

**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...	79 711	90 565	86 910	93 659	121 406	133 446	157 688	203 149
Land in farms ----- acres...	11 731 386	12 474 931	12 680 809	13 103 224	15 056 907	15 266 213	16 081 285	17 654 324
Average size of farm ----- acres...	147	138	146	140	124	114	102	87
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm ----- dollars...	146 126	139 141	125 238	65 308	33 176	20 509	13 288	8 049
Average per acre ----- dollars...	1 001	1 014	856	467	268	179	130	93
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000...	1 803 541	1 870 910	1 561 026	1 034 937	581 265	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm ----- dollars...	22 700	20 713	17 997	12 061	5 263	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres -----	7 306	9 481	7 611	6 603	10 469	12 654	14 867	26 041
10 to 49 acres -----	23 209	26 965	23 141	24 759	35 117	41 406	52 746	73 254
50 to 179 acres -----	32 266	35 998	37 057	42 677	53 177	57 100	67 415	81 161
180 to 499 acres -----	12 697	13 757	14 806	15 645	18 592	18 647	19 483	19 899
500 to 999 acres -----	2 806	3 065	3 037	2 870	3 122	2 792	2 485	2 173
1,000 to 1,999 acres -----	984	995	993	867	717	645	692	621
2,000 acres or more -----	343	304	265	298	212	202		
Total cropland ----- farms...	73 703	84 774	82 450	89 518	115 086	127 992	150 350	193 380
----- acres...	7 185 903	7 602 106	7 786 086	7 756 516	8 403 509	7 855 209	8 489 211	9 016 141
Harvested cropland ----- farms...	63 754	74 518	73 823	77 885	96 958	115 755	136 554	175 280
----- acres...	3 854 302	4 548 895	4 409 331	3 746 117	3 472 039	3 617 961	4 116 418	4 860 793
Irrigated land ----- farms...	1 899	1 141	1 254	836	1 299	1 066	1 005	1 094
----- acres...	37 776	17 745	13 163	9 860	12 158	10 737	10 979	22 548
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> ----- \$1,000...	1 617 636	1 683 852	1 395 535	933 168	623 142	528 841	474 557	353 215
Average per farm ----- dollars...	20 294	18 593	16 057	9 963	5 132	3 963	3 009	1 739
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000...	701 828	848 819	658 403	455 513	225 702	277 438	239 486	204 810
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000...	915 807	835 033	737 132	471 163	391 843	245 935	229 923	144 887
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 -----	27 451	29 211	26 650	46 356	76 130	85 560	104 603	164 624
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	16 106	19 026	19 438	16 929	18 895	23 365	30 122	25 945
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	14 398	16 859	16 900	13 052	13 298	13 804	14 792	9 376
\$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> -----	11 446	13 458	13 079				8 127	2 782
\$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> -----	4 127	5 129	5 094	15 949	12 704	10 486	-	609
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	2 719	3 358	3 137				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999 -----	3 168	3 261	2 427	1 287	319	188	-	-
\$500,000 or more -----	296	238	145	54	20		-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship) -----	71 976	80 881	77 317	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership -----	6 947	8 910	8 868	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation -----	496	511	590	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. -----	292	263	135	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :								
None -----	26 744	27 751	28 951	27 280	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	108 880
Any -----	48 882	54 964	53 627	49 440	75 178	65 970	75 204	93 686
200 days or more -----	36 187	39 278	38 586	34 964	47 040	38 455	40 349	43 773
Operators by principal occupation <sup>6</sup> :								
Farming -----	30 745	36 802	36 209	45 902	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other -----	48 966	53 763	50 701	47 458	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>6</sup> ----- years...	53.8	52.3	52.0	53.3	53.0	52.6	51.7	50.1
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000...	1 282 885	(NA)	(NA)	710 922	502 903	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased ----- \$1,000...	142 988	127 847	126 405	77 524	76 713	40 150	40 154	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry ----- \$1,000...	237 592	228 199	209 886	178 820	107 030	75 551	63 016	46 775
Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> ----- \$1,000...	119 418	124 921	107 441	81 352	43 068	36 845	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products ----- \$1,000...	72 838	107 387	66 198	42 791	31 000	27 245	22 827	18 748
Hired farm labor ----- \$1,000...	117 140	109 251	81 407	48 754	45 006	35 891	36 868	28 588
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> ----- \$1,000...	115 019	161 398	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> ----- \$1,000...	57 923	57 848	40 824	20 575	11 997	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms...	52 965	60 924	56 962	70 107	80 613	100 666	115 601	158 380
----- number...	2 008 570	2 242 905	2 056 341	2 751 114	2 243 754	2 136 014	1 742 552	1 746 354
Beef cows ----- farms...	43 616	48 768	46 237	51 003	(NA)	59 449	(NA)	(NA)
----- number...	894 348	914 784	896 058	1 210 576	856 235	756 175	434 462	350 536
Milk cows ----- farms...	4 781	8 098	9 662	16 154	25 141	52 931	84 847	138 860
----- number...	180 390	217 234	204 084	233 939	274 418	369 960	456 454	616 513
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms...	51 558	56 117	55 515	64 704	74 025	85 209	96 230	109 321
----- number...	1 077 665	1 043 430	1 200 619	1 068 949	1 237 368	1 058 486	837 542	796 717
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms...	8 465	12 963	19 535	21 191	33 398	55 403	99 400	119 974
----- number...	774 530	866 226	1 016 050	701 629	1 099 148	957 856	1 609 569	1 056 651
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms...	7 874	11 268	17 584	17 140	27 959	33 247	58 581	56 093
----- number...	1 484 049	1 512 090	1 698 418	1 286 124	1 870 686	1 478 932	1 541 236	911 465
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> ----- farms...	5 810	9 655	11 567	17 015	26 336	67 949	114 713	170 230
----- number...	3 266 829	3 578 895	4 856 685	4 832 565	5 604 744	5 811 345	6 836 245	7 989 197
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms...	509	498	583	702	783	874	918	497
----- number...	75 974 462	53 916 803	51 590 460	35 289 808	412 404 441	36 220 128	27 857 988	6 232 725

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--	13 715	18 711	21 871	26 268	32 124	55 801	94 808	125 152
acres--	553 943	563 467	615 553	426 926	568 949	604 129	1 338 268	1 853 524
bushels--	47 899 079	48 544 140	42 165 218	25 685 139	28 991 484	39 398 126	50 905 365	32 101 854
Wheat for grain ----- farms--	4 579	8 357	3 885	6 607	6 702	8 088	13 042	18 808
acres--	324 984	720 123	145 777	241 891	152 424	153 450	156 766	192 553
bushels--	12 749 682	25 038 992	5 092 917	7 017 893	5 015 459	4 499 006	3 488 671	3 609 640
Soybeans for beans ----- farms--	7 797	14 359	15 433	15 233	12 706	9 010	7 056	5 507
acres--	1 184 778	2 104 123	2 105 885	1 401 705	971 948	560 263	380 760	210 483
bushels--	27 367 017	55 353 433	49 101 186	29 315 109	22 858 585	12 628 683	8 159 730	2 845 661
Cotton----- farms--	2 545	1 850	2 308	8 119	19 554	27 499	38 939	56 363
acres--	411 100	241 998	227 995	497 362	413 512	497 142	510 138	633 797
bales--	566 890	306 159	232 005	310 287	427 960	641 268	620 385	505 532
Tobacco----- farms--	25 052	36 515	33 938	34 419	63 581	58 308	71 284	80 831
acres--	51 578	82 390	66 813	49 486	58 648	68 605	74 216	87 140
pounds--	85 715 814	155 161 237	125 808 371	91 360 581	111 492 016	129 335 961	120 652 665	129 539 458
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms--	44 314	43 737	45 584	47 431	50 802	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres--	1 372 674	1 127 138	1 146 423	1 052 796	1 048 022	1 201 780	1 194 588	1 267 642
tons, dry--	2 161 679	1 923 652	1 833 474	1 764 108	1 631 323	1 735 490	1 615 273	1 193 892

<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.