

1987

Census of Agriculture

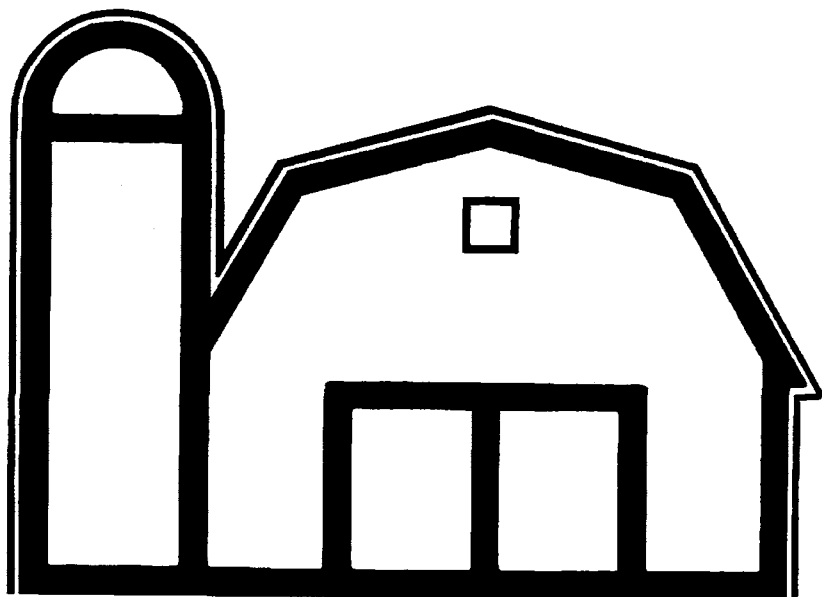
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Volume 1
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 21

Massachusetts

State and County Data



U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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Special tribute is paid to the millions of farm and ranch operators who furnished the information requested. Only through their cooperation was it possible to collect and publish the data in this report.

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Issued March 1989



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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	VII
Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1987 and 1982	1

FIGURES

1. State Map	2
2. Profile of State's Agriculture: 1987	3
3. Percent of Farms and of Value of Products Sold: 1987	4
4. Farms by Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1959 to 1987	4
5. Land Use: 1987	5
6. Selected Crops Harvested: 1987	5
7. Value of Livestock and Poultry Sold: 1987	6
8. Production Expenses: 1987	6

TABLES

CHAPTER 1. State Data

1. Historical Highlights: 1987 and Earlier Census Years	7
2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1987, 1982, and 1978	9
3. Farm Production Expenses: 1987, 1982, and 1978	10
4. Net Cash Return From Agricultural Sales: 1987	12
5. Government Payments and Other Farm-Related Income: 1987 and 1982	13
6. Commodity Credit Corporation Loans: 1987 and 1982	14
7. Land Use and Acres Diverted: 1987, 1982, and 1978	15
8. Land in Farms, Harvested Cropland, and Irrigated Land, by Size of Farm: 1987 and 1982	16
9. Irrigation: 1987, 1982, and 1978	16
10. Selected Characteristics of Irrigated and Nonirrigated Farms: 1987 and 1982	17
11. Value of Land and Buildings: 1987, 1982, and 1978	18
12. Value of Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1987 and 1982	18
13. Selected Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1987 and 1982	18
14. Petroleum Products Expenses: 1987, 1982, and 1978	19
15. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer and Lime: 1987, 1982, and 1978	19
16. Tenure and Characteristics of Operator and Type of Organization for All Farms and Farms Operated by Black and Other Races: 1987, 1982, and 1978	20
17. Selected Characteristics of Farms Operated by Females, Persons of Spanish Origin, and Specified Racial Groups: 1987 and 1982	21
18. Selected Characteristics of Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1987	23
19. Selected Characteristics of Abnormal Farms: 1987 and 1982	24
20. Livestock and Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1987, 1982, and 1978	25
21. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	25
22. Broilers and Started Pullets—Sales: 1987 and 1982	26
23. Poultry—Inventory and Sales by Size of Flock: 1987	26
24. Turkeys—Sales by Number Sold Per Farm: 1987	27
25. Cattle and Calves—Inventory: 1987 and 1982	27
26. Cattle and Calves—Sales: 1987 and 1982	28
27. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales by Size of Herd: 1987	28
28. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales by Size of Cow Herd: 1987	29
29. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales by Size of Beef Cow Herd: 1987	29
30. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales by Size of Milk Cow Herd: 1987	30
31. Cattle and Calves—Sales by Number Sold Per Farm: 1987	30
32. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory: 1987 and 1982	30
33. Hogs and Pigs—Sales: 1987 and 1982	31

	Page
34. Hogs and Pigs—Litters Farrowed: 1987 and 1982	31
35. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales by Size of Herd: 1987	31
36. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales by Number Sold Per Farm: 1987	32
37. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory, Sales, and Litters by Total Farrowed: 1987	32
38. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	32
39. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales by Size of Flock: 1987	33
40. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales by Size of Ewe Flock: 1987	33
41. Other Livestock and Livestock Products—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	34
42. Crops Harvested and Value of Production: 1987 and 1982	35
43. Specified Crops Harvested—Yield Per Acre Irrigated and Nonirrigated: 1987	35
44. Specified Crops by Acres Harvested: 1987 and 1982	36
45. Specified Fruits and Nuts by Acres: 1987 and 1982	37
46. Nursery and Greenhouse Crops, Mushrooms, and Sod Grown for Sale by Value of Sales: 1987 and 1982	37
47. Farms by Concentration of Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1987	38
48. Summary by Tenure of Operator: 1987	40
49. Summary by Type of Organization: 1987	49
50. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operator: 1987	58
51. Summary by Size of Farm: 1987	76
52. Summary by Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1987	94
53. Summary by Standard Industrial Classification of Farm: 1987	112

CHAPTER 2. County Data

1. County Summary Highlights: 1987	130
2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold and Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1987 and 1982	132
3. Farm Production Expenses: 1987 and 1982	136
4. Net Cash Return From Agricultural Sales, Government Payments, Other Farm-Related Income, and Commodity Credit Corporation Loans: 1987 and 1982	138
5. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1987 and 1982	140
6. Harvested Cropland by Size of Farm and Acres Harvested: 1987 and 1982	144
7. Irrigation: 1987 and 1982	146
8. Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1987 and 1982	148
9. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer and Lime: 1987 and 1982	150
10. Tenure and Characteristics of Operator and Type of Organization: 1987 and 1982	151
11. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	155
12. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory, Litters, and Sales: 1987 and 1982	159
13. Sheep and Horses—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	161
14. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	162
15. Selected Crops: 1987 and 1982	164
16. Farms With Sales of \$10,000 or More: 1987 and 1982	166
17. Milk Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	175
18. Angora Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	175
19. Mink and Their Pelts—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	175
20. Colonies of Bees and Honey—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	176
21. Fish Sales: 1987 and 1982	*
22. Miscellaneous Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	176
23. Miscellaneous Livestock and Animal Specialties—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	177
24. Grains—Corn, Sorghum, Wheat, and Other Small Grains: 1987 and 1982	178
25. Cotton, Tobacco, Soybeans, Dry Beans and Peas, Potatoes, Sugar Crops, and Peanuts: 1987 and 1982	179
26. Field Seeds, Grass Seeds, Hay, Forage, and Silage: 1987 and 1982	180
27. Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons Harvested for Sale: 1987 and 1982	182
28. Fruits and Nuts: 1987 and 1982	189
29. Berries Harvested for Sale: 1987 and 1982	191
30. Nursery and Greenhouse Crops, Mushrooms, and Sod Grown for Sale: 1987 and 1982	193
31. Other Crops: 1987 and 1982	196
32. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Value of Sales and Occupation: 1987 and 1982	196
33. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Tenure: 1987 and 1982	196
34. Operators by Selected Racial Groups: 1987 and 1982	197
35. Operators of Spanish Origin: 1987 and 1982	197
36. Farms With Grazing Permits: 1987	198

APPENDIXES

A.	General Explanation	A-1
B.	Places With All Cropland in the Conservation Reserve Program	B-1
C.	Statistical Methodology	C-1
D.	Report Form and Information Sheet	D-1

Index	Index 1
Publication Program	Inside back cover

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INTRODUCTION

	Page
HISTORY	VII
USES OF THE CENSUS	VII
AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED	VII
FARM DEFINITION	VII
COMPARABILITY OF DATA	VII
TABULAR PRESENTATION	VII
ADVANCE REPORTS	VIII
ELECTRONIC DATA DISSEMINATION	VIII
SPECIAL TABULATIONS	VIII
CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES	VIII
INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA	VIII
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS	VIII

HISTORY

The 1987 Census of Agriculture is the 23d taken by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The first agriculture census was taken in 1840 as part of the sixth decennial census of population. From 1840 to 1950, an agriculture census was taken as part of the decennial census. A separate mid-decade census of agriculture was conducted in 1925, 1935, and 1945. From 1954 to 1974, a census of agriculture was taken for the years ending in 4 and 9. In 1976, Congress authorized the census of agriculture to be taken for 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data reference year so that it coincided with the economic censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. This adjustment in timing established the agriculture census on a 5-year cycle collecting data for years ending in 2 and 7.

USES OF THE CENSUS

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the Nation's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the county, State, and national levels. Census statistics are used by Congress in developing and changing farm programs and for determining the effects of these programs. Many national and State programs are designed or allocated on the basis of census data, such as funds for extension services, research, and soil conservation projects. Private industry uses census statistics to provide a more effective production and distribution system for the agricultural community.

AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

The census of agriculture is required by law under Title 13, United States Code, sections 142(a) and 191, which directs that a census be taken in 1979, 1983, and in every

fifth year after 1983 covering the prior year. The 1987 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Island of the United States. A census of agriculture will be conducted in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in conjunction with the 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

FARM DEFINITION

Since 1850, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes first were established, the farm definition has been changed nine times. The current definition, first used for the 1974 census, is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. The farm definition used for the outlying areas varies according to area. The report for each area includes a discussion of the farm definition.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Data on acreages and inventories for 1987 and 1982 are generally comparable. Dollar figures shown for expenses and agricultural product sales are expressed in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation or deflation. In general, data for censuses since 1974 are not fully comparable with data for 1969 and earlier censuses due to changes in the farm definition.

The 1978 U.S., region, and State data shown in the 1978 Census of Agriculture publications included data for farms on the mail list plus estimates from an area sample for farms not on the mail list. For comparability, the 1978 data in the 1987 publications include only farms on the mail list.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

State data—Tables 1 through 47 in chapter 1 show detailed State-level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more past censuses. Tables 48 through 53 provide 1987 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

County data—Chapter 2 presents selected data items by county. Tables 1 through 16 include general data for all counties. The counties are listed in alphabetical order in the column headings. Tables 17 through 36 include only

counties reporting the data item. Counties not having the item, or with a limited number of farms reporting the item, have data combined and presented as "all other counties."

ADVANCE REPORTS

Advance reports of 1987 census data have been published separately for each county with 10 farms or more, each State, and the United States. This series provided, at the earliest possible date, final data on major data items together with comparable final data from the 1982 census. Data items are standard across States except information on selected crops harvested, which vary by State according to their relative importance in the State.

ELECTRONIC DATA DISSEMINATION

The volume 1 data are available on computer tapes and compact disc. The advance report data are available on computer tapes, computer diskettes, and through electronic data services such as the AGRIDATA network, the CENDATA package on Dialog, CompuServe on-line services, and the Census Bureau's State Data Center Bulletin Board. Computer tapes, diskettes, and compact discs are sold by the Customer Services Branch, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233 (telephone (301) 763-4100).

SPECIAL TABULATIONS

Custom designed tabulations can be developed to individual user specifications on a programming cost reimbursable basis. Inquiries about special tabulations should be directed to the Chief, Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of Title 13, United States Code, no data are published that would disclose the operations of an individual farm. However, the number of

farms in a given size category or other classification, such as size of farm, is not considered a release of confidential information and is provided even though other information is withheld.

INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA

Inventories of livestock, poultry, and machinery and equipment are measured as of December 31 of the census year. Crop and livestock production, sales, and expense data are for the calendar year, except for a few crops (such as citrus) for which the production year overlaps the calendar year.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Represents zero.
- (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
- (IC) Independent city.
- (NA) Not available.
- (S) Withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the response rate (associated relative standard error) or a consistency review.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit shown.
- cwt Hundredweight.
- sq ft Square feet.

Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1987 and 1982

[Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	All farms		
	1987	1982	Percent change from 1982 to 1987
Farms.....number..	6 216	5 401	15.1
Land in farms.....acres..	615 185	612 819	.4
Average size of farm.....acres..	99	113	-12.4
Value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm.....dollars..	346 530	205 677	68.5
Average per acre.....dollars..	3 553	1 963	81.0
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres.....	1 105	920	20.1
10 to 49 acres.....	2 125	1 652	28.6
50 to 179 acres.....	2 016	1 814	11.1
180 to 499 acres.....	813	856	-5.0
500 to 999 acres.....	126	130	-3.1
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	26	21	23.8
2,000 acres or more.....	5	8	-37.5
Harvested cropland.....farms..	5 084	4 608	10.3
Irrigated land.....acres..	194 874	197 769	-1.5
.....farms..	1 316	1 000	31.6
.....acres..	20 158	17 331	16.3
Market value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000..	340 464	281 436	21.0
Average per farm.....dollars..	54 772	52 108	5.1
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000..	215 855	139 428	54.8
Grains.....\$1,000..	785	836	-6.2
Cotton and cottonseed.....\$1,000..	-	-	-
Tobacco.....\$1,000..	4 587	2 494	83.9
Hay, silage, and field seeds.....\$1,000..	7 803	5 624	38.7
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons.....\$1,000..	25 179	19 199	31.1
Fruits, nuts, and berries.....\$1,000..	92 349	60 925	51.6
Nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000..	80 867	46 465	74.0
Other crops.....\$1,000..	4 285	3 884	10.3
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000..	124 609	142 008	-12.3
Poultry and poultry products.....\$1,000..	23 149	25 456	-9.1
Dairy products.....\$1,000..	63 309	80 840	-21.7
Cattle and calves.....\$1,000..	11 297	12 212	-7.5
Hogs and pigs.....\$1,000..	4 220	4 497	-6.1
Sheep, lambs, and wool.....\$1,000..	884	445	98.8
Other livestock and livestock products (see text).....\$1,000..	21 749	18 559	17.2
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	5 124	4 541	12.8
Partnership.....	481	377	27.6
Corporation.....	544	413	31.7
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	67	70	-4.3
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming.....	3 174	2 941	7.9
Other.....	3 042	2 460	23.7
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any.....	3 516	2 897	21.4
200 days or more.....	2 283	1 838	24.2
Average age of operator.....years..	52.6	51.5	2.1
Total farm production expenses ¹farms..	6 216	(NA)	(NA)
.....\$1,000..	251 496	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :			
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000..	11 441	11 468	-2
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000..	33 525	47 203	-29.0
Commercial fertilizer ²\$1,000..	8 953	7 155	25.1
Agricultural chemicals ²\$1,000..	7 319	4 885	49.8
Petroleum products.....\$1,000..	12 042	16 641	-27.6
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000..	66 579	43 109	54.4
Interest expense ³\$1,000..	13 788	10 141	36.0
Livestock and poultry inventory:			
Cattle and calves.....farms..	2 112	2 311	-8.6
.....number..	83 065	102 366	-18.9
Milk cows.....farms..	838	1 111	-24.6
.....number..	36 913	49 891	-26.0
Hogs and pigs.....farms..	498	619	-19.5
.....number..	25 816	39 570	-34.8
Chickens 3 months old or older.....farms..	738	727	1.5
.....number..	1 502 202	1 276 406	17.7
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed.....farms..	152	165	-7.9
.....acres..	5 681	6 077	-6.5
Corn for silage or green chop.....farms..	604	886	-31.8
.....acres..	28 643	37 553	-23.7
Irish potatoes.....farms..	93	136	-31.6
.....acres..	2 628	3 759	-30.1
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text).....farms..	2 874	2 663	7.9
.....acres..	121 498	116 729	4.1
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text).....farms..	1 008	1 011	-3
.....acres..	16 325	15 307	6.7
Land in orchards.....farms..	572	489	17.0
.....acres..	9 379	9 332	.5

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

²Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications.

³Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.