

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.....	60 502	60 243	63 768	67 597	72 257	80 163	90 475	100 846
Land in farms.....acres.....	45 305 441	44 961 371	46 113 973	46 172 012	45 833 953	47 792 663	47 755 708	47 486 580
Average size of farm.....acres.....	749	746	723	683	634	596	528	471
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	344 253	532 741	382 902	192 574	97 931	65 268	46 796	33 713
Average per acre.....dollars.....	457	701	523	282	154	109	89	72
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000.....	3 549 159	4 088 785	3 461 586	2 018 175	928 666	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	58 799	68 007	54 354	31 084	13 210	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	5 090	4 162	3 832	3 350	3 968	2 441	2 478	4 325
10 to 49 acres.....	4 296	4 062	3 592	3 384	3 113	3 911	4 696	4 704
50 to 179 acres.....	11 166	11 100	12 042	13 720	14 468	17 124	22 144	28 158
180 to 499 acres.....	17 320	19 128	22 010	25 117	29 380	35 812	41 854	45 363
500 to 999 acres.....	12 153	11 847	12 369	12 566	12 324	12 198	11 266	10 685
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	6 494	6 036	6 050	5 721	5 495	5 248	8 037	7 611
2,000 acres or more.....	3 983	3 908	3 873	3 719	3 509	3 429		
Total cropland.....farms.....	53 500	54 475	58 594	63 040	67 197	75 386	85 744	95 570
.....acres.....	23 320 162	22 434 059	22 274 197	22 212 756	22 222 858	22 099 510	22 827 985	22 867 514
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	51 175	52 497	56 844	60 660	64 669	73 758	84 105	94 580
.....acres.....	15 276 151	17 075 625	16 371 595	16 309 434	14 022 810	15 229 112	18 057 090	18 874 341
Irrigated land.....farms.....	22 596	22 190	23 862	20 331	19 440	18 833	18 936	12 500
.....acres.....	5 681 835	6 039 292	5 682 931	3 966 930	2 857 247	2 169 317	2 077 926	1 171 369
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000.....	6 667 132	6 625 742	5 149 297	3 732 982	2 147 860	1 334 395	1 197 501	880 842
Average per farm.....dollars.....	110 197	109 984	80 750	55 224	29 725	16 646	13 236	8 735
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	2 139 116	2 379 811	1 718 714	1 565 899	536 263	371 444	393 215	308 526
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	4 528 016	4 245 931	3 430 583	2 166 946	1 611 460	962 659	804 194	572 247
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	4 694	3 839	3 431	5 459	9 229	12 029	12 846	21 174
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	3 405	2 963	3 550	4 084	6 733	11 322	15 253	24 452
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	5 515	5 985	5 985	7 531	12 114	20 130	26 485	32 050
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	10 923	10 096	13 108				35 582	18 846
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	10 681	11 517	14 083	43 452	41 649	35 629	-	4 171
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	11 305	12 508	13 243				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	12 700	13 370	9 555	6 589	2 271	1 034	-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	1 279	1 301	769	453	243		-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	51 749	51 323	54 968	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	5 212	5 608	6 280	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	3 209	3 013	2 330	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	332	299	190	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	31 491	30 786	35 246	30 560	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	67 809
Any.....	24 403	21 933	23 660	17 251	27 970	26 182	25 691	29 922
200 days or more.....	13 099	10 764	10 531	7 825	10 307	7 588	7 118	6 294
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	45 387	47 549	51 036	56 484	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	15 115	12 694	12 732	9 780	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years.....	49.4	48.5	48.7	50.3	49.3	49.2	48.2	47.1
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	5 409 171	(NA)	(NA)	2 845 563	1 759 085	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	1 904 830	1 760 168	1 500 993	867 435	707 413	372 005	290 166	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	801 077	843 922	654 728	598 585	308 620	229 791	154 986	130 880
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000.....	269 359	325 124	267 026	207 795	74 977	46 007	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	267 854	386 465	222 248	144 214	77 025	70 935	63 549	55 384
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	261 094	167 515	129 597	77 077	51 357	37 051	33 871	30 878
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000.....	368 642	613 708	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000.....	154 483	141 128	88 096	52 518	20 923	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms.....	34 701	39 555	42 724	48 818	54 119	66 439	75 866	89 983
.....number.....	5 838 806	6 530 561	6 412 288	6 214 596	6 131 577	5 986 516	4 981 973	4 899 380
Beef cows.....farms.....	26 452	30 068	32 557	37 761	(NA)	46 785	(NA)	(NA)
.....number.....	1 823 591	2 023 618	1 994 191	2 202 496	1 864 064	1 779 653	1 412 344	1 478 023
Milk cows.....farms.....	3 339	4 686	5 827	8 292	13 595	29 119	48 725	71 718
.....number.....	105 168	117 536	119 068	145 322	158 008	250 068	318 577	422 738
Cattle and calves sold.....farms.....	35 491	39 796	43 617	49 854	55 836	66 580	73 541	83 228
.....number.....	5 888 192	6 010 865	5 988 506	5 202 122	5 487 907	4 407 641	3 138 906	2 652 087
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms.....	13 363	15 998	20 532	21 301	29 029	38 978	52 656	59 311
.....number.....	3 944 227	3 963 364	3 723 774	2 740 440	2 914 892	2 981 584	3 245 237	2 861 364
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms.....	14 162	17 132	21 601	23 904	31 157	40 163	51 843	57 895
.....number.....	7 442 810	7 064 612	6 086 452	4 992 209	4 788 158	4 399 002	3 732 296	2 886 270
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹farms.....	4 225	5 791	7 788	11 370	19 267	42 393	64 002	81 813
.....number.....	3 621 152	3 604 279	3 154 767	3 660 561	3 967 498	7 439 522	10 485 148	12 074 233
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms.....	524	526	575	634	391	23	45	137
.....number.....	910 980	104 105	120 813	112 994	100 140	218 500	1 390 750	2 174 930

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1987 and Earlier Census Years—Con.

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

All farms	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964	1959	1954
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms...	34 717	34 573	39 326	40 830	44 338	50 587	70 120	81 824
acres...	6 090 669	6 519 250	6 662 003	5 591 301	4 391 430	3 714 602	6 455 174	6 381 589
bushels...	749 231 198	676 484 963	707 687 558	388 143 255	402 649 339	198 724 660	310 218 560	184 619 574
Sorghum for grain or seed ----- farms...	12 576	15 106	17 976	18 605	22 170	33 224	31 455	16 740
acres...	1 300 713	1 657 237	1 802 168	1 765 336	1 461 287	1 944 935	1 393 083	517 959
bushels...	101 004 096	116 927 367	127 136 420	59 786 998	105 715 328	88 646 962	59 935 320	14 110 499
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	18 124	20 182	21 787	28 035	30 859	39 713	46 191	45 986
acres...	1 962 051	2 585 111	2 393 999	2 823 818	2 455 084	2 728 595	2 993 879	2 972 436
bushels...	76 826 252	87 959 769	72 979 509	90 599 286	71 832 470	64 622 780	64 921 062	56 641 557
Oats for grain ----- farms...	8 165	10 852	10 452	(NA)	(NA)	20 121	38 366	59 113
acres...	280 502	396 520	372 661	(NA)	(NA)	608 123	1 259 059	2 202 924
bushels...	13 643 509	22 158 999	17 070 757	(NA)	(NA)	16 950 743	30 996 174	60 900 473
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	25 598	21 487	16 662	17 691	17 300	17 300	5 232	7 839
acres...	2 291 803	2 105 816	1 209 707	1 048 372	654 958	506 025	144 789	183 519
bushels...	78 147 991	70 218 107	37 689 210	25 528 000	20 628 698	10 974 198	3 431 626	3 890 048
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	30 224	33 840	38 097	43 083	45 698	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	2 868 789	3 203 713	3 385 943	3 455 199	3 641 081	4 664 565	4 688 802	5 423 488
tons, dry...	5 951 228	6 711 376	6 751 689	5 805 323	6 075 434	6 321 840	6 077 179	6 251 060

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.