

**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--	37 743	42 207	43 075	43 682	51 909	66 510	82 356	105 714
Land in farms-----acres--	8 416 228	9 189 559	9 461 060	9 410 706	10 148 359	12 275 308	13 489 516	15 070 832
Average size of farm-----acres--	223	218	220	215	196	185	164	143
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm-----dollars--	218 934	177 988	146 597	109 884	53 399	32 797	23 936	15 844
Average per acre-----dollars--	993	817	660	510	273	177	146	111
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> -----\$1,000--	1 849 206	2 006 892	1 567 912	1 103 383	639 728	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm-----dollars--	49 087	47 561	36 461	26 058	12 525	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres-----	2 517	2 763	2 432	2 257	2 101	3 579	4 863	8 672
10 to 49 acres-----	6 114	6 575	5 528	5 093	6 589	8 874	12 547	18 074
50 to 179 acres-----	12 991	14 676	15 665	16 535	21 367	27 698	36 748	49 118
180 to 499 acres-----	12 244	14 203	15 583	16 293	18 914	23 164	25 437	27 374
500 to 999 acres-----	3 112	3 274	3 295	2 987	2 548	2 803	2 415	2 175
1,000 to 1,999 acres-----	654	620	495	450	340	327		
2,000 acres or more-----	111	96	77	67	50	65	346	301
Total cropland----- farms--	35 680	40 276	41 879	42 675	49 768	64 266	78 867	100 778
acres--	5 382 175	5 697 926	5 940 780	5 788 149	6 081 847	6 469 989	7 120 645	7 856 367
Harvested cropland----- farms--	33 664	38 509	40 647	41 121	46 518	61 978	75 830	94 968
acres--	3 899 819	4 430 198	4 348 591	4 156 266	3 835 623	4 742 718	5 032 671	5 546 506
Irrigated land----- farms--	1 992	1 713	1 715	1 447	1 393	1 917	1 741	1 675
acres--	50 920	52 125	56 106	54 580	55 491	79 193	57 997	59 024
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> -----\$1,000--	2 441 860	2 426 936	1 861 266	1 462 383	979 000	852 640	755 410	668 488
Average per farm-----dollars--	64 697	57 501	43 210	33 478	18 859	12 820	9 172	6 324
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops -- \$1,000--	701 352	657 719	535 330	446 448	244 732	242 260	194 931	202 009
Livestock, poultry, and their products-----\$1,000--	1 740 508	1 769 216	1 325 936	1 012 143	730 978	601 928	554 347	461 451
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500-----	9 168	10 479	9 863	11 916	18 151	21 648	28 270	44 946
\$2,500 to \$4,999-----	4 061	4 421	5 084	3 474	4 127	7 424	11 183	19 026
\$5,000 to \$9,999-----	3 892	4 339	4 559	3 994	5 272	11 147	17 323	22 988
\$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> -----	4 426	4 654	5 446				25 476	14 970
\$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> -----	3 337	4 187	6 172	21 613	23 314	25 590	-	3 604
\$50,000 to \$99,999-----	5 560	6 731	7 453				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999-----	6 816	6 966	4 248	2 501	943		-	-
\$500,000 or more-----	483	398	209	146	59	647	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship)-----	32 149	36 543	37 537	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership-----	3 835	4 086	4 158	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation-----	1 545	1 385	1 233	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other--cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.-----	214	193	147	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :								
None-----	18 079	19 456	20 945	18 420	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	52 497
Any-----	17 596	19 890	20 448	18 143	24 954	29 285	36 687	48 974
200 days or more-----	11 506	13 094	13 082	12 123	16 424	18 469	22 590	30 499
Operators by principal occupation <sup>6</sup> :								
Farming-----	22 977	25 564	26 314	27 833	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other-----	14 766	16 643	16 761	14 839	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>6</sup> -----years--	51.4	50.0	50.1	51.0	51.2	51.2	50.8	50.7
Total farm production expenses <sup>7</sup> -----\$1,000--	1 897 458	(NA)	(NA)	1 173 072	781 141	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased-----\$1,000--	98 770	95 488	93 577	77 352	60 098	39 083	42 546	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry-----\$1,000--	399 658	444 460	373 642	320 110	189 720	187 460	174 965	171 549
Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> -----\$1,000--	94 811	109 479	87 595	68 946	33 400	34 338	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products-----\$1,000--	91 096	142 542	84 214	59 488	36 221	36 479	36 904	31 995
Hired farm labor-----\$1,000--	277 463	246 022	184 469	123 757	100 540	92 204	93 453	88 105
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> -----\$1,000--	140 484	184 613	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> -----\$1,000--	60 635	56 139	40 490	28 747	19 694	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory----- farms--	22 250	27 354	27 462	29 491	33 655	48 057	59 913	78 816
number--	1 603 390	1 781 748	1 619 706	1 752 533	1 713 232	1 959 204	2 022 726	2 228 978
Beef cows----- farms--	6 798	8 661	8 259	6 675	(NA)	7 472	(NA)	(NA)
number--	71 627	77 712	73 356	96 975	94 410	67 498	47 857	44 639
Milk cows----- farms--	13 840	17 236	18 493	20 711	24 775	39 584	52 650	71 765
number--	814 461	875 113	850 381	891 422	896 147	1 134 315	1 173 285	1 297 048
Cattle and calves sold----- farms--	21 153	25 234	26 046	27 567	32 370	44 226	54 874	65 944
number--	754 488	747 448	802 464	759 264	881 286	1 084 708	1 025 381	1 052 464
Hogs and pigs inventory----- farms--	2 644	4 325	5 017	5 011	3 717	6 894	15 491	22 966
number--	99 560	118 378	126 312	92 325	78 578	94 536	165 927	163 764
Hogs and pigs sold----- farms--	1 957	2 810	3 162	2 795	2 183	2 851	4 925	7 531
number--	172 072	183 165	178 589	125 197	109 472	133 996	155 880	147 305
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> ----- farms--	3 236	4 654	4 862	5 207	5 822	14 641	31 832	54 645
number--	5 455 879	8 517 980	8 791 556	9 440 681	11 580 340	11 973 113	10 611 028	12 371 134
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold----- farms--	206	282	219	243	102	166	423	1 098
number--	1 713 646	380 753	465 434	1 543 175	1 614 001	3 101 162	11 186 895	11 152 396

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
<b>Selected crops harvested:</b>								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms--	9 301	10 523	11 102	11 529	9 596	10 774	18 622	23 329
acres--	598 815	749 492	593 674	461 313	243 475	178 099	218 647	234 722
bushels--	65 911 889	70 349 704	50 651 462	35 181 978	21 414 650	11 885 131	12 255 959	11 262 597
Wheat for grain ----- farms--	2 390	2 965	2 516	7 142	7 627	10 635	16 236	26 618
acres--	86 345	116 994	64 655	205 634	142 311	191 493	241 986	336 072
bushels--	3 622 242	4 951 504	2 191 852	8 778 563	5 485 603	7 154 207	7 259 656	10 327 911
Oats for grain ----- farms--	6 364	9 422	10 704	(NA)	(NA)	27 206	38 160	46 292
acres--	162 733	249 804	272 507	(NA)	(NA)	489 850	612 834	645 481
bushels--	9 562 189	16 151 602	16 050 846	(NA)	(NA)	25 315 951	32 386 104	23 165 380
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms--	26 877	30 481	32 749	32 282	36 205	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres--	2 259 119	2 384 405	2 463 485	2 212 967	2 184 065	2 925 115	2 965 281	3 104 478
tons, dry--	4 861 661	5 056 408	4 810 961	4 696 262	4 648 116	5 017 377	5 390 738	5 491 755
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) <sup>10</sup> ----- farms--	2 822	3 228	3 499	3 455	4 017	5 050	8 010	10 893
acres--	150 054	158 014	154 666	147 954	148 084	163 828	174 573	184 919
Land in orchards ----- farms--	3 290	3 955	4 111	4 084	4 639	6 931	9 856	14 477
acres--	124 432	137 356	135 015	136 371	141 075	144 087	155 384	174 446

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on a sample of farms.

<sup>2</sup>Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

<sup>3</sup>Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

<sup>4</sup>Data for 1959 are for \$10,000 or more.

<sup>5</sup>Data for 1954 are for \$25,000 or more.

<sup>6</sup>Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorship) and partnerships; see text.

<sup>7</sup>Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications; data for agricultural chemicals exclude the cost of lime for 1987 and 1982.

<sup>8</sup>Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

<sup>9</sup>Data for 1964 and prior years are for chickens 4 months old or older.

<sup>10</sup>Data for 1974 were from land area used.