

# 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 .....	649	701	-7.4
Land in farms ----- acres .....	49 601	58 685	-15.5
Average size of farm ----- acres .....	76	84	-9.5
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	481 783	420 279	14.6
Average per acre ----- dollars .....	6 304	4 748	32.8
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	37 718	35 918	5.0
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres -----	128	131	-2.3
10 to 49 acres -----	237	250	-5.2
50 to 179 acres -----	215	241	-10.8
180 to 499 acres -----	57	66	-13.6
500 to 999 acres -----	10	11	-9.1
1,000 to 1,999 acres -----	2	2	-
2,000 acres or more -----	-	-	-
Total cropland ----- farms .....	591	597	-1.0
Harvested cropland ----- acres .....	24 411	26 121	-6.5
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	517	523	-1.1
----- acres .....	18 136	18 498	-2.0
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	132	105	25.7
----- acres .....	2 979	3 494	-14.7
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....	39 512	37 786	4.6
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	60 882	53 903	12.9
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....	27 431	26 685	2.8
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....	12 082	11 100	8.8
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	175	290	-39.7
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	115	79	45.6
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	85	82	3.7
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	99	79	25.3
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	49	41	19.5
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	49	55	-10.9
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	45	43	4.7
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	12	15	-20.0
\$500,000 or more -----	20	17	17.6
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....	32 436	29 736	9.1
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	49 978	42 359	18.0
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....	649	702	-7.5
----- \$1,000 .....	7 077	7 443	-4.9
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	10 904	10 603	2.8
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	333	345	-3.5
Other -----	316	356	-11.2
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	323	395	-18.2
200 days or more -----	202	262	-22.9
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....	208	253	-17.8
----- number .....	6 057	6 930	-12.6
Beef cows ----- farms .....	133	156	-14.7
----- number .....	967	1 133	-14.7
Milk cows ----- farms .....	55	70	-21.4
----- number .....	2 565	2 975	-13.8
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....	162	206	-21.4
----- number .....	2 509	3 259	-23.0
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....	48	59	-18.6
----- number .....	5 488	4 719	16.3
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....	41	49	-16.3
----- number .....	6 011	4 990	20.5
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....	62	76	-18.4
----- number .....	1 355	1 661	-18.4
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....	83	96	-13.5
----- number .....	242 307	205 794	17.7
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....	5	6	-16.7
----- number .....	(D)	58 714	(D)
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....	16	9	77.8
----- acres .....	172	99	73.7
Corn for silage or green chop ----- bushels .....	11 280	7 585	48.7
----- farms .....	72	77	-6.5
----- acres .....	2 949	2 008	46.9
Irish potatoes ----- tons, green .....	49 638	33 778	47.0
----- farms .....	19	22	-13.6
----- acres .....	1 310	1 410	-7.1
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- cwt .....	374 808	259 958	44.2
----- farms .....	245	291	-15.8
----- acres .....	7 614	8 126	-6.3
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ----- tons, dry .....	15 864	14 125	12.3
----- farms .....	126	99	27.3
----- acres .....	1 868	1 947	-4.1
Land in orchards ----- farms .....	72	83	-13.3
----- acres .....	664	856	-22.5

<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 .....	649	701	-7.4
Land in farms ----- hectares .....	20 074	23 750	-15.5
Average size of farm ----- hectares .....	31	34	-8.8
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	481 783	420 279	14.6
Average per hectare ----- dollars .....	6 304	4 748	32.8
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	37 718	35 918	5.0
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares -----	128	131	-2.3
3.85 to 20.04 hectares -----	237	250	-5.2
20.05 to 72.67 hectares -----	215	241	-10.8
72.68 to 202.22 hectares -----	57	66	-13.6
202.23 to 404.65 hectares -----	10	11	-9.1
404.66 to 809.51 hectares -----	2	2	-
809.52 hectares or more -----	-	-	-
Total cropland ----- farms .....	591	597	-1.0
----- hectares .....	9 879	10 571	-6.5
Harvested cropland ----- farms .....	517	523	-1.1
----- hectares .....	7 340	7 486	-2.0
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	132	105	25.7
----- hectares .....	1 206	1 414	-14.7
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....	39 512	37 786	4.6
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	60 882	53 903	12.9
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....	27 431	26 685	2.8
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....	12 082	11 100	8.8
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	175	290	-39.7
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	115	79	45.6
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	85	82	3.7
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	99	79	25.3
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	49	41	19.5
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	49	55	-10.9
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	45	43	4.7
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	12	15	-20.0
\$500,000 or more -----	20	17	17.6
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....	32 436	29 736	9.1
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	49 978	42 359	18.0
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....	649	702	-7.5
----- \$1,000 .....	7 077	7 443	-4.9
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	10 904	10 603	2.8
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	333	345	-3.5
Other -----	316	356	-11.2
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	323	395	-18.2
200 days or more -----	202	262	-22.9
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....	208	253	-17.8
----- number .....	6 057	6 930	-12.6
Beef cows ----- farms .....	133	156	-14.7
----- number .....	967	1 133	-14.7
Milk cows ----- farms .....	55	70	-21.4
----- number .....	2 565	2 975	-13.8
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....	162	206	-21.4
----- number .....	2 509	3 259	-23.0
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....	48	59	-18.6
----- number .....	5 488	4 719	16.3
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....	41	49	-16.3
----- number .....	6 011	4 990	20.5
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....	62	76	-18.4
----- number .....	1 355	1 661	-18.4
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....	83	96	-13.5
----- number .....	242 307	205 794	17.7
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....	5	6	-16.7
----- number .....	(D)	58 714	(D)
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....	16	9	77.8
----- hectares .....	70	40	75.0
----- metric tons .....	287	193	48.7
Corn for silage or green chop ----- farms .....	72	77	-6.5
----- hectares .....	1 193	813	46.7
----- metric tons .....	45 031	30 643	47.0
Irish potatoes ----- farms .....	19	22	-13.6
----- hectares .....	530	571	-7.2
----- metric tons .....	17 001	11 791	44.2
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms .....	245	291	-15.8
----- hectares .....	3 081	3 289	-6.3
----- metric tons .....	14 392	12 814	12.3
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ----- farms .....	126	99	27.3
----- hectares .....	756	788	-4.1
Land in orchards ----- farms .....	72	83	-13.3
----- hectares .....	269	347	-22.5

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

## 2 RHODE ISLAND

## 1992 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE