

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.....	188 788	185 020	175 395	174 068	213 550	205 110	227 071	292 847
Land in farms.....acres.....	130 502 792	131 310 306	135 619 617	134 185 289	142 566 826	141 706 309	143 217 559	145 812 733
Average size of farm.....acres.....	691	710	773	771	668	691	631	498
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	374 742	386 138	294 473	187 073	99 133	77 756	51 787	30 711
Average per acre.....dollars.....	544	544	378	243	148	112	82	62
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000.....	5 702 706	5 603 585	4 490 192	2 749 766	1 643 238	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	30 351	30 436	25 721	17 405	8 292	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	12 770	10 899	7 611	6 843	10 790	6 748	10 853	26 101
10 to 49 acres.....	37 063	33 673	22 867	20 951	27 315	31 723	34 539	53 557
50 to 179 acres.....	57 666	58 198	56 742	57 611	69 574	66 789	76 185	102 078
180 to 499 acres.....	39 143	40 246	43 356	44 783	56 667	55 054	61 720	69 739
500 to 999 acres.....	19 327	19 962	21 760	21 763	26 199	23 943	23 668	22 652
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	12 629	12 047	12 871	12 079	13 064	11 081		
2,000 acres or more.....	10 190	9 995	10 188	10 038	9 941	9 772	20 106	18 820
Total cropland.....farms.....	147 174	145 880	145 748	146 373	176 790	164 645	187 415	245 699
.....acres.....	35 610 951	36 597 685	39 403 578	36 498 951	39 762 277	34 268 764	35 599 088	36 659 302
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	110 358	110 341	112 291	109 208	128 274	138 503	157 054	206 537
.....acres.....	16 521 315	20 761 160	20 598 823	19 014 079	19 824 703	19 408 346	22 236 473	24 885 000
Irrigated land.....farms.....	19 806	19 775	24 418	22 634	28 552	27 114	27 884	26 315
.....acres.....	4 271 043	5 575 553	6 947 079	6 593 832	6 888 075	6 384 963	5 655 638	4 707 028
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000.....	10 548 907	8 936 363	8 229 298	5 638 180	3 291 422	2 225 025	2 108 881	1 642 069
Average per farm.....dollars.....	55 877	48 299	46 919	32 391	15 413	10 848	9 287	5 605
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	2 962 663	3 025 698	2 694 552	2 171 042	1 003 668	1 190 141	1 134 084	1 085 157
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	7 586 244	5 910 665	5 534 746	3 460 066	2 283 682	1 025 311	971 495	554 516
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	58 693	63 042	46 582	73 094	99 977	108 917	105 753	182 642
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	31 227	30 795	31 598	24 285	33 239	26 174	34 916	40 154
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	30 076	27 367	29 220	22 242	28 847	23 381	31 127	31 406
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	28 350	25 771	27 680				54 647	25 688
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	13 467	13 512	15 491	45 424	47 696	44 061	-	13 198
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	10 598	10 689	11 904				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	14 235	12 020	11 502	8 083	3 378		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	2 142	1 749	1 306	841	333	2 489	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	167 602	164 243	155 393	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	15 946	16 263	16 418	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	3 945	3 257	2 692	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	1 295	1 257	892	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	65 582	57 284	62 487	54 846	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	149 173
Any.....	113 615	113 183	105 847	87 463	128 269	102 651	109 712	142 903
200 days or more.....	77 778	80 043	73 443	60 563	82 614	64 705	64 210	73 027
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	83 684	79 900	75 007	86 373	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	105 104	105 120	100 388	85 667	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years.....	54.4	52.9	52.4	53.7	52.7	53.3	52.5	51.1
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	8 911 631	(NA)	(NA)	4 984 611	3 041 800	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	3 134 939	2 356 028	2 315 360	1 344 068	944 659	277 176	294 308	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	1 565 112	1 562 467	1 503 227	1 317 088	561 909	339 443	257 186	220 693
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000.....	339 641	367 989	329 182	285 918	135 822	96 194	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	416 266	601 320	404 096	226 295	146 986	143 105	116 560	105 823
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	630 271	480 462	431 842	300 700	237 489	202 804	227 301	228 396
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000.....	486 757	608 466	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000.....	246 176	208 539	167 418	89 312	59 292	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms.....	142 244	143 483	133 825	138 563	163 711	169 872	181 735	241 858
.....number.....	13 020 910	12 611 712	12 701 049	13 377 867	12 484 716	9 766 430	8 517 275	8 239 905
Beef cows.....farms.....	123 291	125 651	119 752	113 683	(NA)	150 351	(NA)	(NA)
.....number.....	5 138 558	5 223 321	5 233 424	5 991 030	5 348 313	4 871 625	3 909 567	3 870 256
Milk cows.....farms.....	5 899	8 721	9 937	13 687	21 216	42 202	82 750	161 296
.....number.....	356 538	323 039	307 297	297 921	332 067	391 865	506 796	688 888
Cattle and calves sold.....farms.....	139 727	138 271	136 332	137 105	159 783	152 245	163 319	166 282
.....number.....	12 120 310	10 599 615	12 058 716	10 180 184	9 758 803	6 112 086	4 654 020	3 906 259
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms.....	7 717	9 484	12 174	12 107	22 698	33 257	75 640	107 546
.....number.....	527 942	559 590	782 173	811 559	1 006 910	619 923	1 158 687	906 324
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms.....	6 190	7 383	10 183	9 441	19 083	18 132	41 092	50 431
.....number.....	923 228	925 301	1 238 640	1 406 927	1 650 095	997 418	1 192 282	780 997
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹farms.....	13 201	16 871	16 257	19 860	30 789	69 617	126 854	211 191
.....number.....	19 601 318	15 061 107	13 738 886	14 155 071	16 004 907	15 113 400	15 871 213	14 897 662
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms.....	1 023	1 022	1 213	1 375	1 796	1 913	2 416	3 064
.....number.....	226 038 116	176 390 727	168 330 357	146 502 086	156 150 513	124 197 718	84 685 579	52 121 633

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:								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms...	9 131	9 192	12 223	14 057	19 039	37 650	64 856	90 284
acres...	1 227 335	1 097 305	1 286 697	782 986	567 137	701 586	1 343 044	1 665 892
bushels...	123 806 676	110 164 572	115 710 749	62 837 989	25 237 669	22 163 997	36 276 234	28 417 341
Sorghum for grain or seed ----- farms...	15 935	20 348	23 280	32 749	40 969	40 386	59 351	55 436
acres...	2 665 237	4 812 115	4 498 511	5 612 585	5 983 584	4 385 620	6 724 604	5 620 095
bushels...	155 573 425	256 044 797	205 070 846	263 602 187	280 953 610	201 610 294	235 381 994	131 883 651
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	19 386	22 647	15 103	20 197	25 170	29 172	25 550	(NA)
acres...	3 649 104	5 087 248	2 691 350	3 489 127	2 813 316	3 125 227	3 031 131	(NA)
bushels...	98 226 965	123 039 757	55 182 535	60 811 842	65 087 965	60 570 209	50 116 390	(NA)
Rice ----- farms...	1 212	1 157	1 393	(NA)	(NA)	1 634	1 836	1 730
acres...	299 388	520 896	597 729	(NA)	(NA)	475 785	429 440	607 639
cwt...	16 345 153	24 702 306	27 807 754	(NA)	(NA)	19 723 700	13 608 220	16 166 988
Cotton----- farms...	16 557	16 292	23 035	28 334	47 730	54 472	80 916	126 014
acres...	4 349 755	4 522 787	6 476 184	4 493 986	5 032 040	5 643 643	6 126 137	7 513 763
bales...	4 071 552	2 715 950	3 746 038	2 505 597	3 040 790	3 915 081	4 155 986	3 548 337
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	76 357	71 265	72 168	61 089	61 208	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	3 252 216	2 851 469	3 024 941	2 350 721	2 113 732	2 083 997	1 442 797	1 508 975
tons, dry...	6 684 785	5 689 779	5 189 390	4 415 658	3 544 003	3 116 241	1 908 767	1 585 579
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ¹⁰ ----- farms...	3 237	3 434	3 531	3 414	5 041	8 438	11 773	21 391
acres...	201 702	210 873	219 694	158 148	236 125	295 297	325 906	403 197

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.