

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	75 076	79 711	-5.8
Land in farms ----- acres	11 169 086	11 731 386	-4.8
Average size of farm ----- acres	149	147	1.4
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	186 171	146 126	27.4
Average per acre ----- dollars	1 245	1 001	24.4
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	25 520	22 700	12.4
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres -----	7 336	7 306	.4
10 to 49 acres -----	22 173	23 209	-4.5
50 to 179 acres -----	29 572	32 266	-8.3
180 to 499 acres -----	11 873	12 697	-6.5
500 to 999 acres -----	2 707	2 906	-6.8
1,000 to 1,999 acres -----	1 062	984	7.9
2,000 acres or more -----	353	343	2.9
Total cropland ----- farms	69 297	73 703	-6.0
Harvested cropland ----- acres	7 086 879	7 185 903	-1.4
Irrigated land ----- farms	58 527	63 754	-8.2
----- acres	3 817 720	3 854 302	-9
Irrigated land ----- farms	1 544	1 899	-18.7
----- acres	36 974	37 776	-2.1
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000	1 933 506	1 617 636	19.5
Average per farm ----- dollars	25 754	20 294	26.9
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000	969 439	701 828	38.1
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000	964 067	915 807	5.3
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	21 446	27 451	-21.9
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	14 365	16 106	-10.8
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	14 918	14 398	3.6
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	13 088	11 446	14.3
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	4 641	4 127	12.5
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	2 681	2 719	-1.4
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	2 402	2 388	.6
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	1 046	780	34.1
\$500,000 or more -----	489	296	65.2
Total farm production expenses ¹ ----- \$1,000	1 492 457	1 282 885	16.3
Average per farm ----- dollars	19 879	16 094	23.5
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) ¹ ----- farms	75 078	79 712	-5.8
----- \$1,000	422 072	324 684	30.0
Average per farm ----- dollars	5 622	4 073	38.0
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	29 878	30 745	-2.8
Other -----	45 198	48 966	-7.7
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	44 536	48 882	-8.9
200 days or more -----	33 366	36 187	-7.8
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms	50 592	52 965	-4.5
----- number	2 162 660	2 008 570	7.7
Beef cows ----- farms	43 333	43 616	-.6
----- number	988 550	894 348	10.5
Milk cows ----- farms	3 295	4 781	-31.1
----- number	152 067	180 390	-15.7
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms	47 955	51 558	-7.0
----- number	1 043 627	1 077 665	-3.2
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms	4 912	8 465	-42.0
----- number	604 613	774 530	-21.9
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms	4 522	7 874	-42.6
----- number	1 293 654	1 484 049	-12.8
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms	749	623	20.2
----- number	18 379	15 303	20.1
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms	3 328	5 810	-42.7
----- number	1 906 094	3 266 829	-41.7
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms	489	509	-3.9
----- number	98 516 358	75 974 462	29.7
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms	9 143	13 715	-33.3
----- acres	605 287	553 943	9.3
Wheat for grain ----- bushels	67 755 811	47 899 079	41.5
----- farms	3 011	4 579	-34.2
----- acres	276 243	324 984	-15.0
Cotton ----- bushels	12 175 250	12 749 682	-4.5
----- farms	2 137	2 545	-16.0
----- acres	598 838	411 100	45.7
Tobacco ----- bales	793 302	566 890	39.9
----- farms	22 953	25 052	-8.4
----- acres	75 621	51 578	46.6
Soybeans for beans ----- pounds	139 367 463	85 715 814	62.6
----- farms	5 232	7 797	-32.9
----- acres	915 223	1 184 778	-22.8
----- bushels	30 313 156	27 367 017	10.8
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms	40 529	44 314	-8.5
----- acres	1 410 204	1 372 674	2.7
----- tons, dry	2 616 430	2 161 679	21.0

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	75 076	79 711	-5.8
Land in farms ----- hectares	4 520 129	4 747 692	-4.8
Average size of farm ----- hectares	60	60	-
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	186 171	146 126	27.4
Average per hectare ----- dollars	1 245	1 001	24.4
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	25 520	22 700	12.4
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares -----	7 336	7 306	.4
3.85 to 20.04 hectares -----	22 173	23 209	-4.5
20.05 to 72.67 hectares -----	29 572	32 266	-8.3
72.68 to 202.22 hectares -----	11 873	12 697	-6.5
202.23 to 404.65 hectares -----	2 707	2 906	-6.8
404.66 to 809.51 hectares -----	1 062	984	7.9
809.52 hectares or more -----	353	343	2.9
Total cropland ----- farms	69 297	73 703	-6.0
----- hectares	2 868 060	2 908 135	-1.4
Harvested cropland ----- farms	58 527	63 754	-8.2
----- hectares	1 545 031	1 559 836	-9
Irrigated land ----- farms	1 544	1 899	-18.7
----- hectares	14 963	15 288	-2.1
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000	1 933 506	1 617 636	19.5
Average per farm ----- dollars	25 754	20 294	26.9
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000	969 439	701 828	38.1
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000	964 067	915 807	5.3
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	21 446	27 451	-21.9
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	14 365	16 106	-10.8
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	14 918	14 398	3.6
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	13 088	11 446	14.3
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	4 641	4 127	12.5
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	2 681	2 719	-1.4
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	2 402	2 388	.6
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	1 046	780	34.1
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Total farm production expenses ¹ ----- \$1,000	1 492 457	1 282 885	16.3
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Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms	50 592	52 965	-4.5
----- number	2 162 660	2 008 570	7.7
Beef cows ----- farms	43 333	43 616	-6
----- number	988 550	894 348	10.5
Milk cows ----- farms	3 295	4 781	-31.1
----- number	152 067	180 390	-15.7
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms	47 955	51 558	-7.0
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Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms	4 912	8 465	-42.0
----- number	604 613	774 530	-21.9
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms	4 522	7 874	-42.6
----- number	1 293 654	1 484 049	-12.8
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms	18 379	15 303	20.2
----- number	3 328	5 810	-20.1
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms	1 906 094	3 266 829	-41.7
----- number	489	509	-3.9
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- number	98 516 358	75 974 462	29.7
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms	9 143	13 715	-33.3
----- hectares	244 960	224 181	9.3
----- metric tons	1 721 078	1 216 693	41.5
Wheat for grain ----- farms	3 011	4 579	-34.2
----- hectares	111 796	131 521	-15.0
----- metric tons	331 356	346 990	-4.5
Cotton ----- farms	2 137	2 545	-16.0
----- hectares	242 350	166 372	45.7
----- metric tons	172 721	123 426	39.9
Tobacco ----- farms	22 953	25 052	-8.4
----- hectares	30 604	20 874	46.6
----- metric tons	63 216	38 880	62.6
Soybeans for beans ----- farms	5 232	7 797	-32.9
----- hectares	370 391	479 480	-22.8
----- metric tons	824 989	744 808	10.8
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms	40 529	44 314	-8.5
----- hectares	570 710	555 521	2.7
----- metric tons	2 373 586	1 961 043	21.0

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.