

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...	70 228	72 523	72 237	69 719	63 037	88 726	94 676	118 979
Land in farms.....acres...	31 541 977	32 369 206	33 737 292	33 082 848	36 007 719	36 077 472	35 800 688	35 630 045
Average size of farm.....acres...	449	446	467	475	434	407	378	300
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars...	215 024	311 642	235 858	143 320	74 838	49 212	31 710	18 964
Average per acre.....dollars...	480	699	503	302	173	121	84	63
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000...	2 063 371	2 323 995	1 718 075	1 066 350	594 131	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars...	29 465	32 109	23 850	16 693	7 597	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	3 666	3 244	2 749	2 264	3 276	1 883	2 907	7 265
10 to 49 acres.....	10 134	10 651	7 894	6 001	7 655	11 879	11 294	16 989
50 to 179 acres.....	22 331	23 558	23 643	22 733	26 617	28 894	32 064	43 107
180 to 499 acres.....	18 006	18 670	20 352	21 280	26 156	27 138	30 567	36 154
500 to 999 acres.....	8 405	8 850	10 038	10 247	12 129	12 262	11 936	10 584
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	5 132	5 124	5 181	5 003	5 180	4 734		
2,000 acres or more.....	2 554	2 426	2 380	2 191	2 024	1 936	5 908	4 880
Total cropland..... farms...	55 783	57 562	59 471	59 105	68 888	67 174	77 187	97 554
acres...	14 443 459	14 213 548	14 365 738	14 667 029	15 658 206	13 010 066	14 043 828	14 470 517
Harvested cropland..... farms...	43 522	45 825	48 168	47 123	52 940	59 360	66 155	84 870
acres...	7 319 193	8 961 353	8 585 011	8 989 832	8 264 787	8 343 588	8 975 117	10 249 134
Irrigated land..... farms...	3 029	3 069	3 770	3 454	3 809	2 673	2 481	1 620
acres...	478 437	492 077	601 723	515 104	524 065	302 081	197 632	108 151
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000...	2 714 892	2 530 061	2 330 408	1 594 913	969 271	600 790	580 735	409 386
Average per farm.....dollars...	38 658	34 886	32 261	22 876	11 672	6 770	6 134	3 441
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops...\$1,000...	610 050	827 694	617 737	670 301	268 164	255 694	250 164	217 008
Livestock, poultry, and their products...\$1,000...	2 104 842	1 702 366	1 712 670	923 879	700 622	344 335	330 121	192 093
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	18 501	20 261	16 150	23 360	32 471	46 742	45 901	75 677
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	11 073	11 282	12 354	9 817	15 024	13 263	16 801	18 952
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	11 999	11 490	12 887	10 399	14 252	12 822	15 864	15 048
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	12 805	12 348	14 199				16 058	8 028
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	6 300	6 845	7 798	23 723	20 464	15 586	-	1 527
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	4 479	5 217	5 116				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	4 606	4 678	3 426	2 259	720	276	-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	465	360	260	116	66		-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	64 099	65 745	65 551	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	4 711	5 541	5 795	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	1 049	886	675	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	369	351	216	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	25 405	22 354	25 383	21 407	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	55 902
Any.....	40 839	43 879	43 819	34 702	50 472	48 601	51 298	62 204
200 days or more.....	28 495	30 961	30 245	23 607	31 628	29 828	28 299	30 267
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	33 052	32 847	32 053	37 165	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	37 176	39 676	40 184	32 068	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years...	53.6	51.9	51.4	52.6	51.7	51.7	50.8	49.7
Total farm production expenses ⁷\$1,000...	2 359 468	(NA)	(NA)	1 321 717	850 252	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ⁷ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000...	745 844	626 108	679 962	366 642	281 066	106 451	92 311	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000...	439 530	396 650	417 136	311 019	147 319	102 411	77 241	77 074
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000...	102 292	116 377	113 512	86 881	36 702	24 436	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000...	128 203	181 287	111 338	70 001	44 646	36 219	30 138	27 776
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000...	124 732	98 335	80 082	53 428	43 628	33 407	33 949	31 602
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000...	189 200	263 323	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000...	54 052	31 075	33 421	12 209	7 441	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory..... farms...	53 544	58 236	58 604	58 244	68 765	79 509	81 534	107 980
number.....	4 537 774	4 673 900	4 940 392	4 943 568	4 812 495	4 199 872	3 239 413	3 301 856
Beef cows..... farms...	44 130	49 090	49 510	47 128	(NA)	68 614	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	1 630 425	1 830 253	1 870 791	2 077 075	1 930 743	1 878 279	1 312 632	1 316 795
Milk cows..... farms...	2 828	4 504	5 425	6 641	10 075	23 120	41 061	78 014
number.....	90 499	108 021	101 843	102 061	128 772	168 055	237 913	388 312
Cattle and calves sold..... farms...	53 577	57 030	60 077	58 712	68 817	73 792	77 669	85 245
number.....	3 630 285	3 374 886	4 164 215	3 271 120	3 467 326	2 441 020	1 788 491	1 629 919
Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms...	3 710	4 225	6 984	5 819	9 187	14 616	33 798	43 637
number.....	187 351	212 510	307 527	225 189	319 224	253 945	524 409	407 059
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms...	3 090	3 665	6 240	5 014	8 217	9 905	22 476	27 613
number.....	346 686	355 782	480 881	385 742	527 289	420 836	582 079	400 204
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹ farms...	5 703	7 577	8 149	9 383	14 349	35 373	59 826	91 248
number.....	5 826 714	4 810 418	3 381 695	2 351 832	2 769 167	3 124 081	4 184 997	5 708 532
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms...	556	462	407	344	281	249	227	362
number.....	89 704 380	49 399 727	39 514 824	26 273 352	17 635 753	13 218 885	6 508 656	6 051 598

See footnotes at end of table.

