780	6 816
Average per acre.....dollars.....	800	826	630	364	200	125	89	58
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000.....	1 115 106	1 167 165	1 061 994	699 224	395 386	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	25 831	24 151	20 976	13 198	5 909	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	2 602	3 043	2 855	3 056	3 711	5 467	7 656	18 192
10 to 49 acres.....	12 356	14 132	13 282	15 475	21 439	33 254	43 658	71 448
50 to 179 acres.....	16 514	18 277	20 319	23 313	29 610	35 722	45 018	64 515
180 to 499 acres.....	7 776	8 471	9 503	9 962	12 379	12 668	14 085	16 843
500 to 999 acres.....	2 469	2 786	3 025	2 934	3 374	3 278	3 317	3 593
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	1 111	1 186	1 194	1 295	1 349	1 371	2 054	2 365
2,000 acres or more.....	490	553	602	643	629	770		
Total cropland.....farms.....	37 148	41 975	45 443	51 272	66 580	83 918	107 385	165 555
.....acres.....	4 496 607	5 105 734	5 448 622	5 296 467	5 789 393	5 118 610	6 027 961	7 480 170
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	28 509	33 351	37 301	40 969	52 444	74 409	98 794	151 742
.....acres.....	2 231 623	3 265 361	3 364 231	2 793 621	2 706 167	2 989 719	3 715 251	4 812 086
Irrigated land.....farms.....	1 344	1 040	994	427	337	318	328	452
.....acres.....	84 054	66 020	58 581	13 909	11 058	11 768	17 357	16 658
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000.....	1 908 303	1 704 160	1 531 432	1 122 481	646 695	537 093	414 263	303 657
Average per farm.....dollars.....	44 053	35 175	30 158	19 805	8 921	5 805	3 578	1 716
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	497 992	606 916	504 120	406 259	172 023	230 406	180 741	183 549
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	1 410 311	1 097 244	1 027 312	699 388	463 023	293 283	220 283	111 605
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500.....	15 082	19 246	17 918	28 361	43 934	60 819	82 167	149 327
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	7 725	7 916	8 782	6 853	8 468	11 437	16 000	17 126
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	6 534	6 100	7 170	6 080	6 669	8 151	8 906	6 132
\$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> .....	5 210	5 230	6 249				8 670	3 301
\$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> .....	2 324	2 702	3 384	12 885	12 657	11 681		1 017
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	1 956	2 698	3 279					
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	3 946	4 173	3 728	2 341	691			
\$500,000 or more.....	540	353	236	119	41	412		
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	39 553	44 009	45 968	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	3 014	3 754	4 074	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	570	513	606	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	181	172	132	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :								
None.....	14 206	14 774	16 649	16 564	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	90 413
Any.....	26 899	29 776	31 929	30 848	43 656	47 310	57 411	86 488
200 days or more.....	20 154	22 074	23 392	22 664	28 242	29 605	31 716	40 532
Operators by principal occupation <sup>7</sup> :								
Farming.....	16 398	18 316	19 839	25 518	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	26 920	30 132	30 941	30 786	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>8</sup> .....years.....	53.1	51.8	51.1	52.3	52.7	52.3	51.2	49.8
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000.....	1 610 833	(NA)	(NA)	978 656	579 238	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	290 518	203 688	181 403	131 879	88 083	53 426	38 941	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	570 084	467 749	456 407	398 070	196 759	139 326	97 203	52 248
Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000.....	86 491	110 580	104 751	92 014	52 267	46 557	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	64 535	95 501	64 898	40 931	27 840	24 070	19 412	15 783
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	123 018	87 505	82 662	52 970	44 466	39 000	36 570	29 539
Interest expense <sup>9</sup> .....\$1,000.....	81 110	110 691	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000.....	64 530	63 014	51 862	31 450	15 732	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms.....	29 844	33 671	33 304	40 098	46 396	68 905	83 150	135 756
.....number.....	1 450 416	1 652 524	1 646 340	2 204 135	1 781 061	1 847 608	1 526 410	1 795 777
Beef cows.....farms.....	25 879	29 016	29 034	31 015	(NA)	45 199	(NA)	(NA)
.....number.....	748 002	785 032	815 257	1 083 693	821 381	820 832	620 673	674 878
Milk cows.....farms.....	1 336	2 361	3 236	6 120	10 889	31 845	56 281	110 283
.....number.....	45 994	58 946	65 275	83 256	110 040	160 395	207 805	320 072
Cattle and calves sold.....farms.....	29 320	31 281	32 510	36 952	39 796	45 293	52 179	62 382
.....number.....	831 908	822 127	942 354	850 775	881 471	725 851	634 639	653 941
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms.....	3 585	6 061	10 325	11 500	21 002	39 721	75 659	103 971
.....number.....	353 062	463 840	677 280	568 586	860 800	721 432	1 223 572	889 338
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms.....	3 220	5 127	9 202	9 291	16 938	19 431	39 915	42 614
.....number.....	648 262	785 996	1 057 220	978 340	1 292 982	880 500	1 014 517	618 556
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> .....farms.....	2 785	4 580	5 451	7 704	12 752	42 112	79 934	137 120
.....number.....	15 107 005	17 734 581	18 168 832	15 314 470	16 423 672	11 848 641	7 681 756	5 681 967
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms.....	2 557	2 659	3 064	3 839	4 496	4 488	3 736	1 884
.....number.....	564 583 477	426 623 399	382 146 806	337 189 357	334 952 131	214 461 267	139 342 194	41 233 269

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1987 and Earlier Census Years—Con.**

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All farms	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964	1959	1954
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms...	7 413	10 390	15 084	21 586	27 943	54 109	83 851	129 701
acres...	234 669	310 680	485 450	551 596	618 663	964 233	1 872 087	2 076 074
bushels...	15 623 257	20 144 774	22 723 811	23 782 615	20 546 071	32 852 070	41 818 654	26 033 362
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	1 914	4 090	977	1 249	1 564	1 546	2 163	(NA)
acres...	156 466	474 467	53 076	84 270	80 280	60 634	47 009	(NA)
bushels...	4 903 608	14 072 021	1 482 737	1 970 250	2 333 302	1 485 719	1 069 511	(NA)
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	4 124	9 897	10 988	8 555	6 821	2 789	2 049	1 812
acres...	575 370	1 589 247	1 821 130	809 461	596 488	195 503	122 593	90 285
bushels...	11 633 904	36 402 694	31 251 385	18 882 067	13 161 175	4 296 636	2 678 541	1 074 920
Cotton----- farms...	1 820	1 458	2 083	6 827	24 779	42 024	63 871	106 592
acres...	346 013	294 792	328 087	539 888	563 278	804 094	794 434	1 153 514
bales...	380 936	421 367	287 622	461 198	497 526	853 522	683 491	707 152
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	19 061	18 492	19 819	19 002	18 060	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	647 843	568 456	571 087	498 030	444 355	475 634	379 817	506 958
tons, dry...	1 186 655	1 113 671	1 029 089	956 281	814 767	712 362	490 812	426 587

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on a sample of farms.

<sup>2</sup>Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

<sup>3</sup>Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

<sup>4</sup>Data for 1959 are for \$10,000 or more.

<sup>5</sup>Data for 1954 are for \$25,000 or more.

<sup>6</sup>Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorship) and partnerships; see text.

<sup>7</sup>Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications; data for agricultural chemicals exclude the cost of lime for 1987 and 1982.

<sup>8</sup>Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

<sup>9</sup>Data for 1964 and prior years are for chickens 4 months old or older.