

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...	32 014	34 087	28 503	26 753	29 063	39 757	42 573	54 441
Land in farms.....acres...	17 809 165	17 739 782	18 053 960	18 241 445	18 017 850	20 509 302	21 236 298	21 047 340
Average size of farm.....acres...	556	520	633	682	620	516	499	387
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars...	299 755	371 644	301 306	170 145	93 134	59 079	43 608	30 178
Average per acre.....dollars...	542	705	477	250	150	115	87	78
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000...	1 211 480	1 256 603	937 659	585 085	307 968	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars...	37 982	37 044	33 013	23 064	11 031	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	5 476	5 987	3 344	2 521	2 743	4 041	5 141	10 132
10 to 49 acres.....	11 448	12 415	9 357	8 292	9 000	13 817	13 609	16 981
50 to 179 acres.....	7 219	7 662	7 488	7 671	8 370	11 441	12 551	15 131
180 to 499 acres.....	3 617	3 906	4 042	3 940	4 461	5 442	5 925	6 559
500 to 999 acres.....	1 560	1 560	1 567	1 568	1 642	1 882	2 099	2 281
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	1 008	957	1 025	1 030	1 108	1 248	3 248	3 357
2,000 acres or more.....	1 686	1 600	1 680	1 731	1 739	1 886		
Total cropland.....farms...	27 318	29 300	25 809	24 875	26 604	34 763	38 484	47 822
.....acres...	5 236 393	5 237 399	5 100 837	5 074 988	5 197 520	5 281 935	5 380 144	5 249 888
Harvested cropland.....farms...	21 712	23 719	22 007	21 636	22 117	29 981	33 420	41 218
.....acres...	2 832 663	3 305 714	3 209 647	3 213 399	2 893 632	3 050 278	3 118 451	3 265 385
Irrigated land.....farms...	14 411	15 334	13 659	11 791	12 014	15 869	17 724	19 826
.....acres...	1 648 205	1 807 882	1 880 833	1 561 438	1 519 421	1 607 659	1 384 284	1 490 366
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000...	1 846 067	1 640 590	1 261 865	1 025 082	531 209	428 397	411 843	346 347
Average per farm.....dollars...	57 664	48 129	44 271	38 317	18 277	10 775	9 674	6 362
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000...	1 048 616	935 456	688 807	651 552	260 416	227 991	212 564	195 186
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000...	797 451	705 134	573 058	360 480	263 966	195 479	190 254	137 111
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	11 751	13 511	8 976	10 196	12 500	21 735	21 508	30 985
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	4 785	4 987	4 435	2 931	3 580	4 386	5 207	6 945
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	3 770	3 776	3 690	3 103	3 520	4 180	5 518	6 853
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	3 697	3 718	3 798				10 266	6 478
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	2 194	2 248	2 410	8 054	8 546	8 907	-	3 130
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	1 972	2 007	2 270				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	3 224	3 322	2 599	2 207	810		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	621	470	264	207	52	512	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	27 766	29 802	24 633	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	2 603	2 807	2 685	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	1 490	1 311	1 046	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	155	167	139	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	11 536	10 912	10 201	8 473	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	22 729
Any.....	18 897	21 108	17 225	13 922	17 676	23 438	24 419	31 659
200 days or more.....	12 646	14 112	11 481	9 542	11 621	16 136	15 454	18 203
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	15 359	15 542	13 849	13 884	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	16 655	18 545	14 654	12 158	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years...	52.7	50.4	50.7	52.4	51.9	51.5	51.3	50.4
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000...	1 535 162	(NA)	(NA)	784 663	466 946	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000...	195 278	159 787	158 630	85 275	76 862	40 373	34 828	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000...	170 426	193 064	151 692	135 954	62 441	55 259	53 061	46 605
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000...	97 839	104 674	73 096	68 346	26 544	20 135	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000...	65 914	89 859	50 914	35 528	20 984	20 421	19 976	17 704
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000...	257 760	179 512	138 490	94 663	69 339	54 564	49 522	47 524
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000...	131 483	181 873	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000...	79 341	56 739	32 763	20 175	11 763	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms...	17 515	21 811	17 870	17 174	17 294	28 508	29 908	42 418
.....number...	1 503 625	1 618 005	1 546 797	1 559 319	1 352 781	1 620 073	1 354 205	1 490 155
Beef cows.....farms...	13 369	16 396	13 618	13 049	(NA)	17 177	(NA)	(NA)
.....number...	618 857	656 150	633 712	702 189	566 820	639 362	469 033	487 260
Milk cows.....farms...	1 937	3 289	3 622	4 237	5 185	13 076	19 755	33 170
.....number...	95 325	99 134	89 856	87 994	86 638	126 325	152 226	196 589
Cattle and calves sold.....farms...	16 812	19 314	16 732	15 753	15 972	21 961	23 537	24 893
.....number...	955 484	955 226	971 474	836 921	871 367	859 905	693 024	566 232
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms...	1 482	2 500	2 491	2 047	2 246	4 480	9 872	11 798
.....number...	86 293	105 174	113 907	94 933	96 872	112 746	197 593	135 913
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms...	1 400	2 163	2 103	1 714	2 015	3 209	6 427	6 582
.....number...	143 661	172 394	169 886	158 801	160 617	205 712	279 986	146 749
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹farms...	3 178	5 218	3 949	3 431	3 414	10 366	18 114	32 029
.....number...	3 049 585	3 398 829	3 123 679	2 520 001	2 293 996	2 649 797	2 860 025	3 265 833
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms...	225	326	247	208	194	151	226	274
.....number...	14 244 387	14 422 115	17 123 392	11 753 447	13 032 925	9 192 504	9 469 895	4 058 251

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
Selected crops harvested:								
Wheat for grain ----- farms--	3 890	4 763	4 885	6 120	5 426	6 938	(NA)	(NA)
acres--	838 849	1 179 942	1 151 760	1 250 119	734 097	770 441	781 444	856 952
bushels--	51 875 186	58 924 228	45 726 181	50 087 492	26 779 314	26 372 003	27 897 641	25 000 058
Barley for grain ----- farms--	1 805	2 366	2 661	(NA)	(NA)	5 191	8 560	9 924
acres--	186 504	250 291	215 394	(NA)	(NA)	363 748	501 905	494 381
bushels--	12 272 482	14 313 160	11 343 609	(NA)	(NA)	14 710 303	18 310 376	18 248 722
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms--	13 913	15 181	14 362	13 977	13 938	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres--	943 905	1 016 904	1 016 763	980 967	946 631	1 105 549	931 722	1 003 419
tons, dry--	2 340 999	2 482 717	2 509 847	2 217 388	2 087 423	2 171 345	1 771 122	1 814 918
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ¹⁰ ----- farms--	1 529	1 554	1 560	1 608	1 752	1 985	2 370	2 926
acres--	142 236	134 814	144 749	148 977	129 001	120 245	106 500	95 490
Land in orchards ----- farms--	4 410	4 709	4 258	3 960	4 808	8 539	10 128	12 980
acres--	91 101	86 742	82 108	84 883	96 353	102 564	99 338	105 882

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.

¹⁰Data for 1974 were from land area used.