

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..	24 568	23 570	23 565	23 324	24 951	27 020	28 959	33 061
Land in farms.....acres..	60 203 993	60 539 209	61 690 919	62 158 351	62 918 247	65 833 760	64 081 391	61 468 903
Average size of farm.....acres..	2 451	2 568	2 618	2 665	2 522	2 437	2 213	1 859
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars..	505 526	677 995	512 791	298 070	150 222	103 271	76 761	44 653
Average per acre.....dollars..	205	259	195	112	60	42	35	24
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000..	1 488 238	1 567 780	1 245 732	752 934	421 206	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars..	60 754	66 632	52 956	33 257	17 304	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	1 940	1 551	1 255	1 177	1 283	704	675	1 455
10 to 49 acres.....	2 745	2 673	1 889	1 550	1 485	1 641	1 690	1 893
50 to 179 acres.....	3 019	3 080	2 987	2 707	2 791	3 393	3 804	4 800
180 to 499 acres.....	3 315	3 097	3 420	3 436	3 757	4 396	4 938	5 952
500 to 999 acres.....	2 737	2 640	2 928	2 990	3 339	3 954	4 671	5 553
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	3 460	3 345	4 011	4 053	4 700	5 101		
2,000 acres or more.....	7 352	7 184	7 075	7 411	7 596	7 831	13 181	13 408
Total cropland..... farms..	21 064	20 717	21 437	21 368	22 709	25 212	27 486	31 218
acres..	17 829 766	16 452 331	16 232 608	15 445 720	16 108 575	15 388 431	15 077 767	14 508 389
Harvested cropland..... farms..	19 267	19 279	20 313	20 376	21 404	24 308	26 726	30 575
acres..	9 128 013	9 365 775	8 741 043	8 426 881	7 937 203	7 812 612	8 158 899	8 414 058
Irrigated land..... farms..	9 520	9 226	9 384	8 714	9 197	10 843	11 935	13 114
acres..	1 996 882	2 023 003	2 069 531	1 759 040	1 841 421	1 893 360	1 874 520	1 890 671
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000..	1 547 286	1 547 160	1 177 454	1 033 239	575 802	389 659	377 401	339 481
Average per farm.....dollars..	62 980	65 641	49 966	44 299	23 077	14 421	13 032	10 268
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000..	639 202	759 171	488 486	549 876	189 423	171 610	160 656	184 581
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000..	908 084	787 989	688 968	480 277	384 878	216 719	215 139	153 977
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	4 320	3 914	2 842	3 340	4 525	5 886	6 469	9 654
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	2 006	1 795	1 991	1 655	2 375	3 522	4 024	6 003
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	2 374	2 295	2 538	2 520	3 800	5 518	6 570	7 760
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	3 912	3 703	4 573				11 691	6 905
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	3 695	3 592	4 757	13 565	13 512	11 753	-	2 581
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	4 064	3 928	4 024				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	3 945	3 981	2 567	2 036	597		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	252	263	160	106	49	251	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	19 506	18 842	19 042	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	2 147	2 099	2 305	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	2 656	2 336	2 012	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	259	293	206	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	12 162	10 964	12 114	9 952	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	20 883
Any.....	10 764	10 108	10 079	7 284	10 651	9 918	10 523	11 501
200 days or more.....	5 607	5 272	5 016	3 704	4 802	4 358	4 281	4 394
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	17 405	16 898	16 855	16 967	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	7 163	6 672	6 710	4 948	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years..	51.4	50.5	50.0	51.1	50.0	49.7	48.9	48.8
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000..	1 288 298	(NA)	(NA)	769 064	464 392	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000..	191 557	165 312	155 273	124 203	104 277	56 297	37 664	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000..	119 817	110 919	108 728	123 454	49 761	28 256	27 179	17 224
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000..	79 449	79 823	64 950	39 053	14 132	7 676	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000..	100 191	136 526	77 033	53 253	32 484	31 230	27 379	24 881
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000..	102 470	84 462	70 884	47 288	36 955	29 127	28 250	26 705
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000..	157 891	207 237	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000..	64 461	43 347	27 945	12 523	3 976	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory..... farms..	14 866	15 822	15 887	16 937	17 851	20 792	22 017	26 724
number.....	2 591 391	2 918 599	2 786 829	3 211 584	2 933 897	2 873 425	2 458 512	2 600 105
Beef cows..... farms..	13 073	13 942	14 139	15 144	(NA)	17 940	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	1 399 949	1 528 036	1 473 507	1 690 839	1 506 150	1 397 736	1 088 604	1 082 512
Milk cows..... farms..	1 732	2 594	3 183	4 003	5 876	10 305	14 575	19 980
number.....	26 879	29 447	29 306	31 637	36 831	55 102	73 398	98 716
Cattle and calves sold..... farms..	14 718	15 325	15 853	16 773	17 902	19 724	19 944	22 958
number.....	1 644 768	1 778 047	1 742 652	1 831 367	1 944 478	1 419 875	1 188 745	1 108 352
Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms..	1 406	1 643	2 433	2 717	3 379	4 740	7 962	9 993
number.....	200 663	195 949	211 350	212 456	216 925	168 052	188 777	129 088
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms..	1 343	1 562	2 318	2 731	3 196	3 701	4 838	5 677
number.....	327 855	311 634	311 070	373 412	323 125	249 832	200 709	110 260
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹ farms..	2 102	2 824	3 130	3 758	5 258	11 073	16 850	22 870
number.....	978 754	1 022 336	886 813	980 156	969 629	993 188	1 259 164	1 628 605
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms..	100	110	119	108	63	9	19	2
number.....	84 676	18 440	36 111	31 706	18 869	44 960	66 700	6 500

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:								
Wheat for grain ----- farms--	10 375	9 982	10 726	11 779	13 328	15 513	(NA)	(NA)
acres--	4 703 455	5 215 965	4 799 795	4 729 604	3 669 549	3 742 718	3 728 914	4 270 358
bushels--	143 802 744	159 093 238	134 207 558	109 127 964	94 305 823	87 632 232	70 909 534	74 142 991
Barley for grain----- farms--	9 621	8 283	8 274	(NA)	(NA)	12 996	15 498	15 946
acres--	1 900 275	1 613 964	1 263 343	(NA)	(NA)	1 474 033	1 743 001	1 172 418
bushels--	79 606 320	72 135 565	52 228 599	(NA)	(NA)	45 972 305	47 093 465	28 078 313
Oats for grain ----- farms--	2 345	3 118	3 473	(NA)	(NA)	6 182	7 757	9 838
acres--	132 308	168 097	173 074	(NA)	(NA)	222 538	231 652	252 283
bushels--	6 356 871	8 068 970	8 414 059	(NA)	(NA)	7 966 257	7 084 953	7 228 686
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms--	13 701	14 116	15 374	14 883	15 977	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres--	2 135 438	2 238 390	2 324 110	2 158 312	2 189 762	2 115 854	2 106 631	2 277 505
tons, dry--	3 858 349	4 335 853	4 319 247	3 658 936	3 602 073	3 220 962	2 751 315	2 714 083

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.