

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.....	48 242	50 525	51 751	50 959	60 433	79 898	95 007	145 076
Land in farms.....acres.....	14 355 611	14 682 960	15 074 799	14 641 677	15 694 527	16 565 299	16 458 515	17 944 367
Average size of farm.....acres.....	298	291	291	287	260	207	173	124
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	225 604	286 402	221 156	120 382	67 532	36 734	18 915	9 496
Average per acre.....dollars.....	761	972	763	419	260	178	109	77
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000.....	1 661 321	1 790 270	1 623 539	971 233	540 480	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	34 505	35 483	31 441	20 417	9 398	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	2 249	2 069	1 890	1 573	2 168	3 402	5 998	15 000
10 to 49 acres.....	9 723	10 255	9 234	8 537	10 935	20 091	26 103	51 088
50 to 179 acres.....	17 551	19 022	20 064	20 483	23 914	32 117	38 829	54 134
180 to 499 acres.....	11 173	11 622	12 730	13 062	15 899	17 145	17 886	19 435
500 to 999 acres.....	4 371	4 519	4 815	4 508	4 928	4 785	4 272	3 774
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	2 304	2 154	2 182	2 009	1 964	1 776	1 919	1 645
2,000 acres or more.....	871	884	836	787	625	582		
Total cropland.....farms.....	40 536	43 228	45 552	45 524	54 236	66 591	85 421	132 544
acres.....	9 950 401	10 042 942	10 330 477	9 652 236	9 986 536	8 525 225	8 435 617	8 810 833
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	32 248	34 725	37 245	35 362	40 952	55 518	72 315	114 277
acres.....	6 477 365	7 484 316	7 572 049	6 639 182	6 804 569	6 087 610	5 324 541	5 535 608
Irrigated land.....farms.....	7 269	6 678	6 302	4 673	5 728	6 220	5 652	6 218
acres.....	2 406 338	2 022 695	1 683 413	948 910	1 010 200	974 297	711 812	857 863
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000.....	3 320 258	2 826 497	2 486 526	1 880 719	972 837	830 393	639 187	491 765
Average per farm.....dollars.....	68 825	55 943	48 048	36 907	16 097	10 393	6 728	3 390
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	1 246 686	1 356 618	1 189 875	1 027 355	454 675	542 191	442 151	377 186
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	2 073 572	1 469 879	1 296 650	847 135	514 541	283 461	193 101	111 713
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	12 130	15 515	13 154	20 632	27 747	47 694	55 953	103 586
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	7 609	7 768	8 729	6 214	8 527	8 740	14 322	20 223
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	7 101	6 403	7 649	5 067	6 646	6 598	9 918	11 789
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	6 088	5 544	6 423				14 738	6 363
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	2 885	3 106	3 853	13 755	15 904	15 636	-	3 315
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	3 329	4 020	4 849				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	8 197	7 436	6 589	4 980	1 527		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	903	712	478	280	51	1 203	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	42 885	45 152	46 059	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	3 626	3 856	4 267	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	1 542	1 326	1 309	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	189	191	116	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	19 132	18 816	20 922	17 219	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	76 858
Any.....	26 208	26 948	28 580	23 418	33 356	39 579	45 520	68 103
200 days or more.....	18 417	18 455	19 286	15 693	19 228	22 480	23 105	27 657
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	24 210	25 701	25 810	28 720	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	24 032	24 824	25 941	21 549	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years.....	51.8	50.9	50.2	51.6	51.4	51.9	51.0	49.7
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	2 454 097	(NA)	(NA)	1 424 284	824 132	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	368 424	272 441	235 570	163 333	102 275	62 413	39 863	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	774 203	570 609	571 256	479 468	245 715	163 889	97 038	71 923
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000.....	123 230	131 022	111 696	85 237	36 754	33 046	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	136 284	191 553	120 164	78 507	50 318	45 494	33 595	27 131
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	198 167	164 885	152 632	101 269	79 109	65 481	75 808	56 152
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000.....	135 440	192 827	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000.....	115 386	114 397	81 679	60 113	31 119	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms.....	31 606	34 779	34 068	35 507	38 694	59 195	66 675	105 502
number.....	1 562 243	1 718 315	1 641 669	1 959 725	1 542 608	1 573 605	1 281 093	1 504 163
Beef cows.....farms.....	27 297	30 083	29 889	28 830	(NA)	44 221	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	786 183	819 320	826 578	974 483	731 096	742 651	491 243	513 439
Milk cows.....farms.....	2 252	3 769	4 500	5 574	8 854	26 198	44 073	85 392
number.....	70 926	86 779	75 431	74 377	88 472	132 046	203 800	320 011
Cattle and calves sold.....farms.....	31 315	33 292	34 418	34 423	36 706	47 744	54 286	63 908
number.....	888 755	821 500	994 671	795 419	830 036	703 082	550 991	603 274
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms.....	2 467	3 737	5 893	5 865	8 986	18 335	44 281	63 865
number.....	452 930	388 388	383 596	238 505	246 989	219 890	499 298	426 140
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms.....	2 168	3 172	5 175	4 860	7 113	9 106	21 573	25 423
number.....	1 211 130	827 413	781 712	543 325	465 939	363 706	459 691	304 054
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹farms.....	3 263	4 809	5 515	6 601	9 550	33 007	62 574	113 072
number.....	24 085 427	24 235 681	22 567 930	19 160 812	24 456 322	11 790 425	5 664 578	4 683 107
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms.....	4 132	3 963	4 114	4 352	4 297	4 083	4 027	4 018
number.....	719 764 548	569 303 000	514 155 457	437 192 605	368 078 464	267 771 498	149 101 472	65 001 090

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

All farms	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964	1959	1954
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms--	748	695	1 177	1 717	3 788	12 473	33 047	46 121
acres--	53 672	25 330	22 623	19 014	39 999	126 446	358 800	559 080
bushels--	5 802 912	2 389 882	1 351 741	745 315	1 454 754	3 205 777	11 344 770	6 448 128
Wheat for grain ----- farms--	5 329	7 727	2 693	3 169	3 967	6 605	5 028	(NA)
acres--	859 405	1 667 522	244 006	294 665	214 087	417 194	115 761	(NA)
bushels--	33 241 332	61 332 564	8 792 162	7 801 337	6 493 498	12 746 248	2 945 711	(NA)
Soybeans for beans ----- farms--	8 983	11 307	13 468	13 890	18 038	19 140	21 483	16 098
acres--	3 160 746	4 198 968	4 578 663	3 805 841	4 238 081	3 246 930	2 284 900	957 046
bushels--	73 279 691	98 603 852	103 394 661	76 365 435	86 900 341	64 669 085	52 349 152	10 583 567
Rice ----- farms--	5 613	5 436	4 698	(NA)	(NA)	3 430	3 365	3 588
acres--	1 041 433	1 262 744	1 078 783	(NA)	(NA)	426 890	369 817	670 435
cwt--	54 663 266	56 860 948	47 976 691	(NA)	(NA)	18 393 640	12 664 350	18 017 398
Cotton----- farms--	2 479	2 019	4 064	7 585	15 079	21 704	34 888	67 767
acres--	529 636	405 345	755 628	1 114 688	1 079 681	1 235 677	1 297 393	1 697 523
bales--	816 723	525 887	648 790	852 309	1 150 478	1 535 731	1 484 003	1 293 849
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms--	21 632	22 614	23 420	20 775	20 035	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres--	944 470	878 203	861 361	717 557	630 527	683 759	636 967	775 678
tons, dry--	1 511 459	1 586 810	1 363 360	1 224 376	1 054 775	844 274	826 743	701 696

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

²Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

³Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

⁴Data for 1959 are for \$10,000 or more.

⁵Data for 1954 are for \$25,000 or more.

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

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

⁸Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

⁹Data for 1964 and prior years are for chickens 4 months old or older.