

**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..  | 33 559     | 36 080     | 30 987     | 29 410     | 34 033     | 45 574     | 51 577     | 65 175     |
| Land in farms.....acres..   | 16 115 568 | 16 469 678 | 16 721 836 | 16 661 902 | 17 559 187 | 19 052 538 | 18 716 972 | 17 641 429 |
| Average size of farm.....acres..  | 480        | 456        | 540        | 567        | 516        | 418        | 363        | 271        |
| Value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Average per farm.....dollars..  | 355 976    | 423 352    | 358 679    | 198 154    | 115 487    | 64 304     | 47 590     | 31 018     |
| Average per acre.....dollars..  | 739        | 933        | 659        | 350        | 224        | 154        | 131        | 115        |
| Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000.. | 1 537 272  | 1 652 940  | 1 292 959  | 761 653    | 419 570    | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Average per farm.....dollars..  | 45 905     | 45 947     | 41 814     | 26 853     | 12 724     | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Farms by size:  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1 to 9 acres.....   | 6 040      | 6 425      | 4 161      | 3 330      | 3 708      | 4 604      | 6 701      | 13 764     |
| 10 to 49 acres.....   | 11 362     | 12 717     | 9 896      | 8 739      | 10 817     | 17 098     | 18 704     | 23 890     |
| 50 to 179 acres.....  | 7 216      | 7 755      | 7 433      | 7 626      | 8 782      | 11 901     | 13 687     | 14 887     |
| 180 to 499 acres.....   | 3 796      | 4 038      | 4 136      | 4 267      | 4 686      | 5 579      | 5 962      | 6 064      |
| 500 to 999 acres.....   | 1 855      | 1 927      | 2 000      | 2 051      | 2 384      | 2 825      | 2 893      | 3 010      |
| 1,000 to 1,999 acres.....   | 1 626      | 1 548      | 1 673      | 1 720      | 1 953      | 2 020      |            |            |
| 2,000 acres or more.....  | 1 664      | 1 670      | 1 683      | 1 657      | 1 693      | 1 747      | 3 630      | 3 560      |
| Total cropland..... farms..   | 28 891     | 31 317     | 28 488     | 27 581     | 31 389     | 41 515     | 47 163     | 58 475     |
| Harvested cropland..... farms..   | 8 168 454  | 8 190 984  | 8 236 401  | 7 945 063  | 8 229 748  | 8 061 098  | 7 910 109  | 7 693 274  |
| Irrigated land..... farms..   | 24 027     | 26 067     | 24 926     | 24 732     | 26 430     | 35 815     | 42 290     | 50 419     |
| Harvested cropland..... acres..   | 4 597 476  | 5 278 772  | 5 014 228  | 4 946 306  | 4 366 906  | 4 423 400  | 4 412 466  | 4 342 833  |
| Irrigated land..... acres..   | 15 437     | 16 252     | 14 951     | 13 183     | 14 074     | 16 488     | 19 292     | 18 844     |
| Harvested cropland..... acres..   | 1 518 684  | 1 638 470  | 1 639 189  | 1 309 018  | 1 224 238  | 1 149 842  | 1 006 969  | 778 135    |
| Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> .....\$1,000..            | 2 919 634  | 2 831 159  | 2 075 155  | 1 658 077  | 771 229    | 637 082    | 569 204    | 506 045    |
| Average per farm.....dollars..  | 87 000     | 78 469     | 66 969     | 56 378     | 22 661     | 13 979     | 11 036     | 7 764      |
| Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000..                       | 1 688 656  | 1 714 741  | 1 293 857  | 1 154 631  | 420 872    | 374 994    | 344 738    | 358 565    |
| Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000..                              | 1 230 978  | 1 116 418  | 781 298    | 496 131    | 345 531    | 255 618    | 215 388    | 142 352    |
| Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Less than \$2,500.....  | 10 599     | 12 483     | 7 751      | 8 760      | 12 770     | 22 618     | 25 130     | 38 121     |
| \$2,500 to \$4,999.....   | 4 166      | 4 312      | 4 004      | 2 739      | 3 693      | 4 252      | 5 348      | 6 554      |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999.....   | 3 507      | 3 631      | 3 384      | 2 946      | 3 884      | 4 532      | 6 417      | 7 154      |
| \$10,000 to \$24,999 <sup>4</sup> .....   | 3 684      | 3 681      | 3 967      |            |            |            | 14 615     | 7 579      |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 <sup>5</sup> .....   | 2 668      | 2 660      | 3 341      | 10 931     | 12 522     | 13 426     |            | 5 673      |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999.....   | 2 995      | 3 110      | 3 667      |            |            |            |            |            |
| \$100,000 to \$499,999.....   | 4 978      | 5 358      | 4 326      | 3 649      | 1 040      |            |            |            |
| \$500,000 or more.....  | 962        | 812        | 505        | 349        | 96         | 721        |            |            |
| Farms by type of organization:  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....                                   | 28 289     | 31 107     | 26 574     | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Partnership.....  | 2 850      | 2 748      | 2 652      | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Corporation.....  | 2 248      | 2 043      | 1 609      | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....                       | 172        | 182        | 152        | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Operators by days worked off farm <sup>6</sup> :                                  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| None.....   | 13 268     | 13 062     | 12 609     | 10 018     | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | 26 508     |
| Any.....  | 18 561     | 20 757     | 17 274     | 14 042     | 20 036     | 25 768     | 29 415     | 38 595     |
| 200 days or more.....   | 12 330     | 13 943     | 11 248     | 9 521      | 12 674     | 17 343     | 18 760     | 24 826     |
| Operators by principal occupation <sup>6</sup> :                                  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Farming.....  | 17 654     | 17 968     | 16 961     | 16 546     | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Other.....  | 15 905     | 18 112     | 14 026     | 11 827     | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Average age of operator <sup>6</sup> .....years..                                 | 51.6       | 50.1       | 50.3       | 51.7       | 50.8       | 50.9       | 50.3       | 49.7       |
| Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> .....\$1,000..                        | 2 425 028  | (NA)       | (NA)       | 1 155 185  | 657 839    | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :                                  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000..                                     | 320 026    | 347 434    | 233 574    | 118 747    | 107 274    | 66 427     | 50 005     | (NA)       |
| Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000..                                      | 341 396    | 348 833    | 246 697    | 204 119    | 97 247     | 81 921     | 74 018     | 58 267     |
| Commercial fertilizer <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000..                                 | 153 949    | 174 198    | 123 882    | 100 158    | 38 038     | 28 356     | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Petroleum products.....\$1,000..  | 90 991     | 126 610    | 72 003     | 47 190     | 28 075     | 27 223     | 24 490     | 20 618     |
| Hired farm labor.....\$1,000..  | 420 768    | 313 100    | 236 656    | 155 316    | 101 772    | 77 082     | 67 344     | 64 073     |
| Interest expense <sup>8</sup> .....\$1,000..                                      | 176 125    | 241 997    | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Agricultural chemicals <sup>7</sup> .....\$1,000..                                | 132 723    | 102 290    | 55 971     | 33 587     | 17 971     | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Livestock and poultry:  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Cattle and calves inventory..... farms..  | 15 434     | 20 147     | 16 478     | 16 505     | 18 836     | 32 033     | 36 186     | 49 565     |
| Beef cows..... farms..  | 1 304 673  | 1 321 820  | 1 237 822  | 1 222 893  | 1 147 020  | 1 375 585  | 1 149 901  | 1 125 904  |
| Milk cows..... farms..  | 10 799     | 14 018     | 11 294     | 11 467     | (NA)       | 18 258     | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Cattle and calves sold..... farms..   | 334 966    | 339 997    | 335 701    | 389 436    | 323 984    | 379 977    | 267 159    | 250 588    |
| Beef cows..... farms..  | 2 410      | 3 608      | 3 737      | 4 488      | 5 583      | 14 345     | 23 306     | 36 791     |
| Milk cows..... farms..  | 220 849    | 210 254    | 190 693    | 165 373    | 149 514    | 192 252    | 217 967    | 246 928    |
| Cattle and calves sold..... farms..   | 14 371     | 17 675     | 15 543     | 15 420     | 17 916     | 25 485     | 29 959     | 28 138     |
| Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms..  | 1 525      | 2 460      | 2 258      | 2 056      | 1 944      | 3 984      | 9 376      | 11 800     |
| Hogs and pigs sold..... farms..   | 59 195     | 73 836     | 79 237     | 64 694     | 65 940     | 97 615     | 159 184    | 118 577    |
| Chickens 3 months old or older inventory <sup>9</sup> ..... farms..               | 1 355      | 1 934      | 1 871      | 1 579      | 1 659      | 2 627      | 4 906      | 5 372      |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms..                           | 104 934    | 116 934    | 115 513    | 123 929    | 119 806    | 161 230    | 179 649    | 116 247    |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms..                           | 2 654      | 4 476      | 3 387      | 3 230      | 3 325      | 9 634      | 20 776     | 36 608     |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms..                           | 5 928 036  | 6 604 480  | 5 719 792  | 4 784 634  | 5 301 744  | 4 899 763  | 4 998 060  | 4 592 776  |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms..                           | 245        | 351        | 252        | 266        | 211        | 183        | 327        | 632        |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms..                           | 36 068 869 | 16 903 405 | 14 872 726 | 14 218 935 | 18 008 465 | 16 484 353 | 14 707 083 | 7 592 355  |

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       |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Selected crops harvested:   |             |             |             |             |            |            |            |            |
| Wheat for grain ----- farms...  | 5 562       | 6 232       | 6 498       | 7 723       | 7 512      | 8 755      | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| acres...  | 2 160 641   | 2 716 305   | 2 842 436   | 3 022 861   | 2 272 782  | 2 092 365  | 1 911 207  | 2 169 879  |
| bushels...  | 114 781 997 | 128 069 408 | 123 527 226 | 118 994 947 | 84 595 856 | 82 489 706 | 73 470 299 | 69 334 490 |
| Barley for grain ----- farms...   | 3 722       | 4 176       | 3 333       | (NA)        | (NA)       | 4 693      | 6 700      | 7 157      |
| acres...  | 609 133     | 751 963     | 373 885     | (NA)        | (NA)       | 500 614    | 673 778    | 597 328    |
| bushels...  | 31 889 132  | 43 923 993  | 22 722 722  | (NA)        | (NA)       | 21 417 595 | 26 841 582 | 22 143 262 |
| Irish potatoes ----- farms...   | 486         | 533         | 502         | 613         | (NA)       | 2 139      | 3 681      | 11 262     |
| acres...  | 110 157     | 104 738     | 110 692     | 92 474      | (NA)       | 36 788     | 30 294     | 24 706     |
| cwt...  | 54 358 456  | 46 099 795  | 47 099 156  | 35 418 510  | (NA)       | 11 059 479 | 8 150 585  | 6 324 311  |
| Hay—alfalfa, other tame,<br>small grain, wild, grass<br>silage, green chop, etc.<br>(see text) ----- farms... | 12 435      | 13 793      | 13 388      | 13 490      | 14 916     | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| acres...  | 772 618     | 724 940     | 782 520     | 741 981     | 791 340    | 949 084    | 856 410    | 833 292    |
| tons, dry...  | 2 574 944   | 2 206 096   | 2 541 298   | 2 177 510   | 2 210 692  | 2 268 360  | 1 798 215  | 1 638 079  |
| Vegetables harvested for<br>sale (see text) <sup>10</sup> ----- farms...                                      | 1 724       | 2 031       | 2 029       | 2 107       | 2 363      | 2 297      | 2 907      | 3 789      |
| acres...  | 144 097     | 169 170     | 167 875     | 165 613     | 166 313    | 133 510    | 112 710    | 106 787    |
| Land in orchards ----- farms...   | 6 839       | 6 946       | 6 262       | 5 756       | 6 102      | 8 188      | 9 900      | 12 580     |
| acres...  | 241 423     | 215 585     | 173 956     | 156 726     | 153 951    | 141 377    | 132 351    | 117 150    |

<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.

<sup>10</sup>Data for 1974 were from land area used.