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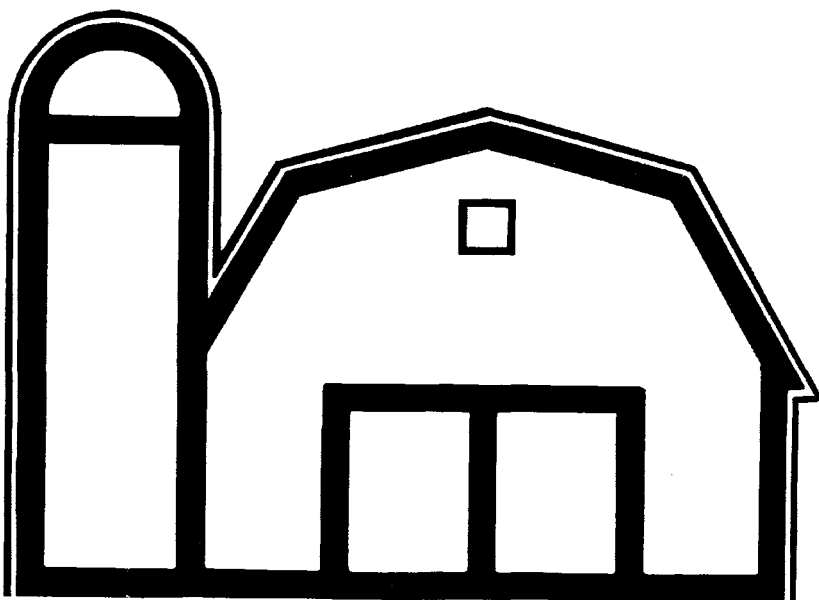
Census of Agriculture

AC87-S-6

Volume 2
SUBJECT SERIES

Part 6

ZIP Code Tabulations of Selected Items



U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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Issued July 1990



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Michael R. Darby, Under Secretary
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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 agriculture and the only source of consistent, comparable data about agriculture 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 affecting agriculture 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 agriculture 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 the census be taken in 1979, in 1983, and in every fifth year after 1983 covering the prior year. The 1987 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands 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.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The data presented in the tables were obtained from the 1987 Census of Agriculture. Detailed statistics for States and counties may be found in Volume 1, Geographic Area Series.

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.

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.

GEOGRAPHIC METHOD OF TABULATION

Data in this publication are provided by mailed ZIP Code (ZIP Code in the address label of the census report), but are tabulated within the State where the agricultural production is located. See Limitations of ZIP Code Data for a detailed explanation.

PURPOSE AND TABULAR PRESENTATION

The census of agriculture has traditionally provided agricultural data at the national, State, and county levels. The 1987 Census of Agriculture marks the first time in census history that published agricultural statistics are available by ZIP Code.

The ZIP Code tabulation covers all farms, regardless of size, in all 50 States. It presents total farm counts by five-digit ZIP Code, and farm counts by ZIP Code by frequency for the following items:

- Land in farms
- Market value of agricultural products sold
- Cattle inventory
- Hogs and pigs inventory
- Cropland harvested
- Selected crops

The selected crops vary according to State. See page VII for a list of the crops by State.

All ZIP Codes with five or more farms are published as separate, individual ZIP Codes in the tables. All ZIP Codes with fewer than five farms were included in the "All other ZIP Codes" category, the last item in the stub for each State. ZIP Codes with no farms do not appear in the tables.

ZIP CODE DEFINITION

ZIP Codes primarily identify areas within the United States to simplify and to speed the distribution of mail. Although data based on ZIP Codes may be used for geographic and demographic purposes, such data should be used with caution, since ZIP Code alignments do not necessarily conform to boundaries of cities, counties, States, or other jurisdictions.

The first digit of a ZIP Code divides the country into 10 large groups of States numbered from 0 in the Northeast to 9 in the far West. (See page 1 for an illustration.) Within these areas, each State is divided into an average of 10 smaller geographic areas identified by the second and third digits of the ZIP Code. The fourth and fifth digits identify a local delivery area.

The Zip Code name represents a main post office, branch or community post office. During census mail file development, the census mail file records went through a series of computer operations that 1) checked the validity of the ZIP Code/post office name match; 2) inserted ZIP Codes or post office names into records missing one of these two items; and 3) standardized spelling of post office names.

After all data collection and census processing were completed, the ZIP Codes with five or more farms were identified along with the appropriate data. They were then matched to the National Zip Code File (an updated file developed by the Bureau's Geography Division) to obtain the ZIP Code name. The ZIP Code names in the National Zip Code File are the most commonly used.

It is important to note that the data presented here are based only on the census year. ZIP Code directories are revised annually to reflect both the expansions and contractions within existing ZIP Codes and the addition of new or deletion of existing ZIP Codes.

LIMITATIONS OF ZIP CODE DATA

The publication of data by ZIP Code was limited to farm counts and selected items, because of the large number of ZIP Codes involved. Additionally, using only farm counts eliminated any need for disclosure analysis. This analysis involves reviewing all data tables before publication to identify and to suppress data that would disclose information concerning a particular operation. Publishing farm counts in a given size category or other classification is not considered a release of confidential information.

Farm location vs mailed ZIP Code—The 1987 Census of Agriculture, like all agricultural censuses since 1969, employed the mailout/mailback method of enumeration. In most cases, the respondent's mailing address and mailed ZIP Code (Zip Code in the address label of the census report) were the same as the location of the farm the respondent operated. Therefore, the vast majority of farms were tabulated in the ZIP Codes where they were located. However, in some instances, the operator's farm was not within the same area as his or her mailed ZIP Code. These farms were not counted in the ZIP Codes where they were physically located.

Reported State vs mailed State—The farm counts were tabulated by mailed ZIP Code within reported State, i.e., the State in which the farm was physically located. In a case where the respondent's mailing address was in a State different from the State in which the farm was located, the ZIP Code in the address would not belong to the set of ZIP Codes for the reported State. In this situation, the data are published as follows. If there are fewer than five farms for the out of State ZIP Code, it does not appear in the stub as a distinct ZIP Code, and the farm counts are tabulated in the "All other ZIP Codes" category for the reported State. If there are five or more farms for the out of State ZIP Code, it is published as an additional, distinct ZIP Code in the stub and will appear before or after the ZIP Codes for the reported State depending on its rank. ZIP Codes for each State are displayed in ascending order.

Geographic differences within State—More commonly, the reported State and the mailed State were the same, but the ZIP Code where the farm was physically located may have been different from the mailed ZIP Code. Since the census did not request respondents to report the ZIP Code in which the farm was located, these cases cannot be identified in the tables. The mailed ZIP Code is the best available approximation of the physical location for farms published at the ZIP Code level.

Reasons for farm location outside mailed ZIP Code—Listed below are some of the reasons mailed ZIP Codes may not correspond to the farm location.

- The farm operator maintained both a residence at the farm and another residence, or the respondent did not have a residence at the farm at all.

- The operator picked up mail at a post office box number which had a ZIP Code different from that of the farm.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Appendix A includes definitions and explanations of selected terms used in the tables.

VARIABLE CROPS BY STATES

State	Corn for grain	Corn for silage	Sorghum for grain	Wheat for grain	Barley for grain	Rice	Sunflower seed	Cotton	Tobacco	Soybeans for beans	Irish potatoes	Sugarcane for sugar	Peanuts for nuts	Hay	Vegetables	Land in orchards
Alabama								X		X			X			
Alaska					X									X	X	
Arizona				X	X			X								
Arkansas						X		X		X						
California								X							X	X
Colorado	X		X	X												
Connecticut														X	X	X
Delaware	X				X					X					X	X
Florida									X	X			X			
Georgia										X						
Hawaii												X			X	X
Idaho				X	X						X				X	
Illinois	X									X						
Iowa	X									X				X		
Indiana	X									X					X	
Kansas	X		X	X												
Kentucky	X								X	X						
Louisiana						X		X		X						
Maine		X									X			X		
Maryland	X									X				X		
Massachusetts														X	X	X
Michigan	X									X						X
Minnesota	X			X						X						
Mississippi						X		X		X						
Missouri	X			X						X						
Montana				X	X									X		
Nebraska	X		X	X										X		
Nevada				X	X									X		
New Hampshire		X												X		X
New Jersey										X					X	X
New Mexico			X	X				X								
New York		X													X	X
North Carolina	X								X	X						
North Dakota				X	X		X			X					X	
Ohio	X									X						
Oklahoma				X						X			X			
Oregon				X	X											X
Pennsylvania	X			X										X		
Rhode Island		X												X	X	
South Carolina								X	X	X						
South Dakota	X			X			X			X						
Tennessee	X								X	X						
Texas				X		X		X								
Utah				X	X									X		
Vermont		X												X		X
Virginia									X	X						X
Washington				X	X											X
West Virginia	X													X		X
Wisconsin	X													X	X	
Wyoming				X	X									X		