

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

U.S. data. Tables 1 through 45 in chapter 1 show detailed U.S.-level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more past censuses. Tables 46 through 52 provide 1992 U.S. data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

State data. Chapter 2 presents selected data items by State. Tables 1 through 17 include general data for all States. Tables 18 through 39 include only States reporting the data item. States not having the item, or with a limited number of farms reporting the item, have data combined and presented as "all other States."

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 .005 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 Nation'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	1 925 300	2 087 759	-7.8
Land in farms acres	945 531 506	964 470 625	-2.0
Average size of farm acres	491	462	6.3
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm dollars	357 056	289 387	23.4
Average per acre dollars	727	627	15.9
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm dollars	48 605	41 227	17.9
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres	166 496	183 257	-9.1
10 to 49 acres	387 711	412 437	-6.0
50 to 179 acres	584 146	644 849	-9.4
180 to 499 acres	427 648	478 294	-10.6
500 to 999 acres	186 387	200 058	-6.8
1,000 to 1,999 acres	101 923	102 078	-.2
2,000 acres or more	70 989	66 786	6.3
Total cropland farms	1 697 137	1 848 574	-8.2
Harvested cropland acres	435 365 878	443 318 233	-1.8
Irrigated land farms	1 491 786	1 643 633	-9.2
..... acres	295 936 976	282 223 880	4.9
Irrigated land farms	279 357	291 628	-4.2
..... acres	49 404 030	46 386 201	6.5
Market value of agricultural products sold \$1,000	162 608 334	136 048 516	19.5
Average per farm dollars	84 459	65 165	29.6
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops \$1,000	75 228 256	58 931 085	27.7
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000	87 380 078	77 117 431	13.3
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500	422 767	490 296	-13.8
\$2,500 to \$4,999	231 867	262 918	-11.8
\$5,000 to \$9,999	251 883	274 972	-8.4
\$10,000 to \$24,999	301 804	326 166	-7.5
\$25,000 to \$49,999	195 354	219 636	-11.1
\$50,000 to \$99,999	187 760	218 050	-13.9
\$100,000 to \$249,999	208 405	202 550	2.9
\$250,000 to \$499,999	78 546	61 148	28.5
\$500,000 or more	46 914	32 023	46.5
Total farm production expenses ¹ \$1,000	130 779 261	108 138 053	20.9
Average per farm dollars	67 928	51 797	31.1
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) ¹ farms	1 925 280	2 087 750	-7.8
..... \$1,000	30 421 664	26 430 535	15.1
Average per farm dollars	15 801	12 660	24.8
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	1 053 150	1 138 179	-7.5
Other	872 150	949 580	-8.2
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any	992 773	1 115 560	-11.0
200 days or more	665 570	737 206	-9.7
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory farms	1 074 349	1 176 346	-8.7
..... number	96 135 825	95 847 299	-.3
Beef cows farms	803 241	841 778	-4.6
..... number	32 545 976	31 652 593	2.8
Milk cows farms	155 339	202 068	-23.1
..... number	9 491 818	10 084 697	-5.9
Cattle and calves sold farms	1 034 189	1 150 523	-10.1
..... number	70 562 908	72 603 841	-2.8
Hogs and pigs inventory farms	191 347	243 398	-21.4
..... number	57 563 118	52 271 120	10.1
Hogs and pigs sold farms	188 167	238 819	-21.2
..... number	111 326 807	96 569 359	15.3
Sheep and lambs inventory farms	80 839	92 489	-12.6
..... number	10 770 391	11 059 397	-2.6
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory farms	88 235	144 438	-38.9
..... number	351 310 317	373 577 186	-6.0
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms	23 949	27 645	-13.4
..... number	5 428 589 485	4 361 975 630	24.5
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed farms	503 935	627 602	-19.7
..... acres	69 339 869	58 701 505	18.1
Wheat for grain bushels	8 697 362 804	6 725 001 837	29.3
..... farms	292 464	352 237	-17.0
..... acres	59 089 470	53 224 174	(D)
Cotton bushels	2 206 729 476	1 887 103 964	(D)
..... farms	34 812	43 046	-19.1
..... acres	10 961 720	9 826 081	11.6
Soybeans for beans bales	15 370 310	13 280 143	15.7
..... farms	381 000	441 899	-13.8
..... acres	56 351 304	55 291 205	1.9
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) bushels	2 053 163 265	1 838 053 979	11.7
..... farms	905 296	994 551	-9.0
..... acres	56 596 466	57 967 530	-2.4
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) tons, dry	126 981 302	128 816 054	-1.4
..... farms	61 969	60 819	1.9
..... acres	3 782 358	3 467 563	9.1
Land in orchards farms	116 207	120 434	-3.5
..... acres	4 770 778	4 560 163	4.6

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

B. Highlights of the Nation'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	1 925 300	2 087 759	-7.8
Land in farms	382 656 600	390 321 262	-2.0
Average size of farm	199	187	6.4
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm	357 056	289 387	23.4
Average per hectare	727	627	15.9
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm	48 605	41 227	17.9
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares	166 496	183 257	-9.1
3.85 to 20.04 hectares	387 711	412 437	-6.0
20.05 to 72.67 hectares	584 146	644 849	-9.4
72.68 to 202.22 hectares	427 648	478 294	-10.6
202.23 to 404.65 hectares	186 387	200 058	-6.8
404.66 to 809.51 hectares	101 923	102 078	-2
809.52 hectares or more	70 989	66 786	6.3
Total cropland	1 697 137	1 848 574	-8.2
Harvested cropland	176 192 571	179 410 889	-1.8
Irrigated land	1 491 786	1 643 633	-9.2
Average per farm	119 765 694	114 216 004	4.9
Market value of agricultural products sold	162 608 334	136 048 516	19.5
Average per farm	84 459	65 165	29.6
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops	75 228 256	58 931 085	27.7
Livestock, poultry, and their products	87 380 078	77 117 431	13.3
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500	422 767	490 296	-13.8
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Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory	1 074 349	1 176 346	-8.7
Beef cows	96 135 825	95 847 299	3
Milk cows	803 241	841 778	-4.6
Cattle and calves sold	32 545 976	31 652 593	2.8
Hogs and pigs inventory	155 339	202 068	-23.1
Hogs and pigs sold	9 491 818	10 084 697	-5.9
Sheep and lambs inventory	1 034 189	1 150 523	-10.1
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Sheep and lambs sold	351 310 317	373 577 186	-6.0
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Cattle and calves sold	5 428 589 485	4 361 975 630	24.5
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed	503 935	627 602	-19.7
Wheat for grain	28 061 845	23 756 499	18.1
Cotton	220 923 277	170 822 981	29.3
Soybeans for beans	292 464	352 237	-17.0
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text)	23 913 509	21 539 823	(D)
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text)	60 057 356	51 358 572	(D)
Land in orchards	34 812	43 046	-19.1
Cattle and calves sold	4 436 208	3 976 615	11.6
Hogs and pigs sold	3 346 492	2 891 411	15.7
Sheep and lambs sold	381 000	441 899	-13.8
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	22 805 373	22 376 351	1.9
Cattle and calves sold	55 877 967	50 023 650	11.7
Hogs and pigs sold	905 296	994 551	-9.0
Sheep and lambs sold	22 904 590	23 459 459	-2.4
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	115 195 532	116 859 991	-1.4
Cattle and calves sold	61 969	60 819	1.9
Hogs and pigs sold	1 530 720	1 403 323	9.1
Sheep and lambs sold	116 207	120 434	-3.5
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	1 930 734	1 845 498	4.6

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

2 UNITED STATES

1992 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE