

# 1987

## Census of Agriculture

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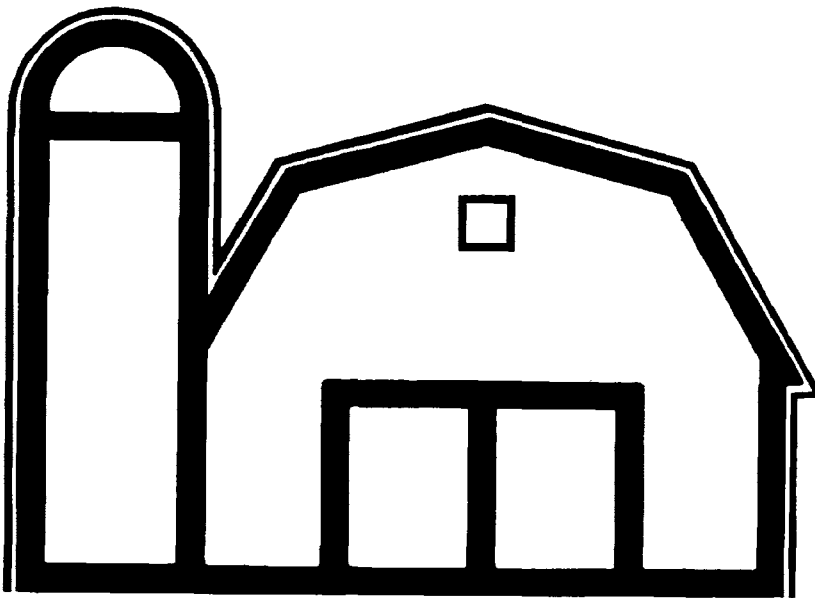
Volume 1  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 39

## Rhode Island

### State and County Data

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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Special tribute is paid to the millions of farm and ranch operators who furnished the information requested. Only through their cooperation was it possible to collect and publish the data in this report.

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# 1987

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**Rhode Island**  
State and County Data

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Issued March 1989



**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
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**BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**

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# INTRODUCTION

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## HISTORY

The 1987 Census of Agriculture is the 23d taken by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The first agriculture census was taken in 1840 as part of the sixth decennial census of population. From 1840 to 1950, an agriculture census was taken as part of the decennial census. A separate mid-decade census of agriculture was conducted in 1925, 1935, and 1945. From 1954 to 1974, a census of agriculture was taken for the years ending in 4 and 9. In 1976, Congress authorized the census of agriculture to be taken for 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data reference year so that it coincided with the economic censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. This adjustment in timing established the agriculture census on a 5-year cycle collecting data for years ending in 2 and 7.

## USES OF THE CENSUS

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the Nation's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the county, State, and national levels. Census statistics are used by Congress in developing and changing farm programs and for determining the effects of these programs. Many national and State programs are designed or allocated on the basis of census data, such as funds for extension services, research, and soil conservation projects. Private industry uses census statistics to provide a more effective production and distribution system for the agricultural community.

## AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

The census of agriculture is required by law under Title 13, United States Code, sections 142(a) and 191, which directs that a census be taken in 1979, 1983, and in every

fifth year after 1983 covering the prior year. The 1987 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Island of the United States. A census of agriculture will be conducted in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in conjunction with the 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

## FARM DEFINITION

Since 1850, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes first were established, the farm definition has been changed nine times. The current definition, first used for the 1974 census, is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. The farm definition used for the outlying areas varies according to area. The report for each area includes a discussion of the farm definition.

## COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Data on acreages and inventories for 1987 and 1982 are generally comparable. Dollar figures shown for expenses and agricultural product sales are expressed in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation or deflation. In general, data for censuses since 1974 are not fully comparable with data for 1969 and earlier censuses due to changes in the farm definition.

The 1978 U.S., region, and State data shown in the 1978 Census of Agriculture publications included data for farms on the mail list plus estimates from an area sample for farms not on the mail list. For comparability, the 1978 data in the 1987 publications include only farms on the mail list.

## TABULAR PRESENTATION

**State data**—Tables 1 through 47 in chapter 1 show detailed State-level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more past censuses. Tables 48 through 53 provide 1987 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

**County data**—Chapter 2 presents selected data items by county. Tables 1 through 16 include general data for all counties. The counties are listed in alphabetical order in the column headings. Tables 17 through 36 include only



counties reporting the data item. Counties not having the item, or with a limited number of farms reporting the item, have data combined and presented as "all other counties."

## ADVANCE REPORTS

Advance reports of 1987 census data have been published separately for each county with 10 farms or more, each State, and the United States. This series provided, at the earliest possible date, final data on major data items together with comparable final data from the 1982 census. Data items are standard across States except information on selected crops harvested, which vary by State according to their relative importance in the State.

## ELECTRONIC DATA DISSEMINATION

The volume 1 data are available on computer tapes and compact disc. The advance report data are available on computer tapes, computer diskettes, and through electronic data services such as the AGRIDATA network, the CENDATA package on Dialog, CompuServe on-line services, and the Census Bureau's State Data Center Bulletin Board. Computer tapes, diskettes, and compact discs are sold by the Customer Services Branch, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233 (telephone (301) 763-4100).

## SPECIAL TABULATIONS

Custom designed tabulations can be developed to individual user specifications on a programming cost reimbursable basis. Inquiries about special tabulations should be directed to the Chief, Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

## CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of Title 13, United States Code, no data are published that would disclose the operations of an individual farm. However, the number of

farms in a given size category or other classification, such as size of farm, is not considered a release of confidential information and is provided even though other information is withheld.

## INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA

Inventories of livestock, poultry, and machinery and equipment are measured as of December 31 of the census year. Crop and livestock production, sales, and expense data are for the calendar year, except for a few crops (such as citrus) for which the production year overlaps the calendar year.

## ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

-	Represents zero.
(D)	Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
(IC)	Independent city.
(NA)	Not available.
(S)	Withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the response rate (associated relative standard error) or a consistency review.
(X)	Not applicable.
(Z)	Less than half of the unit shown.
cwt	Hundredweight.
sq ft	Square feet.

# Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1987 and 1982

[Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Item	All farms		
	1987	1982	Percent change from 1982 to 1987
Farms.....number.....	701	728	-3.7
Land in farms.....acres.....	58 685	62 466	-6.1
Average size of farm.....acres.....	84	86	-2.3
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm.....dollars.....	420 279	237 141	77.2
Average per acre.....dollars.....	4 748	2 760	72.0
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres.....	131	113	15.9
10 to 49 acres.....	250	273	-8.4
50 to 179 acres.....	241	251	-4.0
180 to 499 acres.....	66	82	-19.5
500 to 999 acres.....	11	6	83.3
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	2	3	-33.3
2,000 acres or more.....	-	-	-
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	523	576	-9.2
.....acres.....	18 498	21 252	-13.0
Irrigated land.....farms.....	105	84	25.0
.....acres.....	3 494	2 224	57.1
Market value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000.....	37 786	30 376	24.4
Average per farm.....dollars.....	53 903	41 726	29.2
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	26 685	18 139	47.1
Grains.....\$1,000.....	15	53	-71.3
Cotton and cottonseed.....\$1,000.....	-	-	-
Tobacco.....\$1,000.....	-	-	-
Hay, silage, and field seeds.....\$1,000.....	526	557	-5.6
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons.....\$1,000.....	1 929	1 657	16.4
Fruits, nuts, and berries.....\$1,000.....	1 666	1 701	-2.0
Nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	20 786	10 695	94.3
Other crops.....\$1,000.....	1 764	3 476	-49.3
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	11 100	12 237	-9.3
Poultry and poultry products.....\$1,000.....	4 190	4 692	-10.7
Dairy products.....\$1,000.....	4 775	5 798	-17.6
Cattle and calves.....\$1,000.....	1 004	1 006	-2
Hogs and pigs.....\$1,000.....	568	286	98.2
Sheep, lambs, and wool.....\$1,000.....	103	86	20.7
Other livestock and livestock products (see text).....\$1,000.....	462	369	25.0
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	567	620	-8.5
Partnership.....	45	52	-13.5
Corporation.....	80	51	56.9
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	9	5	80.0
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming.....	345	346	-3
Other.....	356	382	-6.8
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any.....	395	413	-4.4
200 days or more.....	262	299	-12.4
Average age of operator.....years.....	52.7	52.4	.6
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> .....farms.....	702	(NA)	(NA)
.....\$1,000.....	29 736	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :			
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	1 146	1 271	-9.9
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	3 684	5 347	-31.1
Commercial fertilizer <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000.....	1 335	1 125	18.7
Agricultural chemicals <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000.....	778	647	20.4
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	1 390	1 819	-23.6
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	9 536	5 559	71.6
Interest expense <sup>3</sup> .....\$1,000.....	1 298	1 569	-17.3
Livestock and poultry inventory:			
Cattle and calves.....farms.....	253	340	-25.6
.....number.....	6 930	8 997	-23.0
Milk cows.....farms.....	70	123	-43.1
.....number.....	2 975	3 872	-23.2
Hogs and pigs.....farms.....	59	73	-19.2
.....number.....	4 719	3 030	55.7
Chickens 3 months old or older.....farms.....	96	126	-23.8
.....number.....	205 794	388 239	-47.0
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed.....farms.....	9	12	-25.0
.....acres.....	99	151	-34.4
Corn for silage or green chop.....farms.....	77	102	-24.5
.....acres.....	2 008	3 077	-34.7
Irish potatoes.....farms.....	22	21	4.8
.....acres.....	1 410	2 879	-51.0
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text).....farms.....	291	340	-14.4
.....acres.....	8 126	9 296	-12.6
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text).....farms.....	99	120	-17.5
.....acres.....	1 947	1 908	2.0
Land in orchards.....farms.....	83	79	5.1
.....acres.....	856	827	3.6

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

<sup>2</sup>Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications.

<sup>3</sup>Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.