

1987

Census of Agriculture

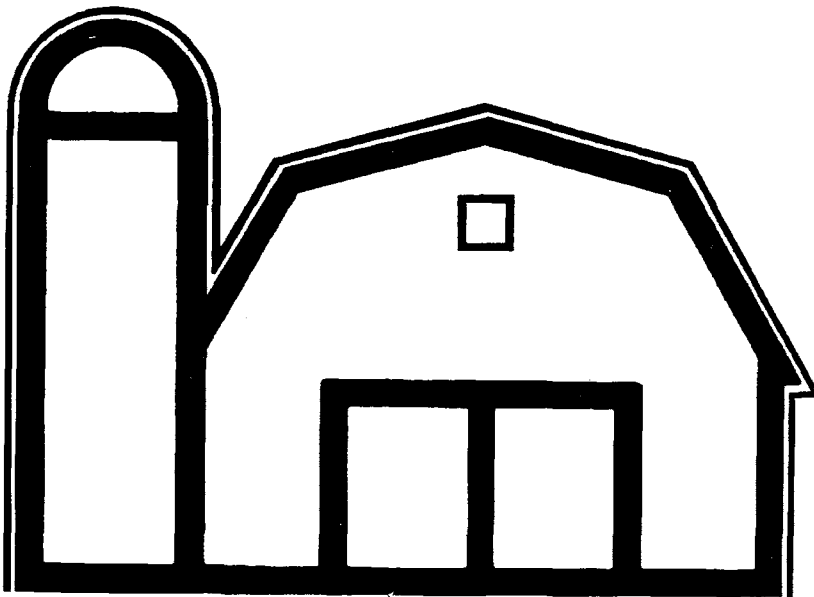
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Volume 1
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 48

West Virginia

State and County 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.

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

(301) 763-8555 Division Chief

(301) 763-8567 Crops Branch

(301) 763-8569 Livestock Branch

(301) 763-8566 Farm Economics Branch

(301) 763-1113 General Information

(301) 763-8558 Statistical Methodology

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Issued April 1989



U.S. Department of Commerce
Robert A. Mosbacher, Secretary

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS



BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
C. L. Kincannon, Deputy Director

Charles A. Waite, Associate Director for
Economic Programs
Roger H. Bugenhagen, Assistant Director for
Economic and Agriculture Censuses

Thomas L. Mesenbourg, Chief,
Economic Census Staff

AGRICULTURE DIVISION
Charles P. Pautler, Jr., Chief

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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.....	17 237	18 742	-8.0
Land in farms.....acres.....	3 372 955	3 559 051	-5.2
Average size of farm.....acres.....	196	190	3.2
Value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm.....dollars.....	130 802	129 390	1.1
Average per acre.....dollars.....	682	688	-9
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres.....	643	580	10.9
10 to 49 acres.....	2 689	3 073	-12.5
50 to 179 acres.....	8 081	8 984	-10.1
180 to 499 acres.....	4 518	4 819	-6.2
500 to 999 acres.....	1 004	977	2.8
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	247	247	-
2,000 acres or more.....	55	62	-11.3
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	15 056	16 446	-8.5
.....acres.....	553 517	576 889	-4.1
Irrigated land.....farms.....	255	135	88.9
.....acres.....	3 132	945	231.4
Market value of agricultural products sold.....\$1,000.....	270 639	242 127	11.8
Average per farm.....dollars.....	15 701	12 919	21.5
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	49 249	57 203	-13.9
Grains.....\$1,000.....	5 987	13 327	-55.1
Cotton and cottonseed.....\$1,000.....	-	-	-
Tobacco.....\$1,000.....	3 033	4 608	-34.2
Hay, silage, and field seeds.....\$1,000.....	7 478	5 551	34.7
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons.....\$1,000.....	1 038	781	36.3
Fruits, nuts, and berries.....\$1,000.....	21 091	25 699	-17.9
Nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	9 939	6 649	49.5
Other crops.....\$1,000.....	683	609	12.1
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	221 390	184 923	19.7
Poultry and poultry products.....\$1,000.....	73 451	53 615	37.0
Dairy products.....\$1,000.....	39 044	45 186	-13.6
Cattle and calves.....\$1,000.....	97 439	75 140	29.7
Hogs and pigs.....\$1,000.....	5 092	5 162	-1.4
Sheep, lambs, and wool.....\$1,000.....	4 277	3 921	9.1
Other livestock and livestock products (see text).....\$1,000.....	2 086	1 899	9.9
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	15 988	17 336	-7.8
Partnership.....	971	1 134	-14.4
Corporation.....	197	180	9.4
Other--cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	81	92	-12.0
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming.....	7 201	7 117	1.2
Other.....	10 036	11 625	-13.7
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any.....	10 063	11 743	-14.1
200 days or more.....	7 278	8 347	-12.8
Average age of operator.....years.....	55.6	53.8	3.3
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	231 077	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :			
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	37 921	30 135	25.8
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	64 781	51 915	24.8
Commercial fertilizer ²\$1,000.....	10 779	10 226	5.4
Agricultural chemicals ²\$1,000.....	5 346	5 024	6.4
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	12 787	15 800	-19.1
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	23 244	20 340	14.3
Interest expense ³\$1,000.....	16 409	16 738	-2.0
Livestock and poultry inventory:			
Cattle and calves.....farms.....	12 897	15 123	-14.7
.....number.....	408 129	455 173	-10.3
Milk cows.....farms.....	1 575	2 901	-45.7
.....number.....	27 019	34 776	-22.3
Hogs and pigs.....farms.....	1 226	1 981	-38.1
.....number.....	30 759	33 881	-9.2
Chickens 3 months old or older.....farms.....	2 030	3 215	-36.9
.....number.....	691 077	531 398	30.0
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed.....farms.....	2 097	3 670	-42.9
.....acres.....	48 953	82 176	-40.4
Corn for silage or green chop.....farms.....	1 477	1 703	-13.3
.....acres.....	36 870	37 854	-2.6
Wheat for grain.....farms.....	376	408	-7.8
.....acres.....	7 339	7 141	2.8
Oats for grain.....farms.....	516	790	-34.7
.....acres.....	4 605	7 594	-39.4
Tobacco.....farms.....	1 095	1 314	-16.7
.....acres.....	1 716	1 877	-8.6
Hay--alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text).....farms.....	13 849	14 764	-6.2
.....acres.....	435 446	419 964	3.7
Land in orchards.....farms.....	646	775	-16.6
.....acres.....	19 513	22 878	-14.7

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.