

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...	88 786	98 483	104 690	111 049	123 565	132 822	154 644	175 543
Land in farms.....acres...	28 526 664	28 726 114	29 472 473	29 094 794	29 913 190	29 957 501	30 327 261	30 398 517
Average size of farm.....acres...	321	292	282	262	242	226	196	173
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars...	402 970	538 886	524 718	221 774	118 507	80 894	61 946	40 083
Average per acre.....dollars...	1 262	1 837	1 854	846	490	357	316	231
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000...	5 392 170	6 092 937	5 401 250	3 294 038	1 616 581	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars...	60 935	61 982	51 640	31 151	13 504	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	5 931	6 101	4 873	4 181	5 110	4 380	6 245	11 225
10 to 49 acres.....	12 971	15 183	14 257	13 420	13 487	14 418	18 668	21 883
50 to 179 acres.....	23 824	27 513	31 203	36 499	40 937	46 125	59 124	73 294
180 to 499 acres.....	26 720	31 723	37 099	41 756	51 369	58 070	63 843	64 211
500 to 999 acres.....	14 320	13 879	14 019	12 842	11 239	8 919	6 190	4 504
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	4 407	3 606	2 895	2 122	1 278	807		
2,000 acres or more.....	613	478	344	229	145	103	574	426
Total cropland..... farms...	83 056	92 250	99 624	106 639	117 871	127 091	145 950	163 606
acres.....	25 102 092	24 748 112	25 159 492	24 399 558	24 829 095	23 867 792	23 960 388	23 745 210
Harvested cropland..... farms...	79 986	89 124	96 432	102 729	111 954	123 174	141 225	158 099
acres.....	20 102 388	23 008 244	22 676 226	21 517 665	19 351 709	20 058 321	20 967 738	20 549 929
Irrigated land..... farms...	1 635	1 182	1 146	650	822	327	332	266
acres.....	208 105	166 012	129 943	53 777	50 906	14 375	10 127	6 789
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000...	6 376 801	7 313 529	5 906 275	4 665 390	2 612 378	2 122 874	1 810 741	1 505 886
Average per farm.....dollars...	71 822	74 262	56 417	42 012	21 141	15 983	11 709	8 578
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000...	4 158 936	5 092 452	3 893 237	3 193 739	1 324 926	1 127 054	794 290	720 646
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000...	2 217 865	2 221 076	2 013 039	1 469 611	1 285 749	992 889	1 014 816	784 610
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	10 630	11 226	10 078	14 722	24 003	27 060	37 337	55 494
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	6 741	7 417	8 430	8 463	13 225	14 421	21 062	26 949
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	8 728	8 975	10 922	12 589	18 729	23 010	34 303	41 557
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	14 962	15 315	19 381				61 892	42 087
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	13 313	14 707	18 892	63 965	64 977	67 238	-	9 580
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	14 765	17 376	19 720				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	18 588	22 366	16 706	11 021	2 532	1 053	-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	1 059	1 085	529	254	77		-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	75 409	83 715	89 658	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	10 651	12 239	13 178	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	2 135	1 866	1 348	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	591	663	506	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	38 565	42 422	48 448	43 148	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	102 646
Any.....	43 651	47 562	50 938	43 135	64 059	55 580	59 653	65 171
200 days or more.....	26 001	27 906	29 033	25 290	31 924	25 143	26 066	24 245
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	57 122	63 756	69 351	79 830	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	31 664	34 727	35 339	30 352	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years...	50.4	49.2	49.2	50.9	49.7	50.1	49.4	49.3
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000...	4 557 450	(NA)	(NA)	2 829 461	1 830 513	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000...	460 761	447 023	475 790	315 495	337 454	233 337	279 333	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000...	451 832	477 619	404 412	400 796	256 686	231 422	244 476	206 849
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000...	564 393	712 705	530 912	408 562	171 330	136 395	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000...	299 486	480 860	282 731	205 536	125 676	111 965	98 693	86 455
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000...	275 128	225 820	191 852	118 134	90 752	76 780	71 712	67 425
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000...	448 150	660 391	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000...	336 428	344 575	225 556	138 115	67 466	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory..... farms...	33 305	41 028	45 572	54 509	64 066	88 192	111 287	143 305
number.....	1 885 444	2 315 397	2 591 583	2 898 721	3 194 190	3 750 770	3 789 874	3 819 689
Beef cows..... farms...	23 087	28 163	31 311	36 996	(NA)	52 388	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	511 188	622 002	697 678	874 549	771 422	776 716	647 807	664 177
Milk cows..... farms...	4 304	5 812	7 021	9 642	14 803	29 628	56 999	103 187
number.....	186 371	206 827	210 267	237 505	292 018	422 430	541 550	757 299
Cattle and calves sold..... farms...	32 798	38 996	44 816	51 804	63 121	83 511	100 810	120 037
number.....	1 407 670	1 532 199	1 930 340	1 769 197	2 436 914	2 664 408	2 482 995	2 133 316
Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms...	17 084	21 646	28 227	31 689	48 475	66 069	94 562	107 388
number.....	5 642 991	5 988 994	6 205 722	5 327 643	6 994 736	7 309 365	8 283 804	6 496 820
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms...	17 837	22 814	29 290	35 118	51 090	67 394	91 048	99 318
number.....	9 879 960	9 531 614	9 219 000	9 024 521	10 971 882	11 760 687	10 588 437	6 852 574
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹ farms...	4 013	6 341	7 632	11 798	19 012	44 023	85 712	129 694
number.....	4 396 092	5 745 191	7 580 094	8 356 723	8 414 224	9 338 304	13 340 138	18 230 094
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms...	296	349	370	437	243	68	194	534
number.....	435 555	138 331	136 510	208 295	197 811	1 019 125	4 395 651	4 324 837

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..	66 600	73 372	78 643	82 696	95 249	109 886	131 406	146 471
acres..	9 162 711	11 383 178	11 052 177	9 567 774	9 490 642	9 081 837	9 746 421	8 477 689
bushels..	1 168 644 485	1 425 129 317	1 181 849 723	773 406 578	953 568 760	728 304 637	650 439 170	426 835 923
Wheat for grain ----- farms..	21 356	28 080	21 501	38 817	43 646	61 720	63 944	59 638
acres..	954 990	1 452 686	849 634	1 678 393	1 270 565	1 918 618	1 641 823	1 527 671
bushels..	48 850 664	62 046 957	31 325 922	50 646 729	46 470 810	68 158 120	42 484 623	45 761 969
Oats for grain ----- farms..	8 540	8 940	11 500	(NA)	(NA)	43 288	73 182	103 215
acres..	157 374	176 568	228 356	(NA)	(NA)	1 043 263	2 082 891	3 085 610
bushels..	10 312 797	10 268 768	12 732 968	(NA)	(NA)	53 129 463	85 906 342	125 803 389
Soybeans for beans ----- farms..	61 547	66 595	73 558	78 447	77 327	85 159	88 675	88 629
acres..	8 768 833	8 997 737	9 226 983	8 317 180	6 411 554	5 579 269	4 721 624	3 960 276
bushels..	329 323 117	335 976 354	301 061 189	205 382 348	215 437 112	137 628 306	120 910 225	84 564 026
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms..	30 589	33 492	38 910	44 143	48 276	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres..	986 808	982 655	1 169 085	1 206 426	1 135 433	1 807 342	2 079 428	2 499 005
tons, dry..	2 720 838	2 729 197	3 134 558	2 821 607	2 969 744	4 146 494	4 391 318	4 523 131

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.