

**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.....	14 066	13 984	12 764	12 184	13 045	15 759	17 811	22 826
Land in farms.....acres.....	9 989 073	9 772 942	10 470 564	10 610 050	11 312 951	12 867 081	12 688 518	12 262 222
Average size of farm.....acres.....	710	699	820	871	867	817	712	537
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	302 838	389 678	320 234	163 989	79 705	57 747	42 391	25 652
Average per acre.....dollars.....	425	560	391	188	92	71	60	48
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000.....	499 126	472 803	370 829	245 726	121 489	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	35 685	33 985	29 176	21 114	9 630	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	2 365	2 358	1 424	1 116	1 395	1 805	2 243	4 855
10 to 49 acres.....	3 835	3 938	3 218	2 948	3 159	4 085	4 597	5 645
50 to 179 acres.....	3 437	3 345	3 486	3 538	3 870	4 645	5 420	6 672
180 to 499 acres.....	2 137	2 135	2 290	2 217	2 247	2 569	2 756	2 908
500 to 999 acres.....	941	896	941	904	933	994	1 075	1 099
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	598	572	607	639	592	661		
2,000 acres or more.....	753	740	798	822	849	1 000	1 720	1 647
Total cropland.....farms.....	12 233	12 349	11 779	11 327	12 055	14 570	16 320	20 579
acres.....	2 028 537	1 920 459	2 006 845	1 838 683	1 944 576	2 069 514	2 007 651	2 027 458
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	10 752	11 078	10 951	10 692	11 103	13 759	15 481	19 728
acres.....	1 076 886	1 118 486	1 163 141	1 089 243	1 024 475	1 039 040	1 062 246	1 228 520
Irrigated land.....farms.....	11 143	11 174	10 822	9 701	10 282	13 762	15 701	19 406
acres.....	1 161 207	1 082 328	1 168 621	969 645	1 025 014	1 092 270	1 061 683	1 072 682
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000.....	617 882	555 428	465 380	338 649	212 977	158 772	155 675	126 576
Average per farm.....dollars.....	43 927	39 719	36 460	27 795	16 326	10 075	8 740	5 545
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	130 441	130 233	101 550	94 887	38 557	33 966	34 657	36 981
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	487 442	425 195	363 831	243 622	174 365	124 429	120 985	89 505
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500.....	4 380	4 299	3 187	3 491	4 637	7 019	7 322	12 228
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	1 894	1 924	1 968	1 662	1 920	2 504	2 871	4 065
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	1 854	1 990	1 900	1 846	1 981	2 386	3 216	3 493
\$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> .....	2 272	2 151	2 215				4 251	2 296
\$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> .....	1 272	1 279	1 372	4 433	4 053	3 527	-	841
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	1 005	1 000	1 024				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	1 218	1 162	874	537	265		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	171	127	87	53	24	143	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	11 660	11 605	10 625	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	1 619	1 514	1 374	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	599	551	473	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	188	314	292	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :								
None.....	4 566	4 072	4 293	3 271	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	8 083
Any.....	8 688	8 925	7 942	6 489	8 345	9 648	10 752	14 740
200 days or more.....	5 834	6 218	5 288	4 168	5 505	6 316	6 426	8 573
Operators by principal occupation <sup>6</sup> :								
Farming.....	6 350	6 155	6 041	6 287	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	7 716	7 829	6 723	5 398	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>6</sup> .....years.....	53.7	52.0	51.9	52.6	51.4	51.3	50.1	48.8
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000.....	494 641	(NA)	(NA)	288 132	181 123	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	84 657	80 313	74 543	52 074	43 778	28 579	26 279	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	101 717	108 719	102 272	87 162	39 544	34 568	30 409	23 145
Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000.....	13 229	10 327	11 893	9 442	4 012	2 834	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	29 726	35 676	22 427	14 589	9 246	8 762	8 407	7 539
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	51 365	42 066	34 946	22 269	17 868	14 247	13 505	13 005
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> .....\$1,000.....	47 504	59 617	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000.....	8 604	5 302	4 624	2 471	1 250	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms.....	7 854	8 757	8 114	8 087	8 293	11 207	13 553	17 664
number.....	855 338	855 997	804 935	839 849	735 847	748 238	697 709	727 587
Beef cows.....farms.....	5 430	5 773	5 483	5 246	(NA)	6 080	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	346 462	320 470	315 625	335 417	275 854	268 435	231 005	237 305
Milk cows.....farms.....	1 447	2 325	2 480	2 828	3 501	6 235	9 699	14 159
number.....	76 610	90 108	78 520	77 659	70 297	75 217	87 895	92 453
Cattle and calves sold.....farms.....	7 520	7 836	7 608	7 547	7 871	9 775	11 745	12 209
number.....	499 464	458 467	467 458	431 649	450 478	399 786	378 435	285 748
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms.....	748	1 061	1 356	1 384	1 554	2 633	5 878	7 731
number.....	33 643	38 748	46 929	37 295	39 200	38 465	74 287	59 955
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms.....	575	746	1 020	912	1 158	1 544	2 871	3 806
number.....	48 290	50 369	61 212	56 142	59 787	54 934	77 395	55 489
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> .....farms.....	1 008	1 417	1 189	1 171	1 224	3 276	6 164	11 004
number.....	2 089 320	2 101 959	2 294 011	2 109 377	1 515 087	1 106 513	1 644 891	2 153 657
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms.....	23	43	29	29	38	43	67	172
number.....	7 793	4 357	2 483	64 061	1 502 660	1 138 273	1 223 436	2 057 010

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
<b>Selected crops harvested:</b>								
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	1 711	1 703	2 054	3 623	4 088	4 331	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	191 384	237 229	254 279	264 168	219 709	203 207	226 279	343 054
bushels...	7 149 004	6 662 449	6 672 767	6 377 354	5 814 608	4 915 551	5 305 000	6 053 683
Barley for grain ----- farms...	3 139	3 863	4 281	(NA)	(NA)	5 929	7 580	8 840
acres...	126 345	150 908	145 346	(NA)	(NA)	118 561	144 260	145 481
bushels...	9 506 857	10 949 532	9 059 083	(NA)	(NA)	5 665 904	6 782 735	5 764 035
Oats for grain ----- farms...	789	1 054	1 152	(NA)	(NA)	2 161	2 460	3 971
acres...	11 107	13 312	14 270	(NA)	(NA)	18 699	19 031	28 695
bushels...	699 305	784 230	762 236	(NA)	(NA)	920 175	921 562	1 257 677
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms...	9 114	9 312	9 267	8 853	9 026	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres...	649 688	614 816	625 177	550 926	517 638	563 119	531 489	552 109
tons, dry...	1 962 334	1 877 759	1 759 548	1 537 290	1 486 499	1 401 053	1 240 486	1 177 197

<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.