

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...	106 105	112 447	114 963	115 711	137 067	147 315	168 672	201 614
Land in farms.....acres...	29 209 187	29 266 609	30 098 727	29 801 127	32 420 284	32 691 618	33 155 226	34 195 379
Average size of farm.....acres...	275	260	262	258	237	222	197	170
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars...	175 612	223 247	191 130	102 074	53 034	33 451	22 094	13 815
Average per acre.....dollars...	640	856	723	396	224	150	112	81
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000...	3 007 852	3 418 269	2 874 828	1 876 041	987 604	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars...	28 432	30 450	25 043	17 311	7 543	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	4 960	4 713	4 309	3 498	4 662	3 080	5 408	11 191
10 to 49 acres.....	17 028	19 050	15 772	13 919	16 823	21 294	26 216	35 107
50 to 179 acres.....	37 413	40 513	42 921	44 752	54 252	59 560	70 618	88 026
180 to 499 acres.....	30 423	32 292	35 923	38 543	46 813	50 350	55 737	58 606
500 to 999 acres.....	11 413	11 561	12 200	11 668	11 794	10 734	9 037	7 210
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	3 990	3 566	3 213	2 822	2 327	1 943	1 656	1 474
2,000 acres or more.....	878	752	625	509	396	354		
Total cropland.....farms...	93 434	100 593	105 339	107 673	127 337	134 608	153 354	181 115
acres.....	19 378 031	19 376 192	20 283 258	19 339 032	20 954 640	17 960 340	18 170 187	17 705 129
Harvested cropland.....farms...	80 396	86 837	92 385	93 357	105 853	119 569	136 089	162 726
acres...	11 655 304	12 725 378	12 433 661	11 764 849	10 035 742	11 067 975	12 177 822	12 365 630
Irrigated land.....farms...	2 823	2 037	2 136	1 310	1 386	822	590	752
acres...	534 795	402 914	320 387	150 446	155 862	59 426	29 957	32 998
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000...	3 644 988	3 606 856	3 310 781	2 304 081	1 460 033	1 053 094	1 011 892	733 734
Average per farm.....dollars...	34 353	32 076	28 799	19 912	10 651	7 149	5 999	3 639
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000...	1 460 850	1 546 664	1 391 659	1 061 698	397 586	401 592	360 089	269 936
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000...	2 184 138	2 060 191	1 919 122	1 237 757	1 058 581	647 314	648 855	462 291
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	23 075	26 779	20 351	35 341	52 088	69 455	76 698	120 953
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	15 353	16 764	17 420	16 516	22 787	24 888	34 479	37 062
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	17 881	17 693	20 206	18 105	23 346	23 778	30 398	28 307
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	20 749	20 144	24 264				27 033	12 719
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	11 212	11 909	14 847	41 907	37 727	28 680		2 581
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	8 943	10 004	10 969					
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	8 399	8 713	6 591	3 699	1 046			
\$500,000 or more.....	493	413	270	102	44	482		
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	94 574	99 370	101 807	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	9 050	10 733	11 401	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	2 096	2 020	1 558	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	385	324	197	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	40 016	41 586	45 595	39 392		(NA)		110 656
Any.....	58 409	61 466	63 617	52 359	75 104	69 611	74 592	88 078
200 days or more.....	40 925	41 189	41 811	34 375	43 954	38 595	38 660	37 940
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	53 694	58 511	60 765	70 094	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	52 411	53 936	54 198	44 733	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years...	52.9	51.0	50.6	52.1	52.0	52.5	51.8	51.2
Total farm production expenses ⁷\$1,000...	2 804 630	(NA)	(NA)	1 738 856	1 187 850	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000...	397 299	383 293	395 651	245 455	250 327	134 774	131 373	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000...	552 814	593 598	510 582	430 781	257 067	200 000	167 699	154 356
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000...	239 254	255 645	208 886	181 098	88 868	67 938	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000...	176 852	258 582	159 754	111 493	70 481	61 423	53 886	44 824
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000...	163 868	141 232	115 205	70 235	56 744	46 376	45 346	41 719
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000...	277 614	393 388	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000...	135 348	130 122	88 879	57 628	34 092	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms...	73 738	81 927	84 365	89 009	101 444	123 447	140 466	175 921
number.....	4 158 226	4 664 498	4 813 408	5 297 947	4 815 932	4 522 108	3 833 198	3 778 383
Beef cows.....farms...	61 049	67 102	70 381	72 729	(NA)	89 163	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	1 818 969	1 933 477	2 056 924	2 335 612	1 863 144	1 550 094	1 091 821	1 019 966
Milk cows.....farms...	7 712	11 320	13 829	17 712	28 022	57 398	94 273	144 879
number.....	242 039	267 753	248 301	259 964	309 319	460 849	612 964	796 549
Cattle and calves sold.....farms...	73 947	79 806	84 940	87 751	100 641	113 482	128 635	142 457
number.....	2 514 867	2 496 490	2 904 931	2 554 557	3 003 328	2 434 636	2 074 724	1 825 710
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms...	14 985	22 589	32 616	31 100	48 219	62 895	100 432	109 079
number.....	2 581 954	3 166 443	3 837 579	2 911 525	4 249 638	3 853 704	4 776 937	3 192 994
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms...	15 306	23 444	33 370	33 796	49 701	58 846	88 210	92 507
number.....	4 804 123	5 894 874	6 441 818	5 559 106	7 219 227	6 181 497	5 850 746	3 642 438
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹farms...	7 485	11 304	12 951	17 792	26 423	62 044	107 377	153 186
number.....	8 235 467	7 314 637	7 867 222	7 917 604	7 504 934	7 416 625	10 170 204	14 249 094
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms...	316	356	363	467	361	559	977	1 330
number.....	40 991 224	21 466 182	17 576 578	16 879 231	13 179 941	28 133 321	34 014 662	18 413 839

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...	25 921	25 323	31 616	38 819	49 482	64 423	94 969	84 908
acres...	2 069 238	1 892 882	2 201 675	2 558 860	2 654 981	2 832 801	3 920 894	2 838 878
bushels...	218 093 408	178 722 297	184 789 444	137 211 116	169 466 544	149 474 160	201 053 308	66 254 206
Sorghum for grain or seed ----- farms...	9 258	10 317	13 769	8 921	5 275	7 108	19 242	4 119
acres...	625 047	746 547	809 384	455 750	198 938	188 727	477 683	63 758
bushels...	50 759 064	54 910 329	59 901 303	22 239 428	11 820 028	9 033 604	20 747 742	1 137 496
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	12 683	29 507	17 564	27 736	34 110	45 707	61 685	(NA)
acres...	750 208	2 044 839	824 801	1 237 112	906 377	1 458 163	1 472 443	(NA)
bushels...	31 939 663	68 338 008	27 277 966	34 764 459	26 961 174	44 525 013	35 731 219	(NA)
Oats for grain ----- farms...	3 480	3 935	1 934	(NA)	(NA)	19 273	32 832	64 904
acres...	66 414	67 913	28 187	(NA)	(NA)	292 403	594 520	1 306 522
bushels...	2 712 492	2 840 632	1 133 786	(NA)	(NA)	10 396 790	15 645 290	48 509 380
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	33 489	38 820	41 137	40 893	41 119	43 870	42 757	40 391
acres...	4 827 272	5 286 129	5 167 477	4 065 228	3 027 227	2 600 576	2 206 548	1 701 071
bushels...	148 272 506	153 691 360	140 836 086	87 981 623	75 475 951	53 465 637	47 441 259	23 596 231
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	60 138	63 951	70 364	69 622	73 913	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	3 138 012	2 970 014	3 268 002	2 938 842	2 555 896	2 940 900	2 471 427	2 592 158
tons, dry...	5 409 063	5 575 960	5 749 474	5 080 402	4 916 929	4 758 131	3 882 963	3 265 085

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.