

**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.....	70 506	77 180	82 483	87 915	101 479	108 082	128 160	153 593
Land in farms..... acres.....	16 170 895	16 294 268	16 824 438	16 785 209	17 572 865	17 933 226	18 613 046	19 232 774
Average size of farm..... acres.....	229	211	204	191	173	166	145	125
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	265 446	338 549	323 213	137 385	70 316	51 645	38 489	24 303
Average per acre.....dollars.....	1 158	1 610	1 579	720	406	310	265	194
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> ..... \$1,000.....	3 129 398	3 464 195	3 118 331	1 899 878	954 061	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	44 502	45 033	37 893	23 128	9 859	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	5 444	5 648	4 606	3 594	4 706	4 847	6 631	14 215
10 to 49 acres.....	15 010	17 373	17 166	17 325	19 522	20 533	26 928	32 859
50 to 179 acres.....	24 892	27 460	31 559	37 055	44 110	47 128	57 352	70 221
180 to 499 acres.....	15 902	18 009	20 984	22 828	27 210	30 735	34 047	33 942
500 to 999 acres.....	6 670	6 567	6 552	5 969	5 256	4 369	2 906	2 112
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	2 291	1 872	1 452	1 019	610	410	296	244
2,000 acres or more.....	297	251	164	125	65	60		
Total cropland..... farms.....	65 529	71 836	78 174	84 277	96 360	102 137	118 673	138 641
acres.....	13 592 873	13 331 077	13 539 395	13 198 261	13 551 580	13 317 207	13 660 415	13 828 414
Harvested cropland..... farms.....	61 689	68 040	74 450	80 195	88 350	95 846	111 380	130 341
acres.....	10 706 298	12 136 310	11 809 491	11 234 214	9 670 494	10 298 855	11 147 102	11 333 161
Irrigated land..... farms.....	1 481	1 206	901	633	682	558	480	443
acres.....	169 703	131 987	75 173	33 385	33 580	16 924	17 237	11 738
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> ..... \$1,000.....	4 067 684	4 226 930	3 358 288	2 612 631	1 400 146	1 105 356	945 685	906 019
Average per farm.....dollars.....	57 693	54 767	40 715	29 718	13 797	10 227	7 379	5 899
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops..... \$1,000.....	2 127 135	2 439 409	1 926 051	1 574 830	597 363	491 192	363 778	385 277
Livestock, poultry, and their products..... \$1,000.....	1 940 549	1 787 521	1 432 237	1 033 709	799 116	610 686	579 515	519 660
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500.....	12 433	13 717	12 675	18 215	34 937	38 834	50 757	69 627
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	8 072	8 731	10 123	10 572	15 446	16 882	22 640	26 810
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	9 515	10 161	12 405	13 701	15 745	18 495	24 811	29 374
\$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> .....	12 820	13 878	16 670				29 865	23 219
\$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> .....	8 682	9 671	11 738	39 875	34 144	33 370	-	4 543
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	8 031	9 228	10 338				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	10 126	11 016	8 141	5 354	1 110	458	-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	827	749	348	154	52		-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	59 955	65 548	70 551	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	7 469	8 905	9 855	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	2 823	2 422	1 828	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	259	305	249	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :								
None.....	25 127	27 352	30 730	26 960	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	72 689
Any.....	40 682	44 050	47 970	44 590	63 315	57 812	63 732	74 917
200 days or more.....	28 153	30 319	33 500	31 559	41 412	36 322	37 076	41 394
Operators by principal occupation <sup>6</sup> :								
Farming.....	36 654	40 189	43 010	50 017	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	33 852	36 991	39 473	36 881	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>6</sup> ..... years.....	50.5	49.1	49.0	50.2	49.8	50.9	50.8	50.5
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ..... \$1,000.....	3 178 679	(NA)	(NA)	1 730 678	1 045 691	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased..... \$1,000.....	328 366	300 350	285 567	193 829	176 074	105 869	97 413	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	576 585	522 442	387 069	334 734	194 401	165 299	174 557	156 381
Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> ..... \$1,000.....	354 501	453 678	352 541	283 265	105 961	95 374	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products..... \$1,000.....	171 786	275 154	160 578	108 634	65 219	58 497	53 152	47 251
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	196 231	152 061	117 573	71 751	52 302	42 756	39 035	37 914
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> ..... \$1,000.....	306 836	426 334	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> ..... \$1,000.....	183 674	173 999	115 557	68 177	28 581	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory..... farms.....	30 340	36 907	39 097	47 461	52 092	70 635	87 809	120 742
number.....	1 236 480	1 437 618	1 547 083	1 826 638	1 828 590	2 053 417	1 973 634	2 205 256
Beef cows..... farms.....	19 150	23 206	25 000	29 994	(NA)	36 637	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	315 784	377 741	424 078	546 270	433 884	431 182	341 657	355 504
Milk cows..... farms.....	5 204	6 795	7 590	10 100	13 049	25 720	48 149	88 097
number.....	163 867	188 716	184 413	205 075	227 048	328 065	411 273	581 207
Cattle and calves sold..... farms.....	28 905	33 780	37 374	43 519	49 271	63 287	77 878	96 115
number.....	881 663	890 380	1 066 881	994 638	1 160 315	1 224 660	1 092 202	1 047 179
Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms.....	14 834	17 654	22 141	23 988	34 899	48 177	74 377	87 718
number.....	4 372 294	4 298 027	4 159 733	3 350 529	4 440 389	4 496 507	5 356 518	4 480 439
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms.....	15 458	18 271	22 849	25 946	36 699	48 295	71 241	79 780
number.....	8 024 713	7 279 358	6 448 136	5 927 786	7 207 719	7 502 242	7 422 874	5 302 546
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> ..... farms.....	3 713	5 568	6 297	9 226	12 122	29 194	62 910	103 208
number.....	26 787 315	22 065 167	18 748 739	16 199 315	14 940 111	14 163 752	13 840 448	14 447 910
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms.....	311	405	503	530	454	574	1 171	2 268
number.....	22 306 685	12 583 016	13 253 804	8 469 794	9 000 149	20 971 062	32 721 470	27 416 936

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--	45 383	50 290	56 441	59 911	62 652	75 188	99 253	118 114
acres--	4 884 114	5 975 300	6 062 791	5 068 354	4 377 162	4 293 022	4 955 926	4 621 857
bushels--	619 045 978	712 234 375	626 525 204	371 396 556	429 568 854	308 633 586	308 043 808	253 585 198
Wheat for grain ----- farms--	18 294	23 764	20 065	37 039	39 138	54 166	57 802	64 677
acres--	590 920	892 929	581 847	1 178 919	830 299	1 374 140	1 196 618	1 295 728
bushels--	30 789 151	37 007 361	22 175 789	44 246 255	32 160 538	46 237 941	30 941 720	38 973 637
Oats for grain ----- farms--	4 982	6 250	7 112	(NA)	(NA)	25 493	48 685	68 666
acres--	69 063	94 806	100 281	(NA)	(NA)	375 181	866 835	1 233 043
bushels--	4 317 321	5 868 963	5 234 841	(NA)	(NA)	16 525 216	33 428 856	51 862 435
Soybeans for beans ----- farms--	40 068	42 516	46 423	51 625	53 482	59 060	60 526	59 545
acres--	4 397 253	4 397 224	4 086 126	3 734 150	3 075 155	2 666 929	2 246 740	1 870 330
bushels--	169 749 051	161 462 876	134 853 388	94 724 611	97 879 366	64 474 337	58 440 247	44 573 897
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms--	27 050	28 924	33 445	36 664	39 703	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres--	720 914	731 584	857 046	852 504	833 792	1 210 401	1 398 789	1 745 343
tons, dry--	1 892 446	1 841 243	2 038 362	1 831 874	1 902 572	2 393 638	2 510 632	2 724 923

<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.