

1987

Census of

Agriculture

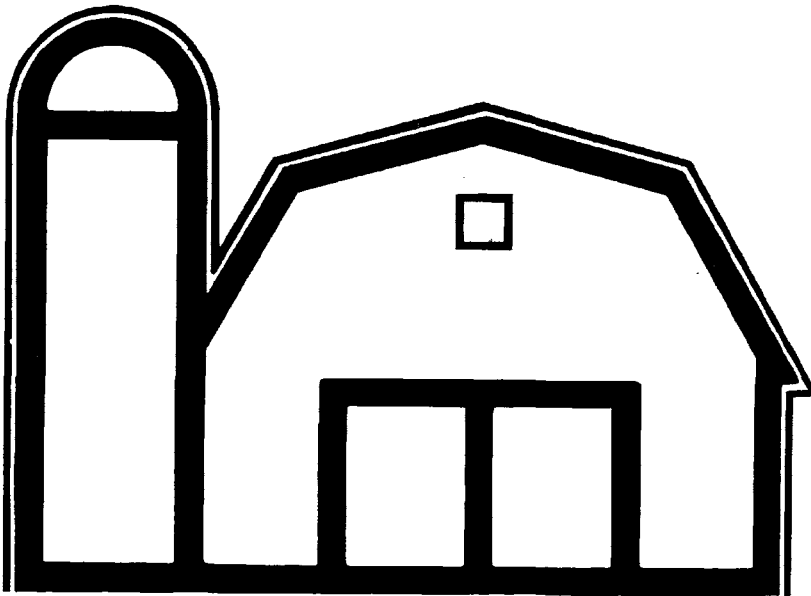
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Volume 1
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 51

United States

Summary and State Data



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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Issued November 1989



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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	VII
Highlights of the Nation's Agriculture: 1987 and 1982	1

FIGURES

1. United States Map	2
2. Profile of the Nation's Agriculture: 1987	3
3. Percent of Farms and of Value of Products Sold: 1987	4
4. Farms by Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1959 to 1987	4
5. Land Use: 1987	5
6. Selected Crops Harvested: 1987	5
7. Value of Livestock and Poultry Sold: 1987	6
8. Production Expenses: 1987	6

TABLES

CHAPTER 1. United States Data

1. Historical Highlights: 1987 and Earlier Census Years	7
2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1987, 1982, and 1978	9
3. Farm Production Expenses: 1987, 1982, and 1978	10
4. Net Cash Return From Agricultural Sales: 1987	12
5. Government Payments and Other Farm-Related Income: 1987 and 1982	13
6. Commodity Credit Corporation Loans: 1987 and 1982	14
7. Land Use and Acres Diverted: 1987, 1982, and 1978	15
8. Land in Farms, Harvested Cropland, and Irrigated Land, by Size of Farm: 1987 and 1982	16
9. Irrigation: 1987, 1982, and 1978	16
10. Selected Characteristics of Irrigated and Nonirrigated Farms: 1987 and 1982	17
11. Value of Land and Buildings: 1987, 1982, and 1978	18
12. Value of Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1987 and 1982	18
13. Selected Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1987 and 1982	18
14. Petroleum Products Expenses: 1987, 1982, and 1978	19
15. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer and Lime: 1987, 1982, and 1978	19
16. Tenure and Characteristics of Operator and Type of Organization for All Farms and Farms Operated by Black and Other Races: 1987, 1982, and 1978	20
17. Selected Characteristics of Farms Operated by Females, Persons of Spanish Origin, and Specified Racial Groups: 1987 and 1982	21
18. Selected Characteristics of Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1987	23
19. Selected Characteristics of Abnormal Farms: 1987 and 1982	24
20. Livestock and Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1987, 1982, and 1978	25
21. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	25
22. Broilers and Started Pullets—Sales: 1987 and 1982	26
23. Poultry—Inventory and Sales by Size of Flock: 1987	26
24. Turkeys—Sales by Number Sold Per Farm: 1987	27
25. Cattle and Calves—Inventory: 1987 and 1982	27
26. Cattle and Calves—Sales: 1987 and 1982	28
27. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales by Size of Herd: 1987	28
28. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales by Size of Cow Herd: 1987	29
29. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales by Size of Beef Cow Herd: 1987	29
30. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales by Size of Milk Cow Herd: 1987	30
31. Cattle and Calves—Sales by Number Sold Per Farm: 1987	30
32. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory: 1987 and 1982	30
33. Hogs and Pigs—Sales: 1987 and 1982	31

	Page
34. Hogs and Pigs—Litters Farrowed: 1987 and 1982	31
35. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales by Size of Herd: 1987	31
36. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales by Number Sold Per Farm: 1987	32
37. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory, Sales, and Litters by Total Farrowed: 1987	32
38. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	32
39. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales by Size of Flock: 1987	33
40. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales by Size of Ewe Flock: 1987	33
41. Other Livestock and Livestock Products—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	34
42. Crops Harvested and Value of Production: 1987 and 1982	35
43. Specified Crops Harvested—Yield Per Acre Irrigated and Nonirrigated: 1987	35
44. Specified Crops by Acres Harvested: 1987 and 1982	36
45. Specified Fruits and Nuts by Acres: 1987 and 1982	39
46. Nursery and Greenhouse Crops, Mushrooms, and Sod Grown for Sale by Value of Sales: 1987 and 1982	41
47. Farms by Concentration of Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1987	43
48. Summary by Tenure of Operator: 1987	44
49. Summary by Type of Organization: 1987	54
50. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operator: 1987	64
51. Summary by Size of Farm: 1987	84
52. Summary by Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1987	104
53. Summary by Standard Industrial Classification of Farm: 1987	124

CHAPTER 2. State Data

1. State Summary Highlights: 1987	144
2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold and Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1987 and 1982	151
3. Farm Production Expenses: 1987 and 1982	165
4. Net Cash Return From Agricultural Sales, Government Payments, Other Farm-Related Income, and Commodity Credit Corporation Loans: 1987 and 1982	172
5. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1987 and 1982	179
6. Harvested Cropland by Size of Farm and Acres Harvested: 1987 and 1982	193
7. Irrigation: 1987 and 1982	200
8. Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1987 and 1982	207
9. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer and Lime: 1987 and 1982	214
10. Tenure and Characteristics of Operator and Type of Organization: 1987 and 1982	218
11. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	232
12. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory, Litters, and Sales: 1987 and 1982	246
13. Sheep and Horses—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	253
14. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	257
15. Selected Crops: 1987 and 1982	264
16. Farms With Sales of \$10,000 or More: 1987 and 1982	278
17. Milk Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	313
18. Angora Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	314
19. Mink and Their Pelts—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	315
20. Colonies of Bees and Honey—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	315
21. Fish Sales: 1987 and 1982	316
22. Miscellaneous Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	318
23. Miscellaneous Livestock and Animal Specialties—Inventory and Sales: 1987 and 1982	323
24. Grains—Corn, Sorghum, Wheat, and Other Small Grains: 1987 and 1982	327
25. Cotton, Tobacco, Soybeans, Dry Beans and Peas, Potatoes, Sugar Crops, and Peanuts: 1987 and 1982	334
26. Field Seeds, Grass Seeds, Hay, Forage, and Silage: 1987 and 1982	340
27. Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons Harvested for Sale: 1987 and 1982	353
28. Fruits and Nuts: 1987 and 1982	377
29. Berries Harvested for Sale: 1987 and 1982	392
30. Nursery and Greenhouse Crops, Mushrooms, and Sod Grown for Sale: 1987 and 1982	396
31. Other Crops: 1987 and 1982	405
32. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Value of Sales and Occupation: 1987 and 1982	410
33. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Tenure: 1987 and 1982	411
34. Operators by Selected Racial Groups: 1987 and 1982	412
35. Operators of Spanish Origin: 1987 and 1982	414
36. Farms With Grazing Permits: 1987	415

APPENDIXES

A.	General Explanation	A-1
B.	Places With All Cropland in the Conservation Reserve Program	B-1
C.	Statistical Methodology	C-1
D.	Report Form and Information Sheet	D-1

Index	Index 1
Publication Program	Inside back cover

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INTRODUCTION

	Page
HISTORY	VII
USES OF THE CENSUS	VII
AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED	VII
FARM DEFINITION	VII
COMPARABILITY OF DATA	VII
TABULAR PRESENTATION	VII
ADVANCE REPORTS	VIII
ELECTRONIC DATA DISSEMINATION.....	VIII
SPECIAL TABULATIONS.....	VIII
CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES	VIII
INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA	VIII
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS	VIII

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

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

State data—Chapter 2 presents selected data items by State. Tables 1 through 16 include general data for all States. Tables 17 through 36 include only States reporting the data item. States not having the item, or with a limited number of farms reporting the item, have data combined and presented as “all other States.”

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 Nation'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.....	2 087 759	2 240 976	-6.8
Land in farms.....acres.....	964 470 625	986 796 579	-2.3
Average size of farm.....acres.....	462	440	5.0
Value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm.....dollars.....	289 387	345 869	-16.3
Average per acre.....dollars.....	627	784	-20.0
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres.....	183 257	187 665	-2.3
10 to 49 acres.....	412 437	449 252	-8.2
50 to 179 acres.....	644 849	711 652	-9.4
180 to 499 acres.....	478 294	526 510	-9.2
500 to 999 acres.....	200 058	203 925	-1.9
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	102 078	97 395	4.8
2,000 acres or more.....	66 786	64 577	3.4
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	1 643 833	1 809 756	-9.2
.....acres.....	282 223 880	326 306 462	-13.5
Irrigated land.....farms.....	291 628	278 277	4.8
.....acres.....	46 386 201	49 002 433	-5.3
Market value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000.....	136 048 516	131 900 223	3.1
Average per farm.....dollars.....	65 165	58 858	10.7
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	58 931 085	62 256 087	-5.3
Grains.....\$1,000.....	28 340 524	36 409 105	-22.2
Cotton and cottonseed.....\$1,000.....	4 207 891	3 232 615	30.2
Tobacco.....\$1,000.....	1 745 417	2 773 835	-37.1
Hay, silage, and field seeds.....\$1,000.....	2 598 615	2 312 006	12.4
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons.....\$1,000.....	4 698 083	4 145 446	13.3
Fruits, nuts, and berries.....\$1,000.....	7 084 018	5 846 095	21.2
Nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	5 774 391	3 821 196	51.1
Other crops.....\$1,000.....	4 482 146	3 715 789	20.6
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	77 117 431	69 644 136	10.7
Poultry and poultry products.....\$1,000.....	12 758 270	9 796 927	30.2
Dairy products.....\$1,000.....	16 029 195	16 320 417	-1.8
Cattle and calves.....\$1,000.....	35 876 720	31 635 157	13.4
Hogs and pigs.....\$1,000.....	9 890 644	9 867 741	.2
Sheep, lambs, and wool.....\$1,000.....	791 219	608 048	30.1
Other livestock and livestock products (see text).....\$1,000.....	1 771 383	1 415 845	25.1
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	1 809 324	1 945 639	-7.0
Partnership.....	199 559	223 274	-10.6
Corporation.....	68 969	59 792	12.0
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	11 907	12 271	-3.0
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming.....	1 138 179	1 234 787	-7.8
Other.....	949 580	1 006 189	-5.6
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any.....	1 115 560	1 187 374	-6.0
200 days or more.....	737 206	774 844	-4.9
Average age of operator.....years.....	52.0	50.5	3.0
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	108 138 053	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :			
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	19 344 645	17 174 334	12.6
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	19 163 364	18 591 984	3.1
Commercial fertilizer ²\$1,000.....	6 684 944	7 689 365	-13.1
Agricultural chemicals ²\$1,000.....	4 690 243	4 282 213	9.5
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	5 277 227	7 888 052	-33.1
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	10 866 236	8 441 180	28.7
Interest expense ³\$1,000.....	8 158 268	11 668 942	-30.1
Livestock and poultry inventory:			
Cattle and calves.....farms.....	1 176 346	1 354 992	-13.2
.....number.....	95 847 299	104 475 827	-8.3
Milk cows.....farms.....	202 068	277 762	-27.3
.....number.....	10 084 697	10 849 890	-7.1
Hogs and pigs.....farms.....	243 398	329 833	-26.2
.....number.....	52 271 120	55 366 205	-5.6
Chickens 3 months old or older.....farms.....	144 438	215 812	-33.1
.....number.....	373 577 186	362 464 997	3.1
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed.....farms.....	627 602	715 171	-12.2
.....acres.....	58 701 505	69 857 993	-16.0
Wheat for grain.....farms.....	352 237	446 075	-21.0
.....acres.....	53 224 174	70 910 293	-24.9
Cotton.....farms.....	43 046	38 266	12.5
.....acres.....	9 826 081	9 781 404	.5
Soybeans for beans.....farms.....	441 899	511 229	-13.6
.....acres.....	55 291 205	64 832 842	-14.7
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text).....farms.....	994 551	1 050 992	-5.4
.....acres.....	57 967 530	56 743 836	2.2
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text).....farms.....	60 819	69 109	-12.0
.....acres.....	3 467 563	3 330 637	4.1
Land in orchards.....farms.....	120 434	123 663	-2.6
.....acres.....	4 560 163	4 750 667	-4.0

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

²Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications.

³Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.