

# 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 .....	51 854	59 284	-12.5
Land in farms ----- acres .....	8 936 015	9 447 705	-5.4
Average size of farm ----- acres .....	172	159	8.2
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	269 000	199 781	34.6
Average per acre ----- dollars .....	1 573	1 263	24.5
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	38 452	30 403	26.5
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres .....	4 651	5 253	-11.5
10 to 49 acres .....	15 852	18 088	-12.4
50 to 179 acres .....	19 366	22 680	-14.6
180 to 499 acres .....	8 007	9 337	-14.2
500 to 999 acres .....	2 564	2 676	-4.2
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	1 054	938	12.4
2,000 acres or more .....	360	312	15.4
Total cropland ----- farms .....	47 497	54 972	-13.6
Harvested cropland ----- acres .....	5 578 191	5 716 256	-2.4
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	42 135	50 108	-15.9
----- acres .....	3 998 685	3 779 164	5.8
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....	4 834 218	3 541 419	36.5
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	93 227	59 737	56.1
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....	1 996 452	1 436 988	38.9
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....	2 837 765	2 104 430	34.8
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 .....	12 616	16 758	-24.7
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	7 250	8 461	-14.3
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	6 968	8 344	-16.5
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	7 641	8 515	-10.3
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	4 397	4 817	-8.7
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	3 640	4 271	-14.8
\$100,000 to \$249,999 .....	4 444	4 857	-8.5
\$250,000 to \$499,999 .....	2 810	2 177	29.1
\$500,000 or more .....	2 088	1 084	92.6
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....	3 817 833	2 779 353	37.4
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	73 621	46 879	57.0
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....	51 858	59 288	-12.5
----- \$1,000 .....	912 136	688 217	32.5
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	17 589	11 608	51.5
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming .....	27 376	30 687	-10.8
Other .....	24 478	28 597	-14.4
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any .....	25 958	31 914	-18.7
200 days or more .....	17 989	21 702	-17.1
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....	22 718	24 985	-9.1
----- number .....	901 980	784 136	15.0
Beef cows ----- farms .....	19 531	20 630	-5.3
----- number .....	385 428	320 641	20.2
Milk cows ----- farms .....	1 552	2 336	-33.6
----- number .....	99 291	110 127	-9.8
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....	20 771	22 682	-8.4
----- number .....	399 035	395 732	.8
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....	4 311	6 921	-37.7
----- number .....	5 100 979	2 547 127	100.3
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....	4 012	6 290	-36.2
----- number .....	10 776 400	5 180 960	108.0
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....	574	542	5.9
----- number .....	19 546	15 820	23.6
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....	2 064	3 330	-38.0
----- number .....	18 133 946	20 070 337	-9.6
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....	2 116	2 153	-1.7
----- number .....	499 071 743	408 721 082	22.1
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....	13 052	21 000	-37.8
----- acres .....	1 019 871	1 056 000	-3.4
Wheat for grain ----- bushels .....	96 617 840	71 795 021	34.6
----- farms .....	6 883	7 747	-11.2
----- acres .....	490 214	378 744	29.4
Cotton ----- bushels .....	23 164 935	15 091 015	53.5
----- farms .....	2 035	981	107.4
----- acres .....	357 766	94 186	279.9
Tobacco ----- bales .....	445 466	93 720	375.3
----- farms .....	17 625	22 260	-20.8
----- acres .....	283 900	239 343	18.6
Soybeans for beans ----- pounds .....	604 014 807	478 051 423	26.3
----- farms .....	13 080	17 409	-24.9
----- acres .....	1 287 573	1 273 278	1.1
Peanuts for nuts ----- bushels .....	34 176 793	31 368 069	9.0
----- farms .....	2 371	3 038	-22.0
----- acres .....	149 210	144 682	3.1
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- pounds .....	398 611 000	379 952 977	4.9
----- farms .....	18 268	20 733	-11.9
----- acres .....	466 944	456 360	2.3
----- tons, dry .....	922 347	795 954	15.9

<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 .....	51 854	59 284	-12.5
Land in farms ..... hectares .....	3 616 405	3 823 486	-5.4
Average size of farm ..... hectares .....	70	64	9.4
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	269 000	199 781	34.6
Average per hectare ..... dollars .....	1 573	1 263	24.5
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	38 452	30 403	26.5
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares .....	4 651	5 253	-11.5
3.85 to 20.04 hectares .....	15 852	18 088	-12.4
20.05 to 72.67 hectares .....	19 366	22 680	-14.6
72.68 to 202.22 hectares .....	8 007	9 337	-14.2
202.23 to 404.65 hectares .....	2 564	2 676	-4.2
404.66 to 809.51 hectares .....	1 054	938	12.4
809.52 hectares or more .....	360	312	15.4
Total cropland ..... farms .....	47 497	54 972	-13.6
..... hectares .....	2 257 494	2 313 369	-2.4
Harvested cropland ..... farms .....	42 135	50 108	-15.9
..... hectares .....	1 618 268	1 529 428	5.8
Irrigated land ..... farms .....	4 337	6 445	-32.7
..... hectares .....	45 581	55 791	-18.3
Market value of agricultural products sold ..... \$1,000 .....	4 834 218	3 541 419	36.5
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	93 227	59 737	56.1
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ..... \$1,000 .....	1 996 452	1 436 988	38.9
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000 .....	2 837 765	2 104 430	34.8
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 .....	12 616	16 758	-24.7
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	7 250	8 461	-14.3
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	6 968	8 344	-16.5
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	7 641	8 515	-10.3
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	4 397	4 817	-8.7
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	3 640	4 271	-14.8
\$100,000 to \$249,999 .....	4 444	4 857	-8.5
\$250,000 to \$499,999 .....	2 810	2 177	29.1
\$500,000 or more .....	2 088	1 084	92.6
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ..... \$1,000 .....	3 817 833	2 779 353	37.4
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	73 621	46 879	57.0
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ..... farms .....	51 858	59 288	-12.5
..... \$1,000 .....	912 136	688 217	32.5
Average per farm ..... dollars .....	17 589	11 608	51.5
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming .....	27 376	30 687	-10.8
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Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any .....	25 958	31 914	-18.7
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Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms .....	22 718	24 985	-9.1
..... number .....	901 980	784 136	15.0
Beef cows ..... farms .....	19 531	20 630	-5.3
..... number .....	385 428	320 641	20.2
Milk cows ..... farms .....	1 552	2 336	-33.6
..... number .....	99 291	110 127	-9.8
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms .....	20 771	22 682	-8.4
..... number .....	399 035	395 732	.8
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms .....	4 311	6 921	-37.7
..... number .....	5 100 979	2 547 127	100.3
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms .....	4 012	6 290	-36.2
..... number .....	10 776 400	5 180 960	108.0
Sheep and lambs inventory ..... farms .....	574	542	5.9
..... number .....	19 546	15 820	23.6
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ..... farms .....	2 064	3 330	-38.0
..... number .....	18 133 946	20 070 337	-9.6
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms .....	2 116	2 153	-1.7
..... number .....	499 071 743	408 721 082	22.1
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ..... farms .....	13 052	21 000	-37.8
..... hectares .....	412 742	427 363	-3.4
..... metric tons .....	2 454 207	1 823 678	34.6
Wheat for grain ..... farms .....	6 883	7 747	-11.2
..... hectares .....	198 390	153 278	29.4
..... metric tons .....	630 446	410 710	53.5
Cotton ..... farms .....	2 035	981	107.4
..... hectares .....	144 788	38 117	279.9
..... metric tons .....	96 989	20 405	375.3
Tobacco ..... farms .....	17 625	22 260	-20.8
..... hectares .....	114 894	96 862	18.6
..... metric tons .....	273 977	216 841	26.3
Soybeans for beans ..... farms .....	13 080	17 409	-24.9
..... hectares .....	521 081	515 296	1.1
..... metric tons .....	930 140	853 699	9.0
Peanuts for nuts ..... farms .....	2 371	3 038	-22.0
..... hectares .....	60 385	58 553	3.1
..... metric tons .....	180 807	172 344	4.9
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ..... farms .....	18 268	20 733	-11.9
..... hectares .....	188 972	184 689	2.3
..... metric tons .....	836 739	722 078	15.9

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

## 2 NORTH CAROLINA

## 1992 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE