

**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...	59 284	72 792	81 706	91 280	119 386	148 202	190 567	267 906
Land in farms.....acres...	9 447 705	10 320 832	10 998 652	11 243 933	12 733 751	14 381 724	15 887 724	18 260 346
Average size of farm.....acres...	159	142	135	123	107	97	83	68
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm.....dollars...	199 781	187 840	141 464	72 672	35 551	24 442	15 475	8 758
Average per acre.....dollars...	1 263	1 314	1 038	590	333	252	186	128
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000...	1 799 492	2 097 628	1 818 315	1 185 798	624 023	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars...	30 403	28 932	22 331	14 761	5 580	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	5 253	6 682	7 837	7 467	10 346	14 138	17 806	34 479
10 to 49 acres.....	18 088	23 286	25 567	30 195	42 911	57 199	81 112	126 001
50 to 179 acres.....	22 680	28 120	32 667	38 221	49 180	58 723	73 435	89 384
180 to 499 acres.....	9 337	10 914	11 887	12 103	13 836	14 976	15 503	15 442
500 to 999 acres.....	2 676	2 690	2 667	2 323	2 306	2 361	2 041	1 905
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	938	823	839	734	602	579	670	695
2,000 acres or more.....	312	277	242	237	205	226		
Total cropland..... farms...	54 972	68 439	77 836	87 862	113 506	143 134	182 762	256 157
acres.....	5 716 256	5 950 155	6 049 163	5 752 767	5 967 294	5 781 785	6 415 783	7 054 270
Harvested cropland..... farms...	50 108	63 392	73 870	82 844	102 316	137 737	177 251	245 703
acres.....	3 779 164	4 659 283	4 467 045	4 075 221	3 472 307	3 985 904	4 746 364	5 504 204
Irrigated land..... farms...	6 445	4 026	6 082	4 002	5 170	12 583	8 537	2 704
acres.....	137 858	81 078	89 861	51 340	59 153	96 874	65 743	25 423
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000...	3 541 419	3 500 750	2 980 078	2 121 226	1 195 069	1 067 567	797 214	733 461
Average per farm.....dollars...	59 737	48 093	36 473	23 239	10 010	7 203	4 183	2 738
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000...	1 436 988	1 898 109	1 669 769	1 300 627	669 281	750 484	553 426	597 889
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000...	2 104 430	1 602 642	1 310 309	804 396	513 671	305 074	228 546	127 447
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500.....	16 758	19 845	19 912	29 213	54 675	64 997	97 227	171 230
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	8 461	9 958	11 725	11 432	17 598	23 901	43 311	62 132
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	8 344	9 720	11 806	13 861	18 710	28 870	33 579	27 537
\$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> .....	8 515	11 056	14 425				16 284	5 805
\$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> .....	4 817	6 948	9 290	32 589	27 192	29 950	-	1 003
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	4 271	6 246	7 536				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	7 034	8 237	6 492	3 942	1 127		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	1 084	741	468	189	38	447	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	52 398	64 150	71 388	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	5 238	7 092	8 520	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	1 355	1 225	1 559	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	293	325	239	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :								
None.....	23 261	27 579	34 538	33 330	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	156 249
Any.....	31 914	37 303	41 917	37 945	63 808	63 707	81 086	110 706
200 days or more.....	21 702	24 717	26 675	24 242	35 741	32 372	39 811	51 405
Operators by principal occupation <sup>6</sup> :								
Farming.....	30 687	39 795	46 637	57 583	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	28 597	32 997	35 069	32 909	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>6</sup> .....years...	53.3	51.7	51.1	52.9	52.4	50.9	49.8	48.0
Total farm production expenses <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	2 779 353	(NA)	(NA)	1 452 743	893 187	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>7</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000...	323 978	229 516	188 501	121 616	89 439	49 560	35 201	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000...	921 654	702 666	610 405	411 934	226 257	147 106	114 749	73 367
Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	179 396	238 315	209 537	177 589	88 738	88 513	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000...	143 686	235 621	161 702	97 912	71 062	65 293	46 167	39 742
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000...	287 037	245 364	222 451	133 835	116 823	94 017	74 676	63 044
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> .....\$1,000...	130 580	206 549	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000...	107 655	111 631	83 869	47 444	25 639	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory..... farms...	24 985	30 485	30 099	36 619	43 972	70 466	92 364	156 201
number.....	784 136	890 480	839 293	1 021 554	858 548	905 999	833 864	948 341
Beef cows..... farms...	20 630	24 286	23 632	26 231	(NA)	29 708	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	320 641	342 296	331 700	424 055	274 950	280 675	176 141	170 202
Milk cows..... farms...	2 336	4 353	5 716	9 523	15 388	41 918	70 848	134 805
number.....	110 127	125 832	125 412	129 958	143 089	197 678	243 476	349 637
Cattle and calves sold..... farms...	22 682	25 272	25 691	28 259	32 325	42 478	54 296	60 853
number.....	395 732	378 660	426 554	384 044	418 690	410 953	341 472	319 932
Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms...	6 921	11 390	18 846	22 975	35 271	73 083	131 865	184 646
number.....	2 547 127	2 047 088	1 901 227	1 414 751	1 393 393	1 046 354	1 660 105	1 419 458
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms...	6 290	9 436	15 737	17 383	26 248	28 995	62 107	59 832
number.....	5 180 960	3 907 278	3 389 145	2 616 555	2 301 048	1 359 760	1 424 580	846 425
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> ..... farms...	3 330	5 348	7 486	11 215	19 621	63 422	120 922	202 822
number.....	20 070 337	18 823 538	18 556 105	15 670 429	17 223 353	13 763 213	12 158 140	10 679 578
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms...	2 153	2 195	2 434	2 520	3 243	3 287	3 436	2 927
number.....	408 721 082	348 434 068	296 848 126	225 566 077	252 003 506	172 734 036	107 182 773	38 981 830

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
<b>Selected crops harvested:</b>								
Corn for grain or seed ---- farms...	21 000	30 193	38 850	49 134	57 871	95 144	142 678	197 001
acres...	1 056 000	1 393 496	1 489 546	1 327 640	1 128 723	1 217 650	1 678 257	1 865 126
bushels...	71 795 021	133 576 411	113 677 738	100 057 145	77 787 866	71 077 106	70 520 411	42 612 526
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	7 747	11 950	6 517	12 557	16 110	22 947	41 450	39 858
acres...	378 744	597 539	132 445	248 308	180 368	232 537	368 035	292 323
bushels...	15 091 015	20 682 804	4 312 796	8 667 399	7 326 994	6 381 737	8 609 247	6 110 401
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	17 409	26 324	29 577	33 248	27 466	33 672	25 665	18 483
acres...	1 273 278	1 746 774	1 512 294	1 208 924	740 654	621 219	401 367	266 211
bushels...	31 368 069	42 285 536	35 093 482	26 751 021	18 705 519	14 218 665	8 472 872	4 408 903
Cotton----- farms...	981	620	434	2 405	7 937	29 562	53 261	77 296
acres...	94 186	68 760	43 394	143 782	163 430	367 384	375 846	522 095
bales...	93 720	92 248	47 261	131 611	115 386	369 563	318 638	366 711
Tobacco----- farms...	22 260	29 489	37 971	44 023	64 006	87 576	111 141	148 608
acres...	239 343	337 696	409 857	366 841	372 122	408 052	450 085	670 485
pounds...	478 051 423	690 142 724	820 615 121	714 135 918	674 932 186	877 729 569	654 438 670	798 988 612
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	20 733	21 046	23 174	23 690	26 981	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	456 360	375 940	391 331	331 539	304 599	452 293	612 034	859 352
tons, dry...	795 954	647 953	673 400	561 691	471 945	577 872	779 754	820 507

<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.