

# 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 .....  | 20 242      | 20 517     | -1.3                             |
| Land in farms ----- acres .....   | 4 472 569   | 4 758 631  | -6.0                             |
| Average size of farm ----- acres .....  | 221         | 232        | -4.7                             |
| Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :   |             |            |                                  |
| Average per farm ----- dollars .....  | 251 583     | 201 169    | 25.1                             |
| Average per acre ----- dollars .....  | 1 137       | 871        | 30.5                             |
| Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :                                    |             |            |                                  |
| Average per farm ----- dollars .....  | 33 077      | 31 252     | 5.8                              |
| Farms by size:  |             |            |                                  |
| 1 to 9 acres -----  | 1 302       | 1 337      | -2.6                             |
| 10 to 49 acres -----  | 5 495       | 5 437      | 1.1                              |
| 50 to 179 acres -----   | 7 591       | 7 742      | -2.0                             |
| 180 to 499 acres -----  | 3 699       | 3 762      | -1.7                             |
| 500 to 999 acres -----  | 1 263       | 1 303      | -3.1                             |
| 1,000 to 1,999 acres -----  | 642         | 673        | -4.6                             |
| 2,000 acres or more -----   | 250         | 263        | -4.9                             |
| Total cropland ----- farms .....  | 18 037      | 18 578     | -2.9                             |
| Harvested cropland ----- acres .....  | 2 588 525   | 2 686 117  | -3.6                             |
| Irrigated land ----- farms .....  | 14 587      | 15 556     | -6.2                             |
| ----- acres .....   | 1 590 794   | 1 589 636  | .1                               |
| Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....  | 1 066 079   | 878 683    | 21.3                             |
| Average per farm ----- dollars .....  | 52 667      | 42 827     | 23.0                             |
| Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....                                       | 562 036     | 451 285    | 24.5                             |
| Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....  | 504 043     | 427 398    | 17.9                             |
| Farms by value of sales:  |             |            |                                  |
| Less than \$2,500 -----   | 7 341       | 7 419      | -1.1                             |
| \$2,500 to \$4,999 -----  | 3 317       | 3 516      | -5.7                             |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 -----  | 2 897       | 2 900      | -.1                              |
| \$10,000 to \$24,999 -----  | 2 428       | 2 547      | -4.7                             |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 -----  | 1 301       | 1 276      | 2.0                              |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 -----  | 937         | 954        | -1.8                             |
| \$100,000 to \$249,999 -----  | 947         | 1 114      | -15.0                            |
| \$250,000 to \$499,999 -----  | 607         | 478        | 27.0                             |
| \$500,000 or more -----   | 467         | 313        | 49.2                             |
| Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....   | 897 923     | 736 918    | 21.8                             |
| Average per farm ----- dollars .....  | 44 359      | 35 917     | 23.5                             |
| Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....     | 20 242      | 20 517     | -1.3                             |
| Average per farm ----- \$1,000 .....  | 157 727     | 123 915    | 27.3                             |
| ----- dollars .....   | 7 792       | 6 040      | 29.0                             |
| Operators by principal occupation:  |             |            |                                  |
| Farming -----   | 8 866       | 8 983      | -1.3                             |
| Other -----   | 11 376      | 11 534     | -1.4                             |
| Operators by days worked off farm:  |             |            |                                  |
| Any -----   | 11 271      | 11 791     | -4.4                             |
| 200 days or more -----  | 8 326       | 8 549      | -2.6                             |
| Livestock and poultry:  |             |            |                                  |
| Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....   | 10 026      | 10 227     | -2.0                             |
| ----- number .....  | 451 719     | 428 491    | 5.4                              |
| Beef cows ----- farms .....   | 8 998       | 8 903      | 1.1                              |
| ----- number .....  | 222 566     | 205 344    | 8.4                              |
| Milk cows ----- farms .....   | 540         | 697        | -22.5                            |
| ----- number .....  | 31 923      | 40 113     | -20.4                            |
| Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....  | 9 337       | 9 635      | -3.1                             |
| ----- number .....  | 200 396     | 218 766    | -8.4                             |
| Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....   | 2 237       | 3 249      | -31.1                            |
| ----- number .....  | 327 572     | 352 413    | -7.0                             |
| Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....  | 2 048       | 3 031      | -32.4                            |
| ----- number .....  | 637 592     | 619 986    | 2.8                              |
| Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....   | 169         | 80         | 111.3                            |
| ----- number .....  | 3 144       | 1 580      | 99.0                             |
| Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....  | 920         | 1 477      | -37.7                            |
| ----- number .....  | 5 739 400   | 7 539 759  | -23.9                            |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....  | 292         | 227        | 28.6                             |
| ----- number .....  | 106 171 059 | 60 295 197 | 76.1                             |
| Selected crops harvested:   |             |            |                                  |
| Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....  | 4 346       | 6 292      | -30.9                            |
| ----- acres .....   | 311 947     | 309 791    | .7                               |
| Wheat for grain ----- bushels .....   | 27 192 657  | 22 143 190 | 22.8                             |
| ----- farms .....   | 2 237       | 3 097      | -27.8                            |
| ----- acres .....   | 240 634     | 213 374    | 12.8                             |
| Cotton ----- bushels .....  | 10 470 395  | 7 558 179  | 38.5                             |
| ----- farms .....   | 861         | 744        | 15.7                             |
| ----- acres .....   | 191 690     | 116 424    | 64.6                             |
| Tobacco ----- bales .....   | 223 658     | 102 078    | 119.1                            |
| ----- farms .....   | 1 965       | 2 519      | -22.0                            |
| ----- acres .....   | 50 194      | 42 666     | 17.6                             |
| Soybeans for beans ----- pounds .....   | 104 627 617 | 87 431 422 | 19.7                             |
| ----- farms .....   | 4 015       | 5 220      | -23.1                            |
| ----- acres .....   | 532 909     | 597 258    | -10.8                            |
| ----- bushels .....   | 11 521 171  | 12 872 219 | -10.5                            |
| Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms ..... | 7 056       | 7 272      | -3.0                             |
| ----- acres .....   | 244 228     | 230 800    | 5.8                              |
| ----- tons, dry .....   | 481 619     | 432 109    | 11.5                             |
| Land in orchards ----- farms .....  | 1 157       | 1 134      | 2.0                              |
| ----- acres .....   | 42 075      | 49 565     | -15.1                            |

<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 .....  | 20 242      | 20 517     | -1.3                             |
| Land in farms ----- hectares .....  | 1 810 049   | 1 925 818  | -6.0                             |
| Average size of farm ----- hectares .....   | 89          | 94         | -5.3                             |
| Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :   |             |            |                                  |
| Average per farm ----- dollars .....  | 251 583     | 201 169    | 25.1                             |
| Average per hectare ----- dollars .....   | 1 137       | 871        | 30.5                             |
| Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :                                    |             |            |                                  |
| Average per farm ----- dollars .....  | 33 077      | 31 252     | 5.8                              |
| Farms by size:  |             |            |                                  |
| 01 to 3.84 hectares -----   | 1 302       | 1 337      | -2.6                             |
| 3.85 to 20.04 hectares -----  | 5 495       | 5 437      | 1.1                              |
| 20.05 to 72.67 hectares -----   | 7 591       | 7 742      | -2.0                             |
| 72.68 to 202.22 hectares -----  | 3 699       | 3 762      | -1.7                             |
| 202.23 to 404.65 hectares -----   | 1 263       | 1 303      | -3.1                             |
| 404.66 to 809.51 hectares -----   | 642         | 673        | -4.6                             |
| 809.52 hectares or more -----   | 250         | 263        | -4.9                             |
| Total cropland ----- farms .....  | 18 037      | 18 578     | -2.9                             |
| Harvested cropland ----- hectares .....   | 1 047 576   | 1 087 072  | -3.6                             |
| Irrigated land ----- farms .....  | 14 587      | 15 556     | -6.2                             |
| ----- hectares .....  | 643 794     | 643 326    | .1                               |
| Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....  | 1 066 079   | 878 683    | 21.3                             |
| Average per farm ----- dollars .....  | 52 667      | 42 827     | 23.0                             |
| Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....                                       | 562 036     | 451 285    | 24.5                             |
| Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....  | 504 043     | 427 398    | 17.9                             |
| Farms by value of sales:  |             |            |                                  |
| Less than \$2,500 -----   | 7 341       | 7 419      | -1.1                             |
| \$2,500 to \$4,999 -----  | 3 317       | 3 516      | -5.7                             |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 -----  | 2 897       | 2 900      | -.1                              |
| \$10,000 to \$24,999 -----  | 2 428       | 2 547      | -4.7                             |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 -----  | 1 301       | 1 276      | 2.0                              |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 -----  | 937         | 954        | -1.8                             |
| \$100,000 to \$249,999 -----  | 947         | 1 114      | -15.0                            |
| \$250,000 to \$499,999 -----  | 607         | 478        | 27.0                             |
| \$500,000 or more -----   | 467         | 313        | 49.2                             |
| Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....   | 897 923     | 736 918    | 21.8                             |
| Average per farm ----- dollars .....  | 44 359      | 35 917     | 23.5                             |
| Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....     | 20 242      | 20 517     | -1.3                             |
| Average per farm ----- \$1,000 .....  | 157 727     | 123 915    | 27.3                             |
| ----- dollars .....   | 7 792       | 6 040      | 29.0                             |
| Operators by principal occupation:  |             |            |                                  |
| Farming -----   | 8 866       | 8 983      | -1.3                             |
| Other -----   | 11 376      | 11 534     | -1.4                             |
| Operators by days worked off farm:  |             |            |                                  |
| Any -----   | 11 271      | 11 791     | -4.4                             |
| 200 days or more -----  | 8 326       | 8 549      | -2.6                             |
| Livestock and poultry:  |             |            |                                  |
| Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....   | 10 026      | 10 227     | -2.0                             |
| number -----  | 451 719     | 428 491    | 5.4                              |
| Beef cows ----- farms .....   | 8 998       | 8 903      | 1.1                              |
| number -----  | 222 566     | 205 344    | 8.4                              |
| Milk cows ----- farms .....   | 540         | 697        | -22.5                            |
| number -----  | 31 923      | 40 113     | -20.4                            |
| Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....  | 9 337       | 9 635      | -3.1                             |
| number -----  | 200 396     | 218 766    | -8.4                             |
| Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....   | 2 237       | 3 249      | -31.1                            |
| number -----  | 327 572     | 352 413    | -7.0                             |
| Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....  | 2 048       | 3 031      | -32.4                            |
| number -----  | 637 592     | 619 986    | 2.8                              |
| Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....   | 169         | 80         | 111.3                            |
| number -----  | 3 144       | 1 580      | 99.0                             |
| Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....  | 920         | 1 477      | -37.7                            |
| number -----  | 5 739 400   | 7 539 759  | -23.9                            |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....  | 292         | 227        | 28.6                             |
| number -----  | 106 171 059 | 60 295 197 | 76.1                             |
| Selected crops harvested:   |             |            |                                  |
| Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....  | 4 346       | 6 292      | -30.9                            |
| hectares -----  | 126 245     | 125 372    | .7                               |
| metric tons -----   | 690 726     | 562 463    | 22.8                             |
| Wheat for grain ----- farms .....   | 2 237       | 3 097      | -27.8                            |
| hectares -----  | 97 385      | 86 352     | 12.8                             |
| metric tons -----   | 284 958     | 205 700    | 38.5                             |
| Cotton ----- farms .....  | 861         | 744        | 15.7                             |
| hectares -----  | 77 577      | 47 117     | 64.6                             |
| metric tons -----   | 48 696      | 22 225     | 119.1                            |
| Tobacco ----- farms .....   | 1 965       | 2 519      | -22.0                            |
| hectares -----  | 20 314      | 17 267     | 17.6                             |
| metric tons -----   | 47 458      | 39 658     | 19.7                             |
| Soybeans for beans ----- farms .....  | 4 015       | 5 220      | -23.1                            |
| hectares -----  | 215 668     | 241 710    | -10.8                            |
| metric tons -----   | 313 555     | 350 325    | -10.5                            |
| Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms ..... | 7 056       | 7 272      | -3.0                             |
| hectares -----  | 98 839      | 93 405     | 5.8                              |
| metric tons -----   | 436 918     | 392 003    | 11.5                             |
| Land in orchards ----- farms .....  | 1 157       | 1 134      | 2.0                              |
| hectares -----  | 17 028      | 20 059     | -15.1                            |

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

## 2 SOUTH CAROLINA

## 1992 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE