

**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...	68 579	73 315	74 171	79 188	86 057	92 440	104 347	120 167
Land in farms.....acres...	46 628 519	47 052 213	47 499 831	47 945 722	49 390 369	50 271 117	50 152 870	50 023 538
Average size of farm.....acres...	680	642	640	605	574	544	481	416
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm.....dollars...	278 047	384 197	322 165	179 454	91 131	66 397	48 084	33 117
Average per acre.....dollars...	413	601	498	296	159	122	100	80
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000...	3 447 663	3 830 616	3 137 696	2 109 529	1 008 608	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars...	50 411	52 304	42 385	28 069	12 124	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	3 689	3 547	3 186	2 797	3 460	2 366	2 952	6 542
10 to 49 acres.....	6 222	6 837	5 379	5 127	5 231	6 465	7 610	8 810
50 to 179 acres.....	15 510	16 720	16 971	18 974	19 025	20 796	24 458	30 116
180 to 499 acres.....	16 705	18 693	20 044	23 231	27 334	31 514	39 547	47 097
500 to 999 acres.....	12 093	13 600	14 871	16 047	18 394	19 664	19 710	18 890
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	9 304	9 428	9 501	9 193	9 272	8 518		
2,000 acres or more.....	5 056	4 490	4 219	3 819	3 341	3 117	10 070	8 712
Total cropland.....farms...	61 615	66 481	68 430	74 306	80 455	86 535	97 420	110 350
.....acres...	31 385 090	30 598 859	29 843 255	29 984 268	31 767 739	29 421 414	29 623 874	29 577 170
Harvested cropland.....farms...	57 822	62 860	64 862	70 573	76 110	84 171	94 918	107 602
.....acres...	17 729 394	20 186 974	18 987 644	19 870 535	17 649 231	18 160 353	20 528 357	21 440 232
Irrigated land.....farms...	7 352	7 257	7 961	6 710	6 271	5 102	4 592	2 736
.....acres...	2 463 073	2 675 167	2 685 757	2 010 385	1 522 317	1 004 210	762 101	331 551
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000...	6 476 669	6 190 861	4 995 543	3 682 044	1 818 018	1 174 563	1 110 817	802 340
Average per farm.....dollars...	94 441	84 442	67 352	46 497	21 125	12 706	10 645	6 677
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000...	1 693 609	2 143 047	1 440 843	1 794 548	579 188	448 267	485 902	428 282
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000...	4 783 060	4 047 815	3 554 701	1 886 980	1 238 363	725 635	624 603	373 890
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500.....	9 502	9 637	7 967	10 897	18 268	23 670	25 522	41 649
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	6 919	6 565	7 897	7 698	12 280	15 622	19 469	26 325
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	9 430	9 183	10 944	11 067	16 699	21 421	26 434	29 826
\$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> .....	14 070	15 130	17 284				32 673	18 849
\$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> .....	10 282	11 827	13 426	43 422	37 115	30 962		3 601
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	8 997	10 459	9 687					
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	8 422	9 584	6 324	5 659	1 534	748		
\$500,000 or more.....	957	895	604	412	142			
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	60 202	64 313	65 380	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	5 889	6 702	7 092	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	2 100	1 876	1 478	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	388	424	221	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :								
None.....	29 462	30 524	34 255	31 086	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	66 808
Any.....	34 654	35 521	36 256	29 601	43 708	40 865	45 169	52 066
200 days or more.....	21 677	21 306	20 390	16 970	21 147	18 086	17 881	17 988
Operators by principal occupation <sup>6</sup> :								
Farming.....	42 607	47 293	49 104	57 633	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	25 972	26 022	25 067	20 722	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>6</sup> .....years...	52.0	50.9	50.7	52.2	51.1	51.3	50.5	49.4
Total farm production expenses <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	5 516 518	(NA)	(NA)	2 678 186	1 531 075	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>7</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000...	2 426 149	1 900 272	1 674 241	738 839	573 566	267 759	231 466	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000...	887 270	920 415	803 712	602 285	234 254	158 573	102 041	96 792
Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	216 166	254 590	252 403	205 930	72 564	44 808	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000...	243 568	358 860	207 732	138 140	76 882	72 103	65 801	58 286
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000...	226 075	153 404	131 444	85 140	53 816	38 399	33 496	31 717
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> .....\$1,000...	314 163	467 054	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	125 003	94 957	68 543	43 071	18 856	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry: Cattle and calves inventory.....farms...	40 785	47 008	48 215	54 045	60 299	71 558	81 372	102 679
.....number...	5 539 292	5 800 138	5 930 018	5 590 628	5 753 261	5 149 607	4 324 106	4 304 950
Beef cows.....farms...	31 475	36 497	37 856	43 545	(NA)	54 633	(NA)	(NA)
.....number...	1 354 649	1 523 697	1 579 322	1 890 367	1 696 614	1 598 226	1 160 221	1 355 015
Milk cows.....farms...	3 093	4 631	5 691	7 823	12 563	25 980	46 889	77 882
.....number...	96 675	123 009	120 775	149 477	172 099	240 522	316 470	452 924
Cattle and calves sold.....farms...	41 498	47 032	49 162	54 803	61 404	70 334	78 843	89 804
.....number...	7 310 338	6 519 159	6 756 343	5 104 331	4 711 037	3 920 543	2 810 987	2 332 667
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms...	6 768	9 241	13 329	13 065	19 784	24 819	37 615	41 594
.....number...	1 516 878	1 708 770	2 014 541	1 520 269	1 638 904	1 264 346	1 341 300	902 220
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms...	7 090	9 778	13 794	14 558	21 071	25 088	34 602	36 005
.....number...	2 759 676	3 036 205	3 344 600	2 829 467	2 934 653	2 257 937	1 709 695	1 051 367
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> .....farms...	4 206	6 044	7 137	9 615	16 211	35 657	62 823	89 258
.....number...	2 094 610	2 093 245	2 796 152	2 728 432	3 889 910	5 068 037	7 705 091	10 801 470
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms...	132	210	220	270	194	10	24	110
.....number...	176 061	94 543	259 001	438 326	132 878	82 950	560 189	841 460

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...	8 944	8 346	10 618	13 300	17 131	23 570	39 223	29 557
acres...	1 243 969	1 161 875	1 567 013	1 597 279	1 152 878	988 065	1 674 816	1 317 485
bushels...	144 133 581	130 662 235	154 173 376	126 247 120	90 136 720	44 103 321	69 902 423	31 223 389
Sorghum for grain or seed ----- farms...	32 492	26 908	34 778	34 821	40 159	46 959	59 661	46 879
acres...	3 399 564	3 187 148	3 664 560	3 238 489	3 167 318	2 878 091	3 835 328	3 545 992
bushels...	228 045 100	192 400 229	176 218 600	132 210 153	178 300 694	92 530 503	123 201 103	49 824 979
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	38 638	49 231	46 131	55 895	62 204	71 703	83 005	84 203
acres...	8 679 588	11 664 008	9 601 848	11 040 335	9 342 569	9 034 093	9 856 222	9 483 480
bushels...	292 999 442	372 590 045	268 457 130	299 416 699	268 780 083	196 896 894	199 604 763	163 108 142
Oats for grain ----- farms...	5 313	6 644	4 666	(NA)	(NA)	16 744	31 560	47 417
acres...	128 091	168 982	94 399	(NA)	(NA)	295 602	667 153	1 021 584
bushels...	4 775 729	7 799 056	3 483 394	(NA)	(NA)	8 561 555	16 080 168	33 359 310
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	18 864	17 116	16 254	14 236	15 068	16 909	11 947	10 440
acres...	1 878 978	1 692 288	1 480 800	931 135	765 450	618 919	418 193	279 509
bushels...	55 789 994	43 042 471	26 436 742	18 634 381	17 124 661	10 948 094	8 715 280	1 913 268
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	33 964	37 341	39 244	42 504	43 761	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	2 254 082	2 233 631	2 241 288	2 066 168	1 902 475	2 402 209	1 857 502	2 500 640
tons, dry...	5 080 847	5 092 039	4 462 796	4 032 977	4 312 407	4 214 548	3 388 855	3 323 660

<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.