

1987

Census of Agriculture

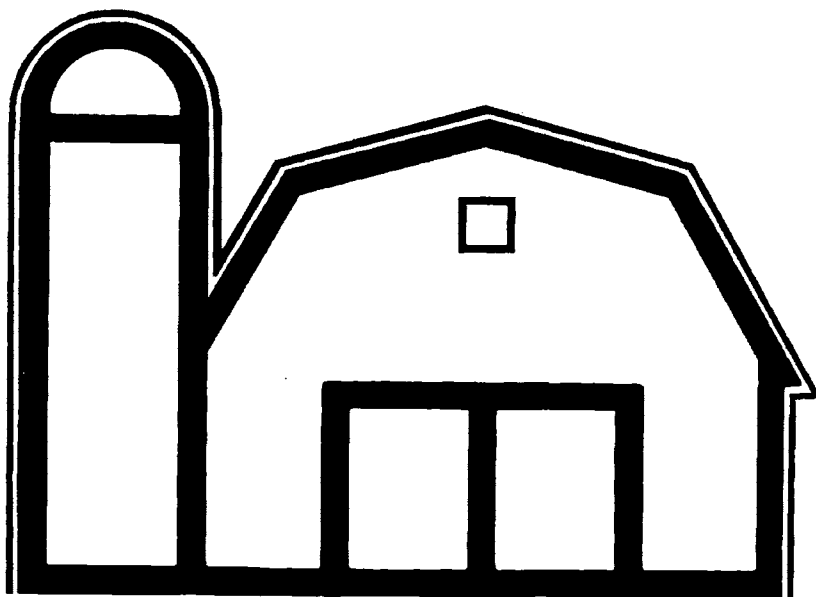
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Volume 1
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 6

Colorado

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 June 1989



U.S. Department of Commerce
Robert A. Mosbacher, Secretary
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.....	27 284	27 111	.6
Land in farms.....acres.....	34 048 433	33 537 998	1.5
Average size of farm.....acres.....	1 248	1 237	.9
Value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm.....dollars.....	458 906	562 479	-18.4
Average per acre.....dollars.....	369	454	-18.7
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres.....	2 725	2 677	1.8
10 to 49 acres.....	4 352	4 278	1.7
50 to 179 acres.....	5 111	5 162	-1.0
180 to 499 acres.....	4 862	4 896	-.7
500 to 999 acres.....	3 355	3 337	.5
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	2 918	2 914	.1
2,000 acres or more.....	3 961	3 847	3.0
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	19 446	20 061	-3.1
.....acres.....	5 522 216	6 036 679	-8.5
Irrigated land.....farms.....	14 913	15 232	-2.1
.....acres.....	3 013 773	3 200 942	-5.8
Market value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000.....	3 143 131	2 940 897	6.9
Average per farm.....dollars.....	115 201	108 476	6.2
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	781 934	847 323	-7.7
Grains.....\$1,000.....	451 526	543 064	-16.9
Cotton and cottonseed.....\$1,000.....	-	-	-
Tobacco.....\$1,000.....	-	-	-
Hay, silage, and field seeds.....\$1,000.....	90 129	95 937	-6.1
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons.....\$1,000.....	60 731	44 800	35.6
Fruits, nuts, and berries.....\$1,000.....	12 513	8 133	53.9
Nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	87 392	75 431	15.9
Other crops.....\$1,000.....	79 642	79 959	-.4
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	2 361 197	2 093 574	12.8
Poultry and poultry products.....\$1,000.....	89 126	74 255	20.0
Dairy products.....\$1,000.....	136 818	121 136	12.9
Cattle and calves.....\$1,000.....	1 964 765	1 745 451	12.6
Hogs and pigs.....\$1,000.....	46 495	60 379	-23.0
Sheep, lambs, and wool.....\$1,000.....	108 883	76 540	42.3
Other livestock and livestock products (see text).....\$1,000.....	15 110	15 813	-4.4
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	22 586	22 589	(Z)
Partnership.....	2 994	2 938	1.9
Corporation.....	1 469	1 356	8.3
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	235	228	3.1
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming.....	16 504	16 336	1.0
Other.....	10 780	10 775	(Z)
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any.....	14 202	14 050	1.1
200 days or more.....	8 311	8 396	-1.0
Average age of operator.....years.....	51.8	50.4	2.8
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	2 700 407	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :			
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	1 084 325	987 614	9.8
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	464 149	497 587	-6.7
Commercial fertilizer ²\$1,000.....	72 666	77 644	-6.4
Agricultural chemicals ²\$1,000.....	45 925	32 960	39.3
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	99 575	134 797	-26.1
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	172 070	129 180	33.2
Interest expense ³\$1,000.....	174 717	267 692	-34.7
Livestock and poultry inventory:			
Cattle and calves.....farms.....	14 637	16 127	-9.2
.....number.....	2 946 334	2 944 702	.1
Milk cows.....farms.....	1 714	2 735	-37.3
.....number.....	76 285	76 279	(Z)
Hogs and pigs.....farms.....	1 685	2 518	-33.1
.....number.....	258 725	333 370	-22.4
Chickens 3 months old or older.....farms.....	2 709	3 836	-29.4
.....number.....	3 118 767	2 566 703	21.5
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed.....farms.....	4 295	4 211	2.0
.....acres.....	685 568	759 680	-9.8
Corn for silage or green chop.....farms.....	1 525	2 270	-32.8
.....acres.....	100 798	166 008	-39.3
Sorghum for grain or seed.....farms.....	1 039	1 336	-22.2
.....acres.....	190 554	308 266	-38.2
Wheat for grain.....farms.....	6 992	7 121	-1.8
.....acres.....	2 421 603	2 856 126	-15.2
Barley for grain.....farms.....	2 404	2 078	15.7
.....acres.....	203 226	195 536	3.9
Dry edible beans, excluding dry limas.....farms.....	1 689	1 683	.4
.....acres.....	169 506	180 746	-6.2
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text).....farms.....	13 535	13 563	-.2
.....acres.....	1 423 807	1 309 845	8.7

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.