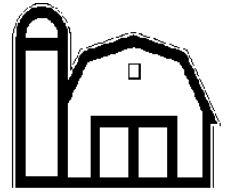


# 1992

## Census of Agriculture

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AC92-A-26

Volume 1  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 26

# Montana

## State and County Data



U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
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.

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301-763-8571 Statistical Methodology



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# Contents

	Page
Introduction .....	VII
A. Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1992 and 1987 .....	1
B. Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1992 and 1987 (Metric Measurement) .....	2
State Map .....	3

## FIGURES

1. Profile of the State's Agriculture: 1992 .....	4
2. Percent of Farms and of Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1992 .....	5
3. Farms by Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1964 to 1992 .....	5
4. Land Use: 1992 .....	6
5. Selected Crops Harvested: 1992 .....	6
6. Value of Livestock and Poultry Sold: 1992 .....	7
7. Production Expenses: 1992 .....	7

## TABLES

### CHAPTER 1. State Data

1. Historical Highlights: 1992 and Earlier Census Years .....	8
2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold and Direct Sales: 1992, 1987, and 1982 .....	10
3. Farm Production Expenses: 1992, 1987, and 1982 .....	11
4. Net Cash Return From Agricultural Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	14
5. Government Payments and Other Farm-Related Income: 1992 and 1987 .....	14
6. Commodity Credit Corporation Loans: 1992 and 1987 .....	16
7. Land Use and Acres Diverted: 1992, 1987, and 1982 .....	17
8. Land in Farms, Harvested Cropland, and Irrigated Land, by Size of Farm: 1992 and 1987 .....	18
9. Irrigation: 1992, 1987, and 1982 .....	18
10. Selected Characteristics of Irrigated and Nonirrigated Farms: 1992 and 1987 .....	19
11. Value of Land and Buildings: 1992, 1987, and 1982 .....	20
12. Value of Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1992 and 1987 .....	20
13. Selected Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1992 and 1987 .....	20
14. Petroleum Products Expenses: 1992, 1987, and 1982 .....	21
15. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer: 1992, 1987, and 1982 .....	21
16. Tenure and Characteristics of Operator and Type of Organization for All Farms and Farms Operated by Black and Other Races: 1992, 1987, and 1982 .....	22
17. Selected Characteristics of Farms by Specified Racial Groups, Sex of Operators, and Persons of Spanish Origin: 1992 and 1987 .....	23
18. Selected Characteristics of Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1992 .....	25
19. Selected Characteristics of Abnormal Farms: 1992 and 1987 .....	26
20. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	26
21. Hens and Pullets—Number Sold: 1992 and 1987 .....	27
22. Poultry—Inventory and Sales by Farms With Chickens 3 Months Old or Older: 1992 .....	27
23. Turkeys—Number Sold: 1992 .....	28
24. Cattle and Calves—Inventory: 1992 and 1987 .....	28
25. Cattle and Calves—Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	29
26. Cattle and Calves Herd Size by Inventory and Sales: 1992 .....	29
27. Cow Herd Size by Inventory and Sales: 1992 .....	30
28. Beef Cow Herd Size by Inventory and Sales: 1992 .....	30
29. Milk Cow Herd Size by Inventory and Sales: 1992 .....	31
30. Cattle and Calves—Number Sold Per Farm by Sales: 1992 .....	31
31. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory: 1992 and 1987 .....	32
32. Hogs and Pigs—Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	32

	Page
33. Hogs and Pigs —Litters Farrowed: 1992 and 1987 .....	33
34. Hogs and Pigs Herd Size by Inventory and Sales: 1992 .....	33
35. Hogs and Pigs —Inventory and Sales by Number Sold Per Farm: 1992 .....	33
36. Hogs and Pigs —Inventory, Sales, and Litters by Total Litters Farrowed: 1992 ....	34
37. Sheep and Lambs —Inventory, Shorn, and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	34
38. Sheep and Lambs —Inventory, Shorn, and Sales by Size of Flock: 1992 .....	34
39. Ewes 1 Year Old or Older —Inventory, Shorn, and Sales by Size of Ewe Flock: 1992 .....	35
40. Other Livestock and Livestock Products —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 ...	35
41. Specified Crops Harvested —Yield Per Acre Irrigated and Nonirrigated: 1992 .....	36
42. Specified Crops by Acres Harvested: 1992 and 1987 .....	37
43. Specified Fruits and Nuts by Acres: 1992 and 1987 .....	38
44. Nursery and Greenhouse Crops, Mushrooms, and Sod Grown for Sale by Value of Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	39
45. Farms by Concentration of Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1992 .....	40
46. Summary by Tenure of Operator: 1992 .....	42
47. Summary by Type of Organization: 1992 .....	52
48. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operator: 1992 .....	62
49. Summary by Size of Farm: 1992 .....	82
50. Summary by Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1992 .....	102
51. Summary by Standard Industrial Classification of Farm: 1992 .....	122
52. Summary by Combined Government Payments and Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1992 .....	142

## CHAPTER 2. County Data

1. County Summary Highlights: 1992 .....	162
2. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold and Farms by Standard Industrial Classification: 1992 and 1987 .....	170
3. Farm Production Expenses: 1992 and 1987 .....	186
4. Net Cash Return From Agricultural Sales, Government Payments, Other Farm- Related Income, Direct Sales, and Commodity Credit Corporation Loans: 1992 and 1987 .....	194
5. Hired Farm Labor —Workers and Payroll: 1992 .....	205
6. Farms, Land in Farms, Value of Land and Buildings, and Land Use: 1992 and 1987 .....	213
7. Harvested Cropland by Size of Farm and Acres Harvested: 1992 and 1987 .....	229
8. Irrigation: 1992 and 1987 .....	237
9. Machinery and Equipment on Place: 1992 and 1987 .....	245
10. Agricultural Chemicals Used, Including Fertilizer: 1992 and 1987 .....	253
11. Tenure and Characteristics of Operator and Type of Organization: 1992 and 1987 .....	257
12. Farms With Sales of \$10,000 or More: 1992 and 1987 .....	273
13. Selected Crops: 1992 and 1987 .....	313
14. Cattle and Calves —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	323
15. Hogs and Pigs —Inventory, Litters, and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	342
16. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	350
17. Sheep and Lambs —Inventory, Shorn, and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	358
18. Horses and Ponies —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	362
19. Milk Goats —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	363
20. Angora Goats —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	363
21. Mink and Their Pelts —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	363
22. Colonies of Bees and Honey —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	364
23. Fish Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	364
24. Miscellaneous Poultry —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	365
25. Miscellaneous Livestock and Animal Specialties —Inventory and Sales: 1992 and 1987 .....	366
26. Grains—Corn, Sorghum, Wheat, and Other Small Grains: 1992 and 1987 .....	369
27. Cotton, Tobacco, Soybeans, Dry Beans and Peas, Potatoes, Sugar Crops, and Peanuts: 1992 and 1987 .....	376
28. Field Seeds, Grass Seeds, Hay, Forage, and Silage: 1992 and 1987 .....	377
29. Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons Harvested for Sale: 1992 and 1987 .....	383
30. Land in Orchards: 1992 and 1987 .....	386
31. Fruits and Nuts: 1992 and 1987 .....	387
32. Berries Harvested for Sale: 1992 and 1987 .....	388

	Page
33. Nursery and Greenhouse Crops, Mushrooms, and Sod Grown for Sale: 1992 and 1987 .....	389
34. Other Crops: 1992 and 1987 .....	391
35. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Value of Sales and Occupation: 1992 and 1987 .....	391
36. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Tenure: 1992 and 1987 .....	392
37. Operators by Selected Racial Groups: 1992 and 1987 .....	392
38. Operators of Spanish Origin: 1992 and 1987 .....	393
39. Farms With Grazing Permits: 1992 and 1987 .....	394

## APPENDIXES

A. General Explanation .....	A-1
B. Places With All Cropland in the Conservation Reserve Programs or Wetlands Reserve Programs .....	B-1
C. Statistical Methodology .....	C-1
D. Report Form and Information Sheet .....	D-1
E. Units of Weights, Measures, and Metric Conversion Factors .....	E-1

Index .....	Index 1
Publication Program .....	Inside back cover

# 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			Percent change from 1987 to 1992
	1992	1987		
Farms ..... number .....	22 821	24 568		-7.1
Land in farms ..... acres .....	59 642 536	60 203 993		-9
Average size of farm ..... acres .....	2 613	2 451		6.6
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :				
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	594 881	505 526		17.7
Average per acre ..... dollars .....	227	205		10.7
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :				
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	66 472	60 754		9.4
Farms by size:				
1 to 9 acres .....	1 209	1 940		-37.7
10 to 49 acres .....	2 804	2 745		2.1
50 to 179 acres .....	3 061	3 019		1.4
180 to 499 acres .....	2 964	3 315		-10.6
500 to 999 acres .....	2 521	2 737		-7.9
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	3 040	3 480		-12.1
2,000 acres or more .....	7 222	7 352		-1.8
Total cropland ..... farms .....	19 442	21 064		-7.7
Harvested cropland ..... acres .....	17 494 553	17 829 766		-1.9
Irrigated land ..... farms .....	17 100	19 267		-11.2
..... acres .....	8 199 296	9 128 013		-10.2
Irrigated land ..... farms .....	8 883	9 520		-6.7
..... acres .....	1 978 167	1 996 882		-9
Market value of agricultural products sold ..... \$1,000 .....	1 730 237	1 547 286		11.8
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	75 818	62 980		20.4
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ..... \$1,000 .....	691 860	639 202		8.2
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000 .....	1 038 377	908 084		14.3
Farms by value of sales:				
Less than \$2,500 .....	4 073	4 320		-5.7
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	1 764	2 006		-12.1
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	2 131	2 374		-10.2
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	3 413	3 912		-12.8
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	3 051	3 695		-17.4
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	3 528	4 064		-13.2
\$100,000 to \$249,999 .....	3 511	3 253		7.9
\$250,000 to \$499,999 .....	981	692		41.8
\$500,000 or more .....	369	252		46.4
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ..... \$1,000 .....	1 399 200	1 288 299		8.6
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	61 304	52 449		16.9
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ..... farms .....	22 824	24 565		-7.1
..... \$1,000 .....	333 711	260 131		28.3
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	14 621	10 590		38.1
Operators by principal occupation:				
Farming .....	16 006	17 405		-8.0
Other .....	6 815	7 163		-4.9
Operators by days worked off farm:				
Any .....	9 838	10 764		-8.6
200 days or more .....	5 261	5 607		-6.2
Livestock and poultry:				
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms .....	13 813	14 866		-7.1
..... number .....	2 645 916	2 591 391		2.1
Beef cows ..... farms .....	12 366	13 073		-5.4
..... number .....	1 506 445	1 399 949		7.6
Milk cows ..... farms .....	1 092	1 732		-37.0
..... number .....	22 409	26 879		-16.6
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms .....	13 628	14 718		-7.4
..... number .....	1 677 932	1 644 768		2.0
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms .....	1 056	1 406		-24.9
..... number .....	222 966	200 663		11.1
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms .....	1 030	1 343		-23.3
..... number .....	363 440	327 855		10.9
Sheep and lambs inventory ..... farms .....	2 507	2 625		-4.5
..... number .....	634 361	588 150		7.9
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ..... farms .....	1 138	2 102		-45.9
..... number .....	634 955	978 754		-35.1
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms .....	47	100		-53.0
..... number .....	47 505	84 676		-43.9
Selected crops harvested:				
Corn for silage or green chop ..... farms .....	489	641		-23.7
..... acres .....	42 337	46 581		-9.1
Wheat for grain ..... tons, green .....	761 758	793 716		-4.0
..... farms .....	8 395	10 375		-19.1
..... acres .....	4 885 520	4 703 455		3.9
Barley for grain ..... bushels .....	142 893 032	143 802 744		-6
..... farms .....	5 971	9 621		-37.9
..... acres .....	1 168 663	1 900 275		-38.5
Oats for grain ..... bushels .....	47 381 536	79 606 320		-40.5
..... farms .....	1 590	2 345		-32.2
..... acres .....	82 492	132 308		-37.7
Sugar beets for sugar ..... bushels .....	4 485 707	6 356 871		-29.4
..... farms .....	476	429		11.0
..... acres .....	56 994	48 403		17.7
..... tons .....	1 274 952	1 051 273		21.3
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ..... farms .....	12 058	13 701		-12.0
..... acres .....	1 983 629	2 135 438		-7.1
..... tons, dry .....	3 670 309	3 858 349		-4.9

<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 .....	22 821	24 568	-7.1
Land in farms ----- hectares .....	24 137 334	24 364 556	-9
Average size of farm ----- hectares .....	1 058	992	6.7
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	594 881	505 526	17.7
Average per hectare ----- dollars .....	227	205	10.7
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	66 472	60 754	9.4
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares -----	1 209	1 940	-37.7
3.85 to 20.04 hectares -----	2 804	2 745	2.1
20.05 to 72.67 hectares -----	3 061	3 019	1.4
72.68 to 202.22 hectares -----	2 964	3 315	-10.6
202.23 to 404.65 hectares -----	2 521	2 737	-7.9
404.66 to 809.51 hectares -----	3 040	3 460	-12.1
809.52 hectares or more -----	7 222	7 352	-1.8
Total cropland ----- farms .....	19 442	21 064	-7.7
----- hectares .....	7 080 046	7 215 706	-1.9
Harvested cropland ----- farms .....	17 100	19 267	-11.2
----- hectares .....	3 318 255	3 694 107	-10.2
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	8 883	9 520	-6.7
----- hectares .....	800 564	808 138	-9
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....	1 730 237	1 547 286	11.8
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	75 818	62 980	20.4
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....	691 860	639 202	8.2
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....	1 038 377	908 084	14.3
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	4 073	4 320	-5.7
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	1 764	2 006	-12.1
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	2 131	2 374	-10.2
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	3 413	3 912	-12.8
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	3 051	3 695	-17.4
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	3 528	4 064	-13.2
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	3 511	3 253	7.9
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	981	692	41.8
\$500,000 or more -----	369	252	46.4
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....	1 399 200	1 288 299	8.6
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	61 304	52 449	16.9
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....	22 824	24 565	-7.1
----- \$1,000 .....	333 711	260 131	28.3
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	14 621	10 590	38.1
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	16 006	17 405	-8.0
Other -----	6 815	7 163	-4.9
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	9 838	10 764	-8.6
200 days or more -----	5 261	5 607	-6.2
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....	13 813	14 866	-7.1
----- number .....	2 645 916	2 591 391	2.1
Beef cows ----- farms .....	12 366	13 073	-5.4
----- number .....	1 506 445	1 399 949	7.6
Milk cows ----- farms .....	1 092	1 732	-37.0
----- number .....	22 409	26 879	-16.6
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....	13 628	14 718	-7.4
----- number .....	1 677 932	1 644 768	2.0
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....	1 056	1 406	-24.9
----- number .....	222 966	200 663	11.1
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....	1 030	1 343	-23.3
----- number .....	363 440	327 855	10.9
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....	2 507	2 625	-4.5
----- number .....	634 361	588 150	7.9
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....	1 138	2 102	-45.9
----- number .....	634 955	978 754	-35.1
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....	47	100	-53.0
----- number .....	47 505	84 676	-43.9
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for silage or green chop ----- farms .....	489	641	-23.7
----- hectares .....	17 134	18 851	-9.1
----- metric tons .....	691 055	720 047	-4.0
Wheat for grain ----- farms .....	8 395	10 375	-19.1
----- hectares .....	1 977 170	1 903 488	3.9
----- metric tons .....	3 888 912	3 913 671	-6
Barley for grain ----- farms .....	5 971	9 621	-37.9
----- hectares .....	472 958	769 041	-38.5
----- metric tons .....	1 031 612	1 733 224	-40.5
Oats for grain ----- farms .....	1 590	2 345	-32.2
----- hectares .....	33 385	53 545	-37.7
----- metric tons .....	65 110	92 270	-29.4
Sugar beets for sugar ----- farms .....	476	429	11.0
----- hectares .....	23 065	19 589	17.7
----- metric tons .....	1 156 617	953 699	21.3
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms .....	12 058	13 701	-12.0
----- hectares .....	802 775	864 212	-7.1
----- metric tons .....	3 329 649	3 500 236	-4.9

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