

# 1992

## Census of Agriculture

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AC92-A-21

Volume 1  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 21

# Massachusetts

## 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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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

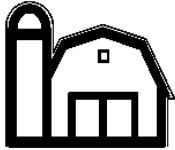
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# Introduction

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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 .....	5 258	6 216	-15.4
Land in farms ----- acres .....	526 440	615 185	-14.4
Average size of farm ----- acres .....	100	99	1.0
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	460 410	346 530	32.9
Average per acre ----- dollars .....	4 898	3 553	37.9
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	36 359	32 039	13.5
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres -----	1 044	1 105	-5.5
10 to 49 acres -----	1 738	2 125	-18.2
50 to 179 acres -----	1 667	2 016	-17.3
180 to 499 acres -----	654	813	-19.6
500 to 999 acres -----	121	126	-4.0
1,000 to 1,999 acres -----	29	26	11.5
2,000 acres or more -----	5	5	-
Total cropland ----- farms .....	4 853	5 654	-14.2
Harvested cropland ----- acres .....	235 284	272 588	-13.7
----- farms .....	4 417	5 084	-13.1
----- acres .....	173 255	194 874	-11.1
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	1 336	1 316	1.5
----- acres .....	19 909	20 158	-1.2
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....	350 639	340 464	3.0
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	66 687	54 772	21.8
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....	255 138	215 855	18.2
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....	95 500	124 609	-23.4
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	1 572	2 167	-27.5
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	856	830	-21.0
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	655	720	-9.0
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	696	770	-9.6
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	476	494	-3.6
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	462	515	-10.3
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	457	475	-3.8
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	170	148	14.9
\$500,000 or more -----	114	97	17.5
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....	266 163	251 496	5.8
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	50 621	40 460	25.1
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....	5 258	6 216	-15.4
----- \$1,000 .....	77 725	84 172	-7.7
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	14 782	13 541	9.2
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	2 926	3 174	-7.8
Other -----	2 332	3 042	-23.3
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	2 695	3 516	-23.4
200 days or more -----	1 666	2 283	-27.0
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....	1 565	2 112	-25.9
----- number .....	68 331	83 065	-17.7
Beef cows ----- farms .....	850	1 124	-24.4
----- number .....	7 347	9 692	-24.2
Milk cows ----- farms .....	606	838	-27.7
----- number .....	30 906	36 913	-16.3
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....	1 271	1 725	-26.3
----- number .....	29 839	39 668	-24.8
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....	404	498	-18.9
----- number .....	16 439	25 816	-36.3
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....	296	387	-23.5
----- number .....	25 564	40 048	-36.2
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....	520	604	-13.9
----- number .....	11 341	14 761	-23.2
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....	535	738	-27.5
----- number .....	544 401	1 502 202	-63.8
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....	45	37	21.6
----- number .....	125 283	(D)	(D)
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....	111	152	-27.0
----- acres .....	4 893	5 681	-13.9
Corn for silage or green chop ----- bushels .....	488 921	626 829	-22.0
----- farms .....	531	604	-12.1
----- acres .....	25 861	28 643	-9.7
Irish potatoes ----- tons, green .....	470 201	524 819	-10.4
----- farms .....	102	93	9.7
----- acres .....	3 520	2 628	33.9
----- cwt .....	812 469	615 427	32.0
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms .....	2 269	2 874	-21.1
----- acres .....	103 596	121 498	-14.7
----- tons, dry .....	213 589	250 559	-14.8
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ----- farms .....	995	1 008	-1.3
----- acres .....	16 577	16 325	1.5
Land in orchards ----- farms .....	525	572	-8.2
----- acres .....	7 848	9 379	-16.3

<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 .....	5 258	6 216	-15.4
Land in farms ..... hectares .....	213 050	248 965	-14.4
Average size of farm ..... hectares .....	41	40	2.5
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	460 410	346 530	32.9
Average per hectare ..... dollars .....	4 898	3 553	37.9
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	36 359	32 039	13.5
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares ..... number .....	1 044	1 105	-5.5
3.85 to 20.04 hectares ..... number .....	1 738	2 125	-18.2
20.05 to 72.67 hectares ..... number .....	1 667	2 016	-17.3
72.68 to 202.22 hectares ..... number .....	654	813	-19.6
202.23 to 404.65 hectares ..... number .....	121	126	-4.0
404.66 to 809.51 hectares ..... number .....	29	26	11.5
809.52 hectares or more ..... number .....	5	5	-
Total cropland ..... farms .....	4 853	5 654	-14.2
..... hectares .....	95 219	110 316	-13.7
Harvested cropland ..... farms .....	4 417	5 084	-13.1
..... hectares .....	70 116	78 866	-11.1
Irrigated land ..... farms .....	1 336	1 316	1.5
..... hectares .....	8 057	8 158	-1.2
Market value of agricultural products sold ..... \$1,000 .....	350 639	340 464	3.0
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	66 687	54 772	21.8
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ..... \$1,000 .....	255 138	215 855	18.2
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000 .....	95 500	124 609	-23.4
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 ..... number .....	1 572	2 167	-27.5
\$2,500 to \$4,999 ..... number .....	656	830	-21.0
\$5,000 to \$9,999 ..... number .....	655	720	-9.0
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ..... number .....	696	770	-9.6
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ..... number .....	476	494	-3.6
\$50,000 to \$99,999 ..... number .....	462	515	-10.3
\$100,000 to \$249,999 ..... number .....	457	475	-3.8
\$250,000 to \$499,999 ..... number .....	170	148	14.9
\$500,000 or more ..... number .....	114	97	17.5
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ..... \$1,000 .....	266 163	251 496	5.8
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	50 621	40 460	25.1
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ..... farms .....	5 258	6 216	-15.4
..... \$1,000 .....	77 725	84 172	-7.7
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	14 782	13 541	9.2
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming ..... number .....	2 926	3 174	-7.8
Other ..... number .....	2 332	3 042	-23.3
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any ..... number .....	2 695	3 516	-23.4
200 days or more ..... number .....	1 666	2 283	-27.0
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms .....	1 565	2 112	-25.9
..... number .....	68 331	83 065	-17.7
Beef cows ..... farms .....	850	1 124	-24.4
..... number .....	7 347	9 692	-24.2
Milk cows ..... farms .....	606	838	-27.7
..... number .....	30 906	36 913	-16.3
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms .....	1 271	1 725	-26.3
..... number .....	29 839	39 668	-24.8
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms .....	404	498	-18.9
..... number .....	16 439	25 816	-36.3
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms .....	296	387	-23.5
..... number .....	25 564	40 048	-36.2
Sheep and lambs inventory ..... farms .....	520	604	-13.9
..... number .....	11 341	14 761	-23.2
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ..... farms .....	535	738	-27.5
..... number .....	544 401	1 502 202	-63.8
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms .....	45	37	21.6
..... number .....	125 283	(D)	(D)
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ..... farms .....	111	152	-27.0
..... hectares .....	1 980	2 299	-13.9
..... metric tons .....	12 419	15 922	-22.0
Corn for silage or green chop ..... farms .....	531	604	-12.1
..... hectares .....	10 466	11 592	-9.7
..... metric tons .....	426 559	476 108	-10.4
Irish potatoes ..... farms .....	102	93	9.7
..... hectares .....	1 424	1 064	33.8
..... metric tons .....	36 853	27 915	32.0
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ..... farms .....	2 269	2 874	-21.1
..... hectares .....	41 925	49 170	-14.7
..... metric tons .....	193 765	227 303	-14.8
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ..... farms .....	995	1 008	-1.3
..... hectares .....	6 709	6 607	1.5
Land in orchards ..... farms .....	525	572	-8.2
..... hectares .....	3 176	3 796	-16.3

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

## 2 MASSACHUSETTS

## 1992 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE