

Introduction

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	32 306	37 743	-14.4
Land in farms ----- acres	7 458 015	8 416 228	-11.4
Average size of farm ----- acres	231	223	3.6
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	282 546	218 934	29.1
Average per acre ----- dollars	1 237	993	24.6
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	57 738	49 087	17.6
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres -----	2 129	2 517	-15.4
10 to 49 acres -----	5 201	6 114	-14.9
50 to 179 acres -----	11 147	12 991	-14.2
180 to 499 acres -----	10 305	12 244	-15.8
500 to 999 acres -----	2 713	3 112	-12.8
1,000 to 1,999 acres -----	680	654	4.0
2,000 acres or more -----	131	111	18.0
Total cropland ----- farms	30 651	35 680	-14.1
Harvested cropland ----- acres	4 876 169	5 382 175	-9.4
Irrigated land ----- farms	28 715	33 664	-14.7
----- acres	3 534 898	3 899 819	-9.4
Irrigated land ----- farms	2 020	1 992	1.4
----- acres	46 600	50 920	-8.5
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000	2 622 001	2 441 860	7.4
Average per farm ----- dollars	81 161	64 697	25.4
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000	809 291	701 352	15.4
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000	1 812 710	1 740 508	4.1
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	7 324	9 168	-20.1
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	3 389	4 061	-16.5
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	3 536	3 892	-9.1
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	4 156	4 426	-6.1
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	2 601	3 337	-22.1
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	3 973	5 560	-28.5
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	5 053	5 554	-9.0
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	1 535	1 262	21.6
\$500,000 or more -----	739	483	53.0
Total farm production expenses ¹ ----- \$1,000	2 142 169	1 897 458	12.9
Average per farm ----- dollars	66 294	50 277	31.9
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) ¹ ----- farms	32 313	37 740	-14.4
----- \$1,000	456 371	516 679	-11.7
Average per farm ----- dollars	14 123	13 690	3.2
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	19 934	22 977	-13.2
Other -----	12 372	14 766	-16.2
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	14 472	17 596	-17.8
200 days or more -----	9 355	11 506	-18.7
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms	18 134	22 250	-18.5
----- number	1 470 610	1 603 390	-8.3
Beef cows ----- farms	5 880	6 798	-13.5
----- number	72 971	71 627	1.9
Milk cows ----- farms	10 696	13 840	-22.7
----- number	721 286	814 461	-11.4
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms	17 167	21 153	-18.8
----- number	639 193	754 488	-15.3
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms	2 094	2 644	-20.8
----- number	90 282	99 560	-9.3
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms	1 498	1 957	-23.5
----- number	168 196	172 072	-2.3
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms	1 705	1 943	-12.2
----- number	76 682	76 447	.3
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms	2 088	3 236	-35.5
----- number	4 538 622	5 455 879	-16.8
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms	142	206	-31.1
----- number	1 042 100	1 713 646	-39.2
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms	5 724	9 301	-38.5
----- acres	518 839	598 815	-13.4
----- bushels	47 702 382	65 911 889	-27.6
Corn for silage or green chop ----- farms	9 862	11 920	-17.3
----- acres	544 045	525 458	3.5
Oats for grain ----- tons, green	7 299 613	7 625 970	-4.3
----- farms	4 059	6 364	-36.2
----- acres	109 686	162 733	-32.6
Irish potatoes ----- bushels	6 889 878	9 562 189	-27.9
----- farms	28 861	35 682	-2.5
----- acres	7 023 100	9 004 962	-19.1
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms	22 376	26 877	-16.7
----- acres	2 013 646	2 259 119	-10.9
----- tons, dry	4 268 674	4 861 661	-12.2
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ----- farms	2 758	2 822	-2.3
----- acres	139 841	150 054	-6.8
Land in orchards ----- farms	2 938	3 290	-10.7
----- acres	112 905	124 432	-9.3

¹Data 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	32 306	37 743	-14.4
Land in farms ----- hectares	3 018 259	3 406 047	-11.4
Average size of farm ----- hectares	93	90	3.3
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	282 546	218 934	29.1
Average per hectare ----- dollars	1 237	993	24.6
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	57 738	49 087	17.6
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares -----	2 129	2 517	-15.4
3.85 to 20.04 hectares -----	5 201	6 114	-14.9
20.05 to 72.67 hectares -----	11 147	12 991	-14.2
72.68 to 202.22 hectares -----	10 305	12 244	-15.8
202.23 to 404.65 hectares -----	2 713	3 112	-12.8
404.66 to 809.51 hectares -----	680	654	4.0
809.52 hectares or more -----	131	111	18.0
Total cropland ----- farms	30 651	35 680	-14.1
----- hectares	1 973 386	2 178 166	-9.4
Harvested cropland ----- farms	28 715	33 664	-14.7
----- hectares	1 430 573	1 578 257	-9.4
Irrigated land ----- farms	2 020	1 992	1.4
----- hectares	18 859	20 607	-8.5
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000	2 622 001	2 441 860	7.4
Average per farm ----- dollars	81 161	64 697	25.4
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000	809 291	701 352	15.4
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000	1 812 710	1 740 508	4.1
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	7 324	9 168	-20.1
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	3 389	4 061	-16.5
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	3 536	3 892	-9.1
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	4 156	4 426	-6.1
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	2 601	3 337	-22.1
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	3 973	5 560	-28.5
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	5 053	5 554	-9.0
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	1 535	1 282	21.6
\$500,000 or more -----	739	483	53.0
Total farm production expenses ¹ ----- \$1,000	2 142 169	1 897 458	12.9
Average per farm ----- dollars	66 294	50 277	31.9
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Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	14 472	17 596	-17.8
200 days or more -----	9 355	11 506	-18.7
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms	18 134	22 250	-18.5
----- number	1 470 610	1 603 390	-8.3
Beef cows ----- farms	5 880	6 798	-13.5
----- number	72 971	71 627	1.9
Milk cows ----- farms	10 696	13 840	-22.7
----- number	721 286	814 461	-11.4
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms	17 167	21 153	-18.8
----- number	639 193	754 488	-15.3
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms	2 094	2 644	-20.8
----- number	90 282	99 560	-9.3
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms	1 498	1 957	-23.5
----- number	168 196	172 072	-2.3
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms	1 705	1 943	-12.2
----- number	76 682	76 447	3
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms	2 088	3 236	-35.5
----- number	4 538 622	5 455 879	-16.8
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms	142	206	-31.1
----- number	1 042 100	1 713 646	-39.2
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms	5 724	9 301	-38.5
----- hectares	209 974	242 340	-13.4
----- metric tons	1 211 697	1 674 240	-27.6
Corn for silage or green chop ----- farms	9 862	11 920	-17.3
----- hectares	220 175	212 653	3.5
----- metric tons	6 622 099	6 918 166	-4.3
Oats for grain ----- farms	4 059	6 364	-36.2
----- hectares	44 390	65 858	-32.6
----- metric tons	100 006	138 795	-27.9
Irish potatoes ----- farms	587	602	-2.5
----- hectares	11 680	14 440	-19.1
----- metric tons	318 563	408 458	-22.0
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms	22 376	26 877	-16.7
----- hectares	814 923	914 265	-10.9
----- metric tons	3 872 477	4 410 426	-12.2
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ----- farms	2 758	2 822	-2.3
----- hectares	56 593	60 727	-6.8
Land in orchards ----- farms	2 938	3 290	-10.7
----- hectares	45 693	50 358	-9.3

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.