

Room 418

# 1987

## Census of Agriculture

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AC87-A-46

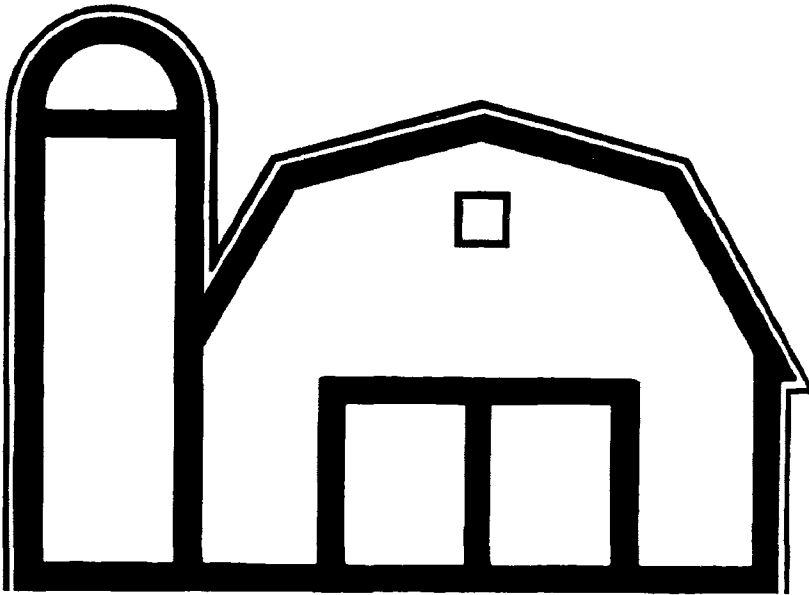
Volume 1  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 46

# Virginia

State and County Data

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U.S. Department of Commerce  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division. Many other divisions contributed to this preparation: Data Preparation performed the clerical processing; Administrative Services provided the forms design and other administrative services; Publications Services contributed in publication planning and design, editorial review, composition, and printing procurement; Computer Services provided the computer processing facilities; Field provided selected data collection activities; Economic Programming prepared the computer programs; and Economic Surveys assisted in preparation of data collection and processing procedures and computer programs.

Members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and representatives of both public and private

organizations made significant recommendations which helped establish data content.

Members of various agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided valuable advice in the planning, publicizing, and processing phases of the census, and in helping farmers and ranchers complete the report forms.

The press, farm magazines, radio and television stations, and farm organizations were most helpful in publicizing the census and encouraging cooperation of farm and ranch operators.

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.

If you have any questions concerning the statistics in this report, call:

(301) 763-8555 Division Chief

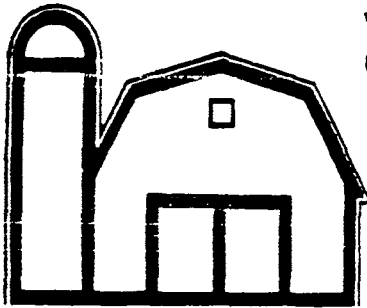
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VOLUME 1  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

**1987**  
**Census of**  
**Agriculture**  
AC87-A-46  
Changed November 1989

**CHANGE SHEET**  
**Virginia**

Following are changes to the 1987 Census of Agriculture volume 1 publications:

**Table 17. Selected Characteristics of Farms Operated by Females, Persons of Spanish Origin, and Specified Racial Groups: 1987 and 1982**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text.]

Characteristics	Female operators	Operators of Spanish origin	Farms operated by Black and other races			
			Black	American Indian	Asian	Other (see text)
<b>1987 OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS</b>						
Operators by days of work off farm:						
Any.....	1 587	47	867	28	12	3
100 to 199 days.....	282	6	153	6	-	2

<sup>1</sup>See chapter 1, table 16, for operators not of or not reporting Spanish origin.

Following are changes to appendix C:

**Table G. State Coverage Evaluation Estimates of Farms Not on the Mail List: 1987**

[During additional processing for coverage evaluation estimates, minor errors in estimates and relative standard errors were discovered for selected data items in some States. Corrected estimates will be published in volume 2, Subject Series, Part 2, Coverage Evaluation.]



U.S. Department of Commerce  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

# 1987

## Census of Agriculture

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AC87-A-46

Volume 1  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 46  
**Virginia**  
State and County Data

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Issued July 1989



**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**Robert A. Mosbacher**, Secretary  
**Michael R. Darby**, Under Secretary  
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**BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**

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\*Not published for this State.



# INTRODUCTION

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## 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

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

**County data**—Chapter 2 presents selected data items by county. Tables 1 through 16 include general data for all counties. The counties are listed in alphabetical order in the column headings. Tables 17 through 36 include only

counties reporting the data item. Counties not having the item, or with a limited number of farms reporting the item, have data combined and presented as "all other counties."

## 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 State'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.....	44 799	51 859	-13.6
Land in farms.....acres.....	8 676 336	9 436 854	-8.1
Average size of farm.....acres.....	194	182	6.6
Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm.....dollars.....	232 374	205 034	13.3
Average per acre.....dollars.....	1 198	1 125	6.5
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres.....	3 408	4 158	-18.0
10 to 49 acres.....	10 753	12 762	-15.7
50 to 179 acres.....	17 530	20 489	-14.4
180 to 499 acres.....	9 252	10 393	-11.0
500 to 999 acres.....	2 624	2 837	-7.5
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	968	956	1.3
2,000 acres or more.....	264	264	-
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	37 332	44 259	-15.7
.....acres.....	2 406 976	2 779 282	-13.4
Irrigated land.....farms.....	3 054	1 839	66.1
.....acres.....	78 681	42 824	83.7
Market value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000.....	1 588 770	1 606 915	-1.1
Average per farm.....dollars.....	35 464	30 986	14.5
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	465 379	629 303	-26.0
Grains.....\$1,000.....	111 698	229 742	-51.4
Cotton and cottonseed.....\$1,000.....	489	98	399.3
Tobacco.....\$1,000.....	112 466	184 819	-39.1
Hay, silage, and field seeds.....\$1,000.....	21 059	17 342	21.4
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons.....\$1,000.....	34 011	27 409	24.1
Fruits, nuts, and berries.....\$1,000.....	37 753	42 391	-10.9
Nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	72 233	43 858	64.7
Other crops.....\$1,000.....	75 670	83 644	-9.5
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	1 123 391	977 612	14.9
Poultry and poultry products.....\$1,000.....	398 843	293 291	36.0
Dairy products.....\$1,000.....	270 528	278 293	-2.8
Cattle and calves.....\$1,000.....	342 111	277 255	23.4
Hogs and pigs.....\$1,000.....	63 785	82 309	-22.5
Sheep, lambs, and wool.....\$1,000.....	17 292	6 814	153.8
Other livestock and livestock products (see text).....\$1,000.....	30 832	39 650	-22.2
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	39 344	45 731	-14.0
Partnership.....	4 004	4 765	-16.0
Corporation.....	1 173	1 023	14.7
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	278	340	-18.2
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming.....	20 617	24 090	-14.4
Other.....	24 182	27 769	-12.9
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any.....	25 826	29 561	-12.6
200 days or more.....	18 291	20 648	-11.4
Average age of operator.....years.....	54.5	53.3	2.3
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000.....	1 334 393	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :			
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	169 333	161 849	4.6
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	360 422	295 721	21.9
Commercial fertilizer <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000.....	92 982	116 005	-19.8
Agricultural chemicals <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000.....	51 382	50 270	2.2
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	64 261	98 762	-34.9
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	145 364	126 893	14.6
Interest expense <sup>3</sup> .....\$1,000.....	83 237	105 832	-21.4
Livestock and poultry inventory:			
Cattle and calves.....farms.....	28 325	33 114	-14.5
.....number.....	1 510 920	1 672 006	-9.6
Milk cows.....farms.....	3 372	5 577	-39.5
.....number.....	157 128	173 418	-9.4
Hogs and pigs.....farms.....	3 711	7 239	-48.7
.....number.....	345 058	474 393	-27.3
Chickens 3 months old or older.....farms.....	3 194	5 445	-41.3
.....number.....	6 605 717	4 510 736	46.4
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed.....farms.....	8 162	15 288	-46.6
.....acres.....	341 412	611 032	-44.1
Wheat for grain.....farms.....	4 339	6 594	-34.2
.....acres.....	188 428	296 840	-36.5
Tobacco.....farms.....	9 750	13 485	-27.7
.....acres.....	45 121	64 005	-29.5
Soybeans for beans.....farms.....	4 586	7 247	-36.7
.....acres.....	459 924	612 399	-24.9
Peanuts for nuts.....farms.....	1 150	1 501	-23.4
.....acres.....	92 733	100 465	-7.7
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text).....farms.....	27 244	28 796	-5.4
.....acres.....	1 075 203	948 741	13.3
Land in orchards.....farms.....	1 463	1 714	-14.6
.....acres.....	34 027	36 274	-6.2

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on a sample of farms.

<sup>2</sup>Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications.

<sup>3</sup>Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.