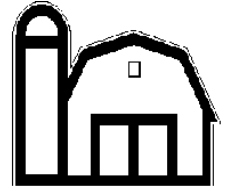


# 1992

## Census of Agriculture

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AC92-A-6

Volume 1  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 6

# Colorado

## State and County Data



U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

## Acknowledgments

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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.

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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:

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301-763-8571 Statistical Methodology



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**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**Paul A. London, Acting Under Secretary**  
for Economic Affairs

**BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**  
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# Introduction

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## HISTORY

The 1992 Census of Agriculture is the 24th 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 1992 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

## 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 its farm definition.

## COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Data on acreages and inventories for 1992 and 1987 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.

## TABULAR PRESENTATION

**State data.** Tables 1 through 45 in chapter 1 show detailed State-level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more past censuses. Tables 46 through 52 provide 1992 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

**County data.** Chapter 2 presents selected data items by county. Tables 1 through 17 include general data for all counties. The counties are listed in alphabetical order in the column headings. Tables 18 through 39 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."

## 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, DC 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 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.
(H)	Standard error or relative standard error of estimate is greater than or equal to 99.95 percent.
(IC)	Independent city.
(L)	Standard error or relative standard error of estimate is less than .05 percent.
(NA)	Not available.
(S)	Withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the response rate or a consistency review.
(X)	Not applicable.
(Z)	Less than half of the unit shown.
cwt	Hundredweight.
sq ft	Square feet.

# A. Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1992 and 1987

[Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	All farms		
	1992	1987	Percent change from 1987 to 1992
Farms ----- number .....	27 152	27 284	-5
Land in farms ----- acres .....	33 983 029	34 048 433	-2
Average size of farm ----- acres .....	1 252	1 248	.3
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	536 510	458 906	16.9
Average per acre ----- dollars .....	426	369	15.4
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	54 868	49 534	10.8
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres -----	2 424	2 725	-11.0
10 to 49 acres -----	4 867	4 352	11.8
50 to 179 acres -----	5 371	5 111	5.1
180 to 499 acres -----	4 594	4 862	-5.5
500 to 999 acres -----	3 188	3 355	-5.0
1,000 to 1,999 acres -----	2 740	2 918	-6.1
2,000 acres or more -----	3 968	3 961	.2
Total cropland ----- farms .....	21 882	22 334	-2.0
----- acres .....	10 933 484	10 988 853	-5
Harvested cropland ----- farms .....	18 573	19 446	-4.5
----- acres .....	5 532 964	5 522 216	.2
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	15 193	14 913	1.9
----- acres .....	3 169 839	3 013 773	5.2
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....	4 115 552	3 143 131	30.9
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	151 575	115 201	31.6
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....	1 036 174	781 934	32.5
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....	3 079 378	2 361 197	30.4
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	6 365	6 607	-3.7
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	2 637	2 582	2.1
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	3 005	3 008	-1
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	4 249	4 245	.1
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	3 135	3 316	-5.5
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	2 866	3 117	-8.1
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	2 871	2 722	5.5
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	1 115	999	11.6
\$500,000 or more -----	909	688	32.1
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....	3 569 175	2 700 407	32.2
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	131 442	98 989	32.8
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....	27 154	27 281	-5
----- \$1,000 .....	515 763	422 200	22.2
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	18 994	15 476	22.7
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	16 181	16 504	-2.0
Other -----	10 971	10 780	1.8
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	13 914	14 202	-2.0
200 days or more -----	8 353	8 311	.5
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....	14 797	14 637	1.1
----- number .....	3 086 717	2 946 334	4.8
Beef cows ----- farms .....	11 596	11 132	4.2
----- number .....	900 347	830 216	8.4
Milk cows ----- farms .....	1 162	1 714	-32.2
----- number .....	81 825	76 285	7.3
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....	14 439	14 569	-9
----- number .....	3 569 739	3 476 740	2.7
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....	1 643	1 685	-2.5
----- number .....	464 479	258 725	79.5
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....	1 558	1 620	-3.8
----- number .....	878 515	460 359	90.8
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....	1 911	1 981	-3.5
----- number .....	730 272	708 070	3.1
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....	1 767	2 709	-34.8
----- number .....	4 257 327	3 118 767	36.5
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....	74	112	-33.9
----- number .....	(D)	43 706	(D)
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....	4 066	4 295	-5.3
----- acres .....	891 720	685 568	30.1
Corn for silage or green chop ----- bushels .....	126 076 043	98 919 585	27.5
----- farms .....	1 341	1 525	-12.1
----- acres .....	98 838	100 798	-1.9
Sorghum for grain or seed ----- tons, green .....	2 102 940	2 101 438	.1
----- farms .....	709	1 039	-31.8
----- acres .....	163 850	190 554	-14.0
Wheat for grain ----- bushels .....	6 280 126	7 327 665	-14.3
----- farms .....	5 597	6 992	-20.0
----- acres .....	2 384 979	2 421 603	-1.5
Barley for grain ----- bushels .....	71 825 463	81 581 401	-12.0
----- farms .....	1 053	2 404	-56.2
----- acres .....	115 321	203 226	-43.3
Dry edible beans, excluding dry limas ----- bushels .....	8 934 199	12 386 192	-27.9
----- farms .....	1 533	1 689	-9.2
----- acres .....	150 824	169 506	-11.0
----- cwt .....	2 509 515	2 521 626	-5
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms .....	13 160	13 535	-2.8
----- acres .....	1 449 177	1 423 807	1.8
----- tons, dry .....	3 464 389	3 088 681	12.2

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

## B. Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1992 and 1987 (Metric Measurement)

[1 acre = 0.4047 hectare. For further metric conversions, see metric conversion table in appendix E. Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	All farms		
	1992	1987	Percent change from 1987 to 1992
Farms ..... number .....	27 152	27 284	-5
Land in farms ..... hectares .....	13 752 932	13 779 401	-2
Average size of farm ..... hectares .....	507	505	.4
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	536 510	458 906	16.9
Average per hectare ..... dollars .....	426	369	15.4
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	54 868	49 534	10.8
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares .....	2 424	2 725	-11.0
3.85 to 20.04 hectares .....	4 867	4 352	11.8
20.05 to 72.67 hectares .....	5 371	5 111	5.1
72.68 to 202.22 hectares .....	4 594	4 862	-5.5
202.23 to 404.65 hectares .....	3 188	3 355	-5.0
404.66 to 809.51 hectares .....	2 740	2 918	-6.1
809.52 hectares or more .....	3 968	3 961	.2
Total cropland ..... farms .....	21 882	22 334	-2.0
..... hectares .....	4 424 781	4 447 189	-5
Harvested cropland ..... farms .....	18 573	19 446	-4.5
..... hectares .....	2 239 191	2 234 841	.2
Irrigated land ..... farms .....	15 193	14 913	1.9
..... hectares .....	1 282 834	1 219 674	5.2
Market value of agricultural products sold ..... \$1,000 .....	4 115 552	3 143 131	30.9
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	151 575	115 201	31.6
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ..... \$1,000 .....	1 036 174	781 934	32.5
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000 .....	3 079 378	2 361 197	30.4
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 .....	6 365	6 607	-3.7
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	2 637	2 582	2.1
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	3 005	3 008	-.1
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	4 249	4 245	.1
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	3 135	3 316	-5.5
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	2 866	3 117	-8.1
\$100,000 to \$249,999 .....	2 871	2 722	5.5
\$250,000 to \$499,999 .....	1 115	999	11.6
\$500,000 or more .....	909	688	32.1
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ..... \$1,000 .....	3 569 175	2 700 407	32.2
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	131 442	98 989	32.8
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ..... farms .....	27 154	27 281	-5
..... \$1,000 .....	515 763	422 200	22.2
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	18 994	15 476	22.7
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming .....	16 181	16 504	-2.0
Other .....	10 971	10 780	1.8
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any .....	13 914	14 202	-2.0
200 days or more .....	8 353	8 311	.5
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms .....	14 797	14 637	1.1
..... number .....	3 086 717	2 946 334	4.8
Beef cows ..... farms .....	11 596	11 132	4.2
..... number .....	900 347	830 216	8.4
Milk cows ..... farms .....	1 162	1 714	-32.2
..... number .....	81 825	76 285	7.3
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms .....	14 439	14 569	-9
..... number .....	3 569 739	3 476 740	2.7
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms .....	1 643	1 685	-2.5
..... number .....	464 479	258 725	79.5
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms .....	1 558	1 620	-3.8
..... number .....	878 515	460 359	90.8
Sheep and lambs inventory ..... farms .....	1 911	1 981	-3.5
..... number .....	730 272	708 070	3.1
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ..... farms .....	1 767	2 709	-34.8
..... number .....	4 257 327	3 118 767	36.5
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms .....	74	112	-33.9
..... number .....	(D)	43 706	(D)
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ..... farms .....	4 066	4 295	-5.3
..... hectares .....	360 879	277 449	30.1
..... metric tons .....	3 202 480	2 512 674	27.5
Corn for silage or green chop ..... farms .....	1 341	1 525	-12.1
..... hectares .....	40 000	40 793	-1.9
..... metric tons .....	1 907 756	1 906 393	.1
Sorghum for grain or seed ..... farms .....	709	1 039	-31.8
..... hectares .....	66 310	77 117	-14.0
..... metric tons .....	159 523	186 131	-14.3
Wheat for grain ..... farms .....	5 597	6 992	-20.0
..... hectares .....	965 201	980 023	-1.5
..... metric tons .....	1 954 769	2 220 283	-12.0
Barley for grain ..... farms .....	1 053	2 404	-56.2
..... hectares .....	46 670	82 246	-43.3
..... metric tons .....	194 519	269 678	-27.9
Dry edible beans, excluding dry limas ..... farms .....	1 533	1 689	-9.2
..... hectares .....	61 038	68 599	-11.0
..... metric tons .....	113 830	114 379	-.5
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ..... farms .....	13 160	13 535	-2.8
..... hectares .....	586 482	576 215	1.8
..... metric tons .....	3 142 842	2 802 005	12.2

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