

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.....	92 453	101 642	102 263	102 053	125 069	133 038	150 986	193 487
Land in farms..... acres.....	14 012 700	14 179 284	14 606 168	14 431 713	15 968 243	16 265 180	17 030 675	18 034 380
Average size of farm..... acres.....	152	140	143	141	128	122	113	93
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm..... dollars.....	135 696	144 427	124 233	60 344	32 309	22 235	15 269	8 900
Average per acre..... dollars.....	896	1 049	861	427	253	181	135	95
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ \$1,000.....	2 091 558	2 233 182	1 889 439	1 102 882	583 339	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm..... dollars.....	22 670	22 001	18 516	12 156	5 141	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	10 648	13 248	11 576	9 360	13 914	14 785	13 752	25 239
10 to 49 acres.....	20 707	23 654	21 652	20 945	26 761	29 500	37 271	55 799
50 to 179 acres.....	38 281	41 739	44 837	48 047	58 425	62 824	73 999	87 763
180 to 499 acres.....	17 920	18 352	19 660	19 624	22 083	22 403	22 968	22 218
500 to 999 acres.....	3 618	3 527	3 564	3 171	3 142	2 866	2 468	2 010
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	1 052	904	799	747	630	551		
2,000 acres or more.....	247	218	175	159	114	109	528	458
Total cropland..... farms.....	88 664	98 331	99 347	99 166	119 145	130 723	146 709	188 596
acres.....	8 900 086	8 960 250	9 297 858	8 803 159	9 443 454	9 364 094	9 927 197	10 455 193
Harvested cropland..... farms.....	83 097	93 082	94 497	92 468	106 581	123 100	136 803	175 113
acres.....	4 250 284	4 835 631	4 511 837	3 700 920	3 128 222	3 473 047	4 012 962	4 541 381
Irrigated land..... farms.....	3 733	2 815	2 137	1 910	4 467	2 708	1 130	1 226
acres.....	37 693	22 707	13 770	10 920	19 587	14 405	8 605	13 434
Market value of agricultural products sold ² \$1,000.....	2 075 571	2 376 882	1 812 531	1 251 853	769 858	591 598	518 070	424 654
Average per farm..... dollars.....	22 450	23 385	17 724	12 267	6 155	4 447	3 431	2 195
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops..... \$1,000.....	889 882	1 358 309	948 464	729 747	343 204	308 773	249 232	255 424
Livestock, poultry, and their products..... \$1,000.....	1 185 689	1 018 573	864 066	517 076	422 607	278 914	265 362	167 366
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	24 380	21 706	23 382	34 896	64 867	74 187	91 366	140 585
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	16 421	17 829	19 406	19 060	22 499	26 342	30 438	32 448
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	17 620	20 020	21 087	19 233	19 113	19 496	18 420	14 810
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	18 078	21 479	21 283				10 636	4 683
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	7 880	10 421	9 681	27 378	18 177	12 804	-	839
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	4 527	6 028	4 760				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	3 298	3 904	2 527	1 394	365		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	249	236	103	53	18	164	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	78 463	85 808	87 330	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	12 717	14 660	13 939	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	817	761	725	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	456	413	269	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	32 743	33 928	37 008	32 940	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	114 691
Any.....	54 464	58 214	59 361	48 105	72 127	59 722	65 586	78 693
200 days or more.....	37 893	38 660	39 568	31 691	41 536	30 215	30 337	30 027
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	41 451	49 062	49 881	58 055	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	51 002	52 580	52 382	43 510	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶ years.....	52.2	50.5	50.5	52.2	52.0	51.9	51.7	50.7
Total farm production expenses ¹ \$1,000.....	1 485 994	(NA)	(NA)	775 176	522 884	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased..... \$1,000.....	209 357	210 696	158 605	94 465	91 022	44 591	50 603	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry..... \$1,000.....	179 713	183 477	165 546	138 264	82 575	65 895	58 060	47 462
Commercial fertilizer ⁷ \$1,000.....	129 356	135 693	124 760	97 074	45 895	38 620	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products..... \$1,000.....	86 777	134 504	80 659	49 167	34 015	27 954	23 238	19 128
Hired farm labor..... \$1,000.....	158 130	166 518	113 750	61 756	54 628	39 869	34 672	30 358
Interest expense ⁸ \$1,000.....	179 409	228 462	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷ \$1,000.....	53 459	57 066	41 957	20 178	11 396	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory..... farms.....	53 626	60 183	61 044	72 044	81 108	100 824	116 633	153 575
number.....	2 343 541	2 524 964	2 449 404	3 033 010	2 591 935	2 340 752	1 947 351	1 671 821
Beef cows..... farms.....	41 396	44 844	45 919	51 469	(NA)	55 812	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	967 856	982 794	985 796	1 275 020	935 659	798 609	492 022	362 967
Milk cows..... farms.....	7 002	10 817	13 226	18 586	27 758	58 689	88 293	137 099
number.....	224 267	253 852	257 390	269 912	306 129	407 176	486 343	556 491
Cattle and calves sold..... farms.....	52 210	55 973	59 668	66 819	75 961	88 207	99 736	108 397
number.....	1 305 423	1 221 268	1 463 069	1 215 692	1 422 274	1 248 435	994 254	840 011
Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms.....	8 242	11 436	18 997	20 242	29 119	47 970	87 583	100 101
number.....	838 452	869 727	1 150 035	898 166	1 251 302	1 098 003	1 653 427	1 059 766
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms.....	7 602	9 869	16 932	16 763	25 387	30 094	52 832	51 252
number.....	1 497 306	1 390 528	1 765 739	1 557 385	2 074 441	1 770 276	1 775 531	972 759
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹ farms.....	5 989	10 032	11 796	17 233	23 534	63 962	106 279	153 283
number.....	2 103 650	2 203 233	2 710 980	2 809 549	3 207 975	3 787 180	5 471 652	7 566 369
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms.....	73	99	117	188	181	370	529	353
number.....	2 201 169	2 410 306	2 858 936	4 729 589	5 040 981	11 001 722	13 645 331	5 818 230

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
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms...	25 067	31 301	34 612	39 495	36 505	60 203	99 197	133 278
acres...	1 048 809	1 342 981	1 334 024	975 401	864 818	960 643	1 581 268	1 864 813
bushels...	104 364 883	131 668 799	110 068 935	78 231 852	64 364 868	54 268 581	70 153 450	57 281 608
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	5 361	7 887	4 578	8 702	6 878	7 701	10 187	16 318
acres...	283 742	527 423	168 799	331 421	156 645	152 672	158 388	209 455
bushels...	12 752 191	19 653 581	5 994 647	10 460 083	5 271 900	4 908 327	3 877 314	5 160 623
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	8 765	12 628	12 265	11 032	6 395	4 643	4 289	3 885
acres...	1 021 903	1 462 360	1 235 201	874 551	391 458	236 135	181 019	126 836
bushels...	27 138 451	44 292 449	35 761 984	21 566 582	10 613 777	5 165 781	4 015 319	2 101 759
Tobacco ----- farms...	61 962	74 166	73 832	71 037	91 472	95 802	119 300	135 453
acres...	175 957	256 619	210 327	179 075	162 323	210 379	211 692	277 252
pounds...	336 364 307	538 759 894	448 196 163	388 147 707	375 548 718	396 114 908	335 099 159	411 725 612
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	51 362	49 641	54 131	54 601	55 439	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	1 796 635	1 466 050	1 511 427	1 308 729	1 280 296	1 556 114	1 471 039	1 445 996
tons, dry...	3 291 951	2 787 331	2 731 736	2 421 976	2 250 232	2 355 161	2 139 978	1 697 363

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.