

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.....	85 079	94 382	98 671	98 537	110 747	131 163	145 662	165 225
Land in farms.....acres.....	26 573 819	27 708 456	28 459 790	27 605 228	28 785 240	30 804 980	30 796 097	32 284 539
Average size of farm.....acres.....	312	294	288	280	260	235	211	195
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	218 808	342 593	261 096	120 311	58 714	39 075	32 605	21 051
Average per acre.....dollars.....	700	1 165	898	429	226	166	154	108
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000.....	4 736 828	5 719 009	4 578 958	2 772 939	1 346 881	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	55 741	60 671	46 432	29 042	12 349	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	4 613	4 547	3 472	2 652	2 983	2 433	2 925	5 676
10 to 49 acres.....	9 481	10 461	8 775	6 846	6 459	8 237	10 128	12 066
50 to 179 acres.....	24 947	29 258	32 267	34 443	40 973	52 544	63 776	77 163
180 to 499 acres.....	30 963	35 897	40 461	42 356	49 482	58 948	62 223	64 511
500 to 999 acres.....	10 814	10 602	10 593	9 637	8 915	7 737	5 773	5 084
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	3 619	2 935	2 529	2 160	1 630	1 084		
2,000 acres or more.....	642	682	574	443	305	180	837	725
Total cropland..... farms.....	79 461	88 399	94 255	95 160	106 665	127 259	140 444	158 378
.....acres.....	21 876 086	22 189 292	22 577 389	21 320 870	22 260 500	22 243 431	21 930 152	22 192 962
Harvested cropland..... farms.....	76 537	85 948	92 257	92 776	102 876	124 424	137 204	156 315
.....acres.....	16 635 264	19 722 645	19 122 640	17 896 490	15 649 057	17 514 799	18 917 911	19 492 565
Irrigated land..... farms.....	2 425	2 172	2 031	853	575	470	387	347
.....acres.....	353 504	315 376	271 704	77 823	36 365	17 510	14 991	9 207
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000.....	5 676 376	5 939 629	4 523 148	3 469 923	1 747 892	1 375 606	1 211 750	983 995
Average per farm.....dollars.....	66 719	62 932	45 841	35 214	15 782	10 488	8 319	5 955
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	2 500 827	2 671 482	2 075 014	1 757 546	558 568	468 725	371 890	348 126
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	3 175 549	3 268 146	2 448 134	1 710 584	1 187 951	903 763	837 066	633 976
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	11 915	11 987	11 852	13 625	22 556	30 064	34 523	51 173
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	6 509	6 764	8 209	7 564	13 282	20 968	28 223	40 588
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	8 293	8 655	10 827	12 068	20 976	33 872	44 546	46 975
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	13 588	15 430	19 619				38 261	23 503
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	12 983	16 203	20 122	59 098	52 676	45 695	-	3 008
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	15 385	18 286	18 069				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	15 546	16 262	9 543	5 921	1 182	537	-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	860	785	412	239	47	-	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	75 105	83 010	87 652	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	7 952	9 530	9 458	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	1 755	1 582	1 396	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	267	260	165	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	40 625	44 804	49 144	43 722	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	102 094
Any.....	39 567	40 289	43 387	32 260	49 805	48 383	51 530	59 704
200 days or more.....	22 006	21 334	22 745	17 183	22 503	17 867	17 126	16 925
Operators by principal occupation ⁷ :								
Farming.....	58 519	67 742	71 086	77 635	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	26 560	26 640	27 585	20 058	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁸years.....	48.5	47.2	47.7	49.8	49.2	48.9	48.1	47.8
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	4 427 445	(NA)	(NA)	2 365 111	1 368 547	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	541 852	557 597	478 298	316 383	237 344	148 861	142 103	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	747 728	711 701	496 206	415 271	234 705	207 382	211 875	153 886
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000.....	328 661	374 854	317 597	256 096	84 911	54 868	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	249 831	424 167	219 952	150 199	91 008	87 998	78 599	73 707
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	244 055	207 615	158 571	90 350	60 020	43 872	42 435	41 123
Interest expense ⁹\$1,000.....	446 200	712 786	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000.....	218 630	224 044	123 394	73 083	28 385	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory..... farms.....	40 222	51 589	54 088	61 811	71 366	100 386	113 028	139 038
.....number.....	2 700 095	3 377 956	3 271 602	3 665 505	3 632 990	4 281 480	3 597 799	3 641 616
Beef cows..... farms.....	15 528	20 435	21 997	26 342	(NA)	28 170	(NA)	(NA)
.....number.....	360 153	467 732	490 976	657 260	513 923	411 090	250 771	255 596
Milk cows..... farms.....	17 454	24 178	25 911	32 227	42 442	70 303	90 518	122 416
.....number.....	709 832	839 302	766 494	827 699	894 405	1 236 983	1 215 696	1 344 180
Cattle and calves sold..... farms.....	39 972	50 186	53 369	60 460	72 157	97 980	106 836	126 164
.....number.....	1 474 577	1 759 452	1 850 780	1 804 408	2 099 605	2 205 472	1 801 729	1 442 713
Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms.....	16 042	20 813	25 703	27 538	37 495	55 455	84 248	97 529
.....number.....	4 236 500	4 473 181	4 089 987	2 991 801	3 295 731	3 396 494	4 706 532	4 271 414
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms.....	16 652	21 802	26 253	29 584	39 058	54 549	75 920	88 597
.....number.....	8 073 029	8 007 312	6 624 072	5 398 595	5 488 114	5 810 108	5 971 188	4 359 771
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹ farms.....	4 003	6 468	8 555	12 507	19 565	47 904	86 067	120 352
.....number.....	12 124 965	12 928 376	11 697 301	9 751 990	11 110 929	14 648 678	22 190 474	27 401 298
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms.....	1 000	1 411	1 485	1 516	669	163	164	240
.....number.....	27 356 247	22 556 750	11 253 054	6 057 267	8 917 267	8 320 064	3 969 868	2 503 049

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...	51 355	57 612	62 696	60 791	66 738	83 677	103 995	113 688
acres...	4 756 348	5 904 579	5 777 316	5 122 623	3 830 004	4 365 263	5 920 052	4 573 049
bushels...	567 384 166	610 113 278	569 665 483	320 003 959	329 550 806	248 509 144	296 391 285	230 469 924
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	20 238	21 070	23 577	27 264	24 927	30 204	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	2 444 294	2 972 376	2 479 152	2 586 938	829 809	939 410	946 673	685 910
bushels...	97 967 169	111 500 972	80 968 259	74 728 537	24 770 473	21 133 273	21 535 651	9 739 232
Oats for grain ----- farms...	25 984	38 907	47 103	(NA)	(NA)	87 757	107 204	126 704
acres...	730 864	1 290 191	1 665 246	(NA)	(NA)	3 043 468	3 568 372	4 926 560
bushels...	39 554 088	78 684 380	89 529 688	(NA)	(NA)	135 362 127	157 080 385	168 580 025
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	36 348	38 867	39 129	41 009	43 372	58 785	57 865	55 921
acres...	4 384 981	4 501 543	3 730 704	3 323 124	2 664 288	2 780 559	2 187 133	1 909 403
bushels...	166 025 760	151 240 357	122 566 278	73 735 439	65 148 454	55 052 307	41 379 627	40 157 705
Sunflower seed ----- farms...	683	2 747	3 020	(NA)	(NA)	268	87	81
acres...	82 278	467 408	598 062	(NA)	(NA)	15 377	2 978	3 354
pounds...	117 623 254	516 667 385	845 914 201	(NA)	(NA)	10 522 288	2 805 632	2 479 360
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	46 531	53 227	59 708	64 244	73 134	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	2 418 800	2 504 795	2 712 400	2 772 029	2 726 569	3 540 771	3 433 635	3 847 495
tons, dry...	5 920 884	6 623 748	7 292 173	6 512 436	6 907 951	6 856 348	6 404 474	6 726 812

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.