

1987

Census of

Agriculture

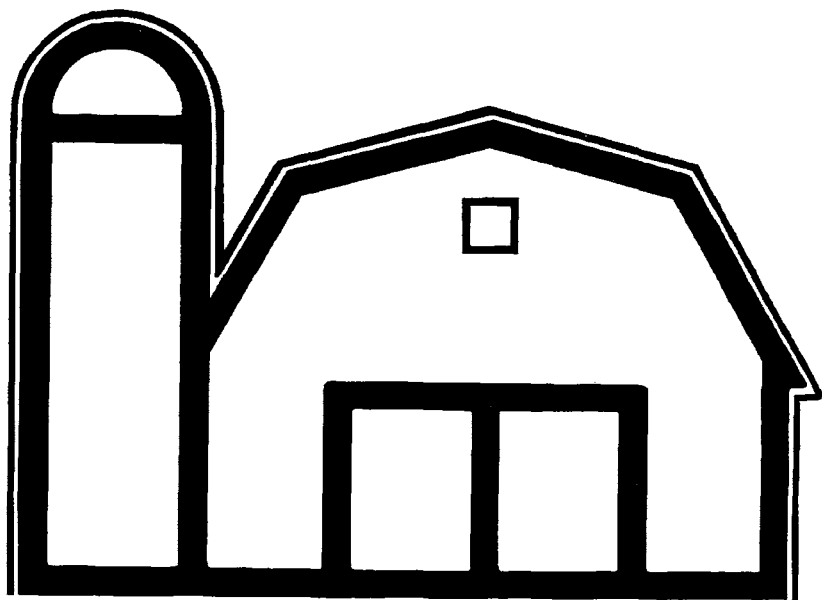
AC87-A-27

Volume 1
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 27

Nebraska

State and County Data



U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division. Many other divisions contributed to this preparation: Data Preparation performed the clerical processing; Administrative Services provided the forms design and other administrative services; Publications Services contributed in publication planning and design, editorial review, composition, and printing procurement; Computer Services provided the computer processing facilities; Field provided selected data collection activities; Economic Programming prepared the computer programs; and Economic Surveys assisted in preparation of data collection and processing procedures and computer programs.

Members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and representatives of both public and private

organizations made significant recommendations which helped establish data content.

Members of various agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided valuable advice in the planning, publicizing, and processing phases of the census, and in helping farmers and ranchers complete the report forms.

The press, farm magazines, radio and television stations, and farm organizations were most helpful in publicizing the census and encouraging cooperation of farm and ranch operators.

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 June 1989



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for Economic Affairs

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Census of agriculture (1987). Geographic area series.
1987 census of agriculture. Geographic area series.

Includes indexes.

Supt. of Docs. no.: C 3.31/4:987/v.1

1. Agriculture—Economic aspects—United States—
Statistics. 2. Agriculture—Economic aspects—United
States—States—Statistics. 3. Agriculture—Economic
aspects—United States—Territories and possessions
—Statistics. I. United States. Bureau of the Census.

II. Title.

HD1769.C46 1987 338.1'0973'021 88-600103

For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government
Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

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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.....	60 502	60 243	.4
Land in farms.....acres.....	45 305 441	44 961 371	.8
Average size of farm.....acres.....	749	746	.4
Value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm.....dollars.....	344 253	532 741	-35.4
Average per acre.....dollars.....	457	701	-34.8
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres.....	5 090	4 162	22.3
10 to 49 acres.....	4 296	4 062	5.8
50 to 179 acres.....	11 166	11 100	.6
180 to 499 acres.....	17 320	19 128	-9.5
500 to 999 acres.....	12 153	11 847	2.6
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	6 494	6 036	7.6
2,000 acres or more.....	3 983	3 908	1.9
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	51 175	52 497	-2.5
.....acres.....	15 276 151	17 075 625	-10.5
Irrigated land.....farms.....	22 596	22 190	1.8
.....acres.....	5 681 835	6 039 292	-5.9
Market value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000.....	6 667 132	6 625 742	.6
Average per farm.....dollars.....	110 197	109 984	.2
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	2 139 116	2 379 811	-10.1
Grains.....\$1,000.....	2 004 451	2 243 647	-10.7
Cotton and cottonseed.....\$1,000.....	-	-	-
Tobacco.....\$1,000.....	-	-	-
Hay, silage, and field seeds.....\$1,000.....	76 675	86 131	-11.0
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons.....\$1,000.....	1 848	1 073	72.2
Fruits, nuts, and berries.....\$1,000.....	818	527	55.0
Nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	9 545	8 770	8.8
Other crops.....\$1,000.....	45 781	39 662	15.4
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	4 528 016	4 245 931	6.6
Poultry and poultry products.....\$1,000.....	54 434	43 522	25.1
Dairy products.....\$1,000.....	130 993	134 745	-2.8
Cattle and calves.....\$1,000.....	3 564 895	3 331 472	7.0
Hogs and pigs.....\$1,000.....	746 507	709 743	5.2
Sheep, lambs, and wool.....\$1,000.....	18 517	15 455	19.8
Other livestock and livestock products (see text).....\$1,000.....	12 671	10 994	15.3
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	51 749	51 323	.8
Partnership.....	5 212	5 608	-7.1
Corporation.....	3 209	3 013	6.5
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	332	299	11.0
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming.....	45 387	47 549	-4.5
Other.....	15 115	12 694	19.1
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any.....	24 403	21 933	11.3
200 days or more.....	13 099	10 764	21.7
Average age of operator.....years.....	49.4	48.5	1.9
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	5 409 171	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :			
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	1 904 830	1 760 168	8.2
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	801 077	843 922	-5.1
Commercial fertilizer ²\$1,000.....	269 359	325 124	-17.2
Agricultural chemicals ²\$1,000.....	154 483	141 128	9.5
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	267 854	386 465	-30.7
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	261 094	167 515	55.9
Interest expense ³\$1,000.....	368 642	613 708	-39.9
Livestock and poultry inventory:			
Cattle and calves.....farms.....	34 701	39 555	-12.3
.....number.....	5 838 806	6 530 561	-10.6
Milk cows.....farms.....	3 339	4 686	-28.7
.....number.....	105 168	117 536	-10.5
Hogs and pigs.....farms.....	13 363	15 998	-16.5
.....number.....	3 944 227	3 963 364	-.5
Chickens 3 months old or older.....farms.....	4 225	5 791	-27.0
.....number.....	3 621 152	3 604 279	.5
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed.....farms.....	34 717	34 573	.4
.....acres.....	6 090 669	6 519 250	-6.6
Corn for silage or green chop.....farms.....	4 208	8 158	-48.4
.....acres.....	181 060	384 470	-52.9
Sorghum for grain or seed.....farms.....	12 576	15 106	-16.7
.....acres.....	1 300 713	1 657 237	-21.5
Wheat for grain.....farms.....	18 124	20 182	-10.2
.....acres.....	1 962 051	2 585 111	-24.1
Oats for grain.....farms.....	8 165	10 852	-24.8
.....acres.....	280 502	396 520	-29.3
Soybeans for beans.....farms.....	25 598	21 487	19.1
.....acres.....	2 291 803	2 105 816	8.8
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text).....farms.....	30 224	33 840	-10.7
.....acres.....	2 868 789	3 203 713	-10.5

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.