

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 ¹
Farms.....number.....	2 087 759	2 240 976	2 257 775	2 314 013	2 730 250	3 157 857	3 710 503	4 782 416
Land in farms.....acres.....	964 470 625	986 796 579	1 014 777 234	1 017 030 357	1 062 892 501	1 110 187 000	1 123 507 574	1 158 181 511
Average size of farm.....acres.....	462	440	449	440	389	352	303	242
Value of land and buildings ² :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	289 387	345 869	279 672	147 838	75 714	50 646	34 825	20 405
Average per acre.....dollars.....	627	784	619	336	194	144	115	84
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ²\$1,000.....	85 801 360	93 662 947	77 600 689	48 402 624	25 343 077	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	41 227	41 919	34 471	22 303	9 770	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	183 257	187 665	151 233	128 254	162 111	182 581	244 328	484 291
10 to 49 acres.....	412 437	449 252	391 554	379 543	473 465	637 434	813 216	1 212 831
50 to 179 acres.....	644 849	711 652	759 047	827 884	1 001 706	1 175 370	1 430 498	1 817 172
180 to 499 acres.....	478 294	526 510	581 631	616 098	726 363	806 743	886 022	945 944
500 to 999 acres.....	200 058	203 925	213 209	207 297	215 659	210 437	200 012	191 697
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	102 078	97 395	97 800	92 712	91 039	84 999		
2,000 acres or more.....	66 786	64 577	63 301	62 225	59 907	60 293	136 427	130 481
Total cropland.....farms.....	1 848 574	2 010 609	2 081 604	2 157 511	2 521 859	2 907 265	3 431 544	4 418 915
acres.....	443 318 233	445 362 028	453 874 133	440 039 087	458 989 605	434 232 200	448 087 341	459 648 961
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	1 643 633	1 809 756	1 904 602	1 954 700	2 219 631	2 701 694	3 201 315	4 104 241
acres.....	282 223 880	326 306 462	317 145 955	303 001 943	273 016 000	286 891 974	311 478 141	332 870 479
Irrigated land.....farms.....	291 628	278 277	280 779	236 733	257 147	297 387	307 783	320 236
acres.....	46 386 201	49 002 433	50 349 906	41 243 023	39 121 693	37 056 083	33 162 978	29 552 155
Market value of agricultural products sold ³\$1,000.....	136 048 516	131 900 223	107 073 458	81 526 126	45 563 891	35 292 431	30 492 801	24 644 727
Average per farm.....dollars.....	65 165	58 858	47 424	35 231	16 689	11 176	8 218	5 153
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	58 931 085	62 256 087	48 203 200	41 790 365	16 922 023	16 236 248	13 246 204	12 221 875
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	77 117 431	69 644 136	58 870 258	39 503 850	28 480 921	18 841 027	17 059 129	12 292 424
Farms by value of sales ⁴ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	490 296	536 327	460 535	649 448	1 031 638	1 338 259	1 637 849	2 678 486
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	262 918	278 208	300 699	257 263	357 922	443 918	617 677	811 965
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	274 972	281 802	314 088	296 373	390 425	504 614	653 881	706 929
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁵	326 186	340 254	394 876				795 505	448 945
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁶	219 636	248 828	300 515	956 092	896 159	837 507	-	134 003
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	218 050	251 501	263 082				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	263 698	274 580	203 695	141 187	47 916		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	32 023	27 800	17 973	11 412	4 079	31 401	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	1 809 324	1 945 639	1 965 860	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	199 559	223 274	232 538	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	66 969	59 792	50 231	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	11 907	12 271	9 148	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁷ :								
None.....	844 476	861 798	942 803	829 843	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2 560 019
Any.....	1 115 580	1 187 374	1 203 286	1 011 476	1 482 292	1 462 183	1 663 841	2 153 737
200 days or more.....	737 206	774 844	770 045	657 971	870 615	824 173	877 619	1 027 348
Operators by principal occupation ⁷ :								
Farming.....	1 138 179	1 234 787	1 269 305	1 427 368	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	949 580	1 006 189	988 470	851 902	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁷years.....	52.0	50.5	50.3	51.7	51.2	51.3	50.5	49.6
Total farm production expenses ²\$1,000.....	108 138 053	(NA)	(NA)	61 007 649	37 559 615	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ² :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	19 344 645	17 174 334	16 039 244	9 953 946	8 077 779	4 177 785	3 856 777	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	19 163 364	18 591 984	15 785 995	13 847 816	7 082 274	5 511 813	4 755 471	3 906 048
Commercial fertilizer ⁸\$1,000.....	6 684 944	7 689 385	6 330 581	5 137 361	2 209 185	1 771 617	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	5 277 227	7 888 052	4 691 425	3 087 606	1 906 579	1 786 786	1 554 367	1 366 244
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	10 866 236	8 441 180	6 814 428	4 652 075	3 375 203	2 798 571	2 621 651	2 279 347
Interest expense ⁹\$1,000.....	8 158 268	11 668 942	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁸\$1,000.....	4 690 243	4 282 213	2 889 503	1 757 779	908 036	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms.....	1 176 346	1 354 992	1 346 106	1 503 244	1 719 403	2 283 881	2 674 176	3 650 714
number.....	95 847 299	104 475 827	103 865 109	113 174 700	106 345 741	105 557 830	92 534 082	95 027 041
Beef cows.....farms.....	841 778	957 698	954 360	1 024 935	(NA)	1 323 912	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	31 852 593	34 202 607	34 326 274	41 257 898	34 337 320	32 719 198	24 751 452	25 026 574
Milk cows.....farms.....	202 068	277 762	312 095	403 754	568 237	1 133 912	1 792 393	2 935 842
number.....	10 084 697	10 849 890	10 221 692	10 654 516	11 174 036	14 622 604	16 522 026	20 182 803
Cattle and calves sold.....farms.....	1 150 523	1 278 609	1 320 163	1 437 101	1 645 518	1 990 968	2 303 737	2 611 031
number.....	72 603 841	71 216 727	78 020 351	70 019 180	74 616 155	62 952 104	51 251 240	44 350 808
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms.....	243 398	329 833	445 117	470 258	686 097	1 081 438	1 848 784	2 365 708
number.....	52 271 120	55 366 205	57 687 318	45 503 604	55 454 828	54 080 184	67 949 258	57 092 919
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms.....	238 819	315 095	423 578	449 841	645 129	802 620	1 273 293	1 423 943
number.....	96 569 359	94 783 598	90 757 143	79 897 397	89 313 449	83 537 060	80 899 553	57 418 588
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ¹⁰farms.....	144 438	215 812	240 891	316 243	471 284	1 210 669	2 172 264	3 418 204
number.....	373 577 186	362 464 997	354 357 427	335 740 245	371 006 459	343 161 807	351 029 294	375 800 447
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms.....	27 645	30 100	31 743	34 340	33 753	35 128	41 743	50 094
number.....	4 361 975 630	3 516 622 889	3 062 154 490	2 518 513 032	2 429 773 426	1 915 373 928	1 414 259 366	796 207 023

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 ¹
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms...	627 602	715 171	810 577	883 309	985 629	1 382 773	1 989 622	(NA)
acres...	58 701 505	69 857 993	70 043 480	61 653 842	52 540 249	53 751 095	70 064 959	(NA)
bushels...	6 725 001 837	7 508 721 493	6 805 185 861	4 396 912 922	4 441 808 244	3 361 141 669	3 697 190 984	(NA)
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	352 237	446 075	378 574	533 520	583 605	739 662	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	53 224 174	70 910 293	54 155 168	62 957 215	45 372 868	47 958 362	49 566 924	51 361 684
bushels...	1 887 103 964	2 373 246 659	1 607 540 430	1 691 553 354	1 328 003 477	1 217 791 875	1 055 924 508	908 927 557
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	441 899	511 229	537 037	542 029	529 798	560 156	499 710	(NA)
acres...	55 291 205	64 832 842	61 339 849	48 118 849	38 549 663	29 843 540	22 079 846	(NA)
bushels...	1 838 053 979	1 989 993 158	1 722 154 229	1 145 788 470	1 041 489 049	669 664 562	515 627 957	(NA)
Cotton----- farms...	43 046	38 266	52 628	89 536	199 785	324 361	509 540	884 138
acres...	9 826 081	9 781 404	12 683 772	12 223 500	11 496 220	13 916 648	14 649 264	18 858 145
bales...	13 280 143	11 375 524	10 686 447	10 887 205	10 360 171	14 734 217	13 913 505	12 921 376
Tobacco----- farms...	136 682	179 141	188 649	197 764	276 188	331 365	415 315	511 503
acres...	633 310	931 655	963 224	877 113	876 927	1 025 240	1 108 274	1 557 239
pounds...	1 215 221 360	1 871 309 459	1 918 189 782	1 733 365 121	1 643 934 800	1 987 526 982	1 646 512 924	1 921 525 672
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	994 551	1 050 992	1 132 997	1 145 540	1 229 877	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	57 967 530	56 743 836	60 241 391	56 236 381	53 203 606	65 294 703	63 548 557	69 940 058
tons, dry...	128 816 054	128 474 661	130 713 685	115 028 236	111 813 581	115 760 894	106 589 630	103 597 282
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ¹¹ ----- farms...	60 819	69 109	73 183	78 566	101 760	131 653	182 327	279 606
acres...	3 467 563	3 330 637	3 534 142	3 124 257	3 352 385	3 333 772	3 490 763	3 739 994
Land in orchards ----- farms...	120 434	123 663	121 852	105 997	133 311	224 568	319 461	424 747
acres...	4 560 163	4 750 667	4 463 627	4 190 340	4 233 897	4 251 130	4 119 828	4 003 426

¹Data for 1954 exclude Alaska and Hawaii.

²Data are based on a sample of farms.

³Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

⁴Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

⁵Data for 1959 are for \$10,000 or more.

⁶Data for 1954 are for \$25,000 or more.

⁷Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorship) and partnerships; see text.

⁸Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications; data for agricultural chemicals exclude the cost of lime for 1987 and 1982.

⁹Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

¹⁰Data for 1964 and prior years are for chickens 4 months old or older.

¹¹Data for 1974 were from land area used.