

**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...	27 284	27 111	26 907	25 501	27 950	29 798	33 390	40 749
Land in farms.....acres...	34 048 433	33 537 998	35 253 411	35 902 165	36 697 132	38 258 626	38 787 312	38 385 234
Average size of farm.....acres...	1 248	1 237	1 310	1 408	1 313	1 284	1 162	942
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm.....dollars...	458 906	562 479	416 988	264 065	124 180	90 183	61 494	37 513
Average per acre.....dollars...	369	454	317	188	95	70	53	40
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000...	1 347 073	1 390 665	1 071 443	707 561	343 595	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars...	49 534	51 457	39 930	29 026	12 738	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	2 725	2 677	2 163	1 681	1 981	1 500	1 934	4 115
10 to 49 acres.....	4 352	4 278	3 448	2 800	3 048	3 451	3 976	5 022
50 to 179 acres.....	5 111	5 162	5 151	5 018	5 480	6 331	7 307	9 549
180 to 499 acres.....	4 862	4 896	5 431	5 192	5 830	6 254	7 124	8 241
500 to 999 acres.....	3 355	3 337	3 494	3 578	3 886	4 195	4 834	5 614
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	2 918	2 914	3 214	3 171	3 559	3 794	8 215	8 208
2,000 acres or more.....	3 961	3 847	4 006	4 061	4 166	4 166		
Total cropland.....farms...	22 334	22 421	23 341	22 792	24 754	27 103	30 565	37 060
acres...	10 988 853	10 552 383	10 607 070	10 512 521	10 773 310	10 740 138	11 032 678	11 062 983
Harvested cropland.....farms...	19 446	20 061	21 217	21 049	22 476	24 938	28 912	33 599
acres...	5 522 216	6 036 679	5 844 805	5 956 865	5 265 721	4 725 734	5 879 446	5 219 689
Irrigated land.....farms...	14 913	15 232	16 016	14 687	15 567	18 317	20 312	23 355
acres...	3 013 773	3 200 942	3 430 860	2 873 692	2 894 984	2 690 018	2 684 757	2 262 921
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000...	3 143 131	2 940 897	2 589 989	1 970 236	1 100 948	612 175	579 976	379 900
Average per farm.....dollars...	115 201	108 476	96 257	77 261	39 389	20 544	17 370	9 323
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000...	781 934	847 323	573 567	682 791	217 833	182 317	199 414	129 823
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000...	2 361 197	2 093 574	2 016 422	1 287 162	882 741	427 983	380 146	249 786
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500.....	6 607	6 259	5 075	4 940	7 136	9 244	8 754	16 747
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	2 582	2 733	2 920	2 263	3 329	4 139	4 471	7 010
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	3 008	3 042	3 166	3 052	4 354	5 047	6 375	8 049
\$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> .....	4 245	4 143	4 963				13 554	6 150
\$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> .....	3 316	3 334	3 971	12 116	11 824	10 654	-	2 665
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	3 117	3 177	3 183				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	3 721	3 694	3 049	2 703	1 076		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	688	681	501	354	172	675	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	22 586	22 589	22 273	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	2 994	2 938	3 131	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	1 469	1 356	1 314	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	235	228	189	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :								
None.....	11 315	10 694	11 864	9 568	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	22 012
Any.....	14 202	14 050	13 708	10 034	14 502	13 531	13 723	18 227
200 days or more.....	8 311	8 396	7 617	5 479	7 142	6 192	6 176	7 397
Operators by principal occupation <sup>6</sup> :								
Farming.....	16 504	16 336	16 585	17 072	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	10 780	10 775	10 322	7 358	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>6</sup> .....years...	51.8	50.4	49.9	51.2	50.2	49.7	49.0	47.8
Total farm production expenses <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	2 700 407	(NA)	(NA)	1 674 469	1 013 736	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000...	1 084 325	987 614	946 290	591 996	466 156	179 978	154 108	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000...	464 149	497 587	463 545	436 776	180 744	114 004	77 892	64 544
Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	72 666	77 644	69 064	52 292	20 249	11 926	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000...	99 575	134 797	82 371	55 005	32 506	31 203	26 664	23 897
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000...	172 070	129 180	106 999	82 987	55 178	44 787	41 294	33 606
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> .....\$1,000...	174 717	267 692	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	45 925	32 960	22 759	12 921	6 842	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms...	14 637	16 127	16 102	16 739	17 798	21 190	24 085	31 597
number.....	2 946 334	2 944 702	3 154 131	3 087 884	3 001 895	2 499 246	2 197 488	2 097 958
Beef cows.....farms...	11 132	11 950	11 944	12 654	(NA)	15 046	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	830 216	847 010	834 269	1 025 244	880 641	857 001	683 870	726 923
Milk cows.....farms...	1 714	2 735	3 321	4 064	5 200	9 381	15 466	24 217
number.....	76 285	76 279	70 900	71 353	75 288	92 731	118 030	150 840
Cattle and calves sold.....farms...	14 569	15 288	15 744	16 406	17 812	19 857	21 557	25 374
number.....	3 476 740	3 272 288	3 713 503	3 207 989	3 180 957	2 120 505	1 609 976	1 431 793
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms...	1 685	2 518	3 492	3 013	4 274	5 243	10 310	11 314
number.....	258 725	333 370	383 804	291 342	237 996	169 759	243 248	170 909
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms...	1 620	2 315	3 223	2 844	4 203	4 307	6 987	7 704
number.....	460 359	605 517	666 744	586 425	434 580	277 442	289 809	191 757
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> .....farms...	2 709	3 836	3 686	4 004	4 925	10 127	18 044	27 042
number.....	3 118 767	2 566 703	3 141 686	2 253 086	1 430 209	1 279 502	1 813 657	2 287 436
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms...	112	128	110	112	39	7	35	87
number.....	43 706	22 595	34 234	21 283	6 222	86 383	620 302	1 596 450

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
<b>Selected crops harvested:</b>								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms..	4 295	4 211	4 642	4 649	4 593	4 379	7 242	6 250
acres..	685 568	759 680	718 809	534 020	311 837	164 845	294 222	213 522
bushels..	98 919 585	94 879 902	78 311 274	50 167 216	29 571 367	10 990 248	15 082 382	5 744 203
Sorghum for grain or seed ----- farms..	1 039	1 336	1 609	1 484	2 169	2 811	3 886	3 488
acres..	190 554	308 266	338 423	271 084	258 587	280 379	384 212	385 810
bushels..	7 327 665	9 815 786	10 326 553	7 743 310	9 316 899	6 982 761	8 574 441	4 003 514
Wheat for grain ----- farms..	6 992	7 121	7 335	8 853	8 390	9 600	(NA)	(NA)
acres..	2 421 603	2 856 126	2 473 570	2 836 553	1 803 039	1 519 461	2 241 364	1 577 454
bushels..	81 581 401	78 307 590	55 066 616	70 089 495	38 529 542	23 826 998	49 490 059	16 144 850
Barley for grain ----- farms..	2 404	2 078	2 796	(NA)	(NA)	5 918	10 688	9 420
acres..	203 226	195 536	223 962	(NA)	(NA)	277 215	508 538	358 966
bushels..	12 386 192	13 920 841	12 716 276	(NA)	(NA)	6 948 063	14 649 119	6 600 337
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms..	13 535	13 563	14 612	13 873	15 307	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres..	1 423 807	1 309 845	1 412 566	1 345 920	1 420 508	1 328 657	1 267 477	1 310 732
tons, dry..	3 088 681	2 923 775	3 005 902	2 794 761	2 921 016	2 346 171	2 272 678	2 025 950

<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.