

**Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1997 and Earlier Census Years**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

| All farms   | 1997       | 1992       | 1987       | 1982       | 1978       | 1974       | 1969       | 1964       |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Farms ..... number..  | 90 792     | 96 543     | 105 180    | 115 413    | 121 339    | 126 104    | 140 354    | 154 162    |
| Land in farms ..... acres..   | 31 166 699 | 31 346 565 | 31 638 130 | 32 611 964 | 33 258 233 | 33 044 768 | 33 569 629 | 33 758 321 |
| Average size of farm ..... acres..  | 343        | 325        | 301        | 283        | 274        | 262        | 239        | 219        |
| Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :                               |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Average per farm ..... dollars..  | 566 587    | 394 267    | 283 597    | 471 011    | 427 161    | 188 370    | 93 694     | 59 553     |
| Average per acre ..... dollars..  | 1 697      | 1 212      | 947        | 1 684      | 1 548      | 719        | 392        | 272        |
| Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> , \$1,000..            | 7 318 851  | 6 647 461  | 5 543 375  | 6 731 271  | 5 774 996  | 3 527 520  | 1 683 466  | (NA)       |
| Average per farm ..... dollars..  | 80 651     | 68 967     | 52 844     | 58 398     | 47 666     | 28 968     | 12 290     | (NA)       |
| Farms by size:  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1 to 9 acres .....  | 5 049      | 7 129      | 7 974      | 7 910      | 6 610      | 5 051      | 5 637      | 4 324      |
| 10 to 49 acres .....  | 11 580     | 10 345     | 10 981     | 12 322     | 11 342     | 9 841      | 9 586      | 11 156     |
| 50 to 179 acres .....   | 24 525     | 24 518     | 27 556     | 30 959     | 34 898     | 40 146     | 48 256     | 58 301     |
| 180 to 499 acres .....  | 28 918     | 33 988     | 39 071     | 46 259     | 51 974     | 56 692     | 65 998     | 72 790     |
| 500 to 999 acres .....  | 14 833     | 15 830     | 15 874     | 14 858     | 14 109     | 12 578     | 9 865      | 6 999      |
| 1,000 to 1,999 acres .....  | 5 114      | 4 241      | 3 401      | 2 796      | 2 152      | 1 646      | 928        | 532        |
| 2,000 acres or more .....   | 773        | 492        | 323        | 309        | 254        | 150        | 84         | 60         |
| Total cropland ..... farms..  | 83 375     | 88 224     | 96 749     | 106 859    | 114 391    | 120 559    | 134 143    | 148 055    |
| ..... acres..   | 26 821 844 | 27 195 676 | 27 290 868 | 27 580 749 | 28 063 990 | 27 278 052 | 27 738 852 | 26 356 116 |
| Harvested cropland ..... farms..  | 74 951     | 84 009     | 92 878     | 103 644    | 111 379    | 116 863    | 128 791    | 143 701    |
| ..... acres..   | 23 323 249 | 22 826 308 | 20 484 178 | 24 137 670 | 23 622 212 | 23 085 329 | 19 286 658 | 19 951 672 |
| Irrigated land ..... farms..  | 957        | 1 063      | 851        | 616        | 739        | 348        | 269        | 291        |
| ..... acres..   | 124 983    | 115 724    | 92 247     | 91 427     | 100 770    | 39 417     | 20 664     | 21 528     |
| Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> , \$1,000..                       | 11 947 894 | 10 099 786 | 8 926 799  | 9 828 932  | 8 172 960  | 6 319 637  | 3 655 512  | 2 596 544  |
| Average per farm ..... dollars..  | 131 596    | 104 614    | 84 872     | 85 163     | 67 356     | 50 114     | 26 044     | 16 843     |
| Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..                                  | 6 187 269  | 4 641 155  | 3 660 117  | 4 143 086  | 3 133 218  | 2 800 973  | 886 284    | 733 378    |
| Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000..                                    | 5 760 625  | 5 458 631  | 5 266 682  | 5 685 846  | 5 039 742  | 3 517 658  | 2 768 051  | 1 861 768  |
| Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Less than \$2,500 .....   | 13 191     | 7 636      | 8 799      | 8 092      | 6 721      | 9 608      | 17 322     | 20 654     |
| \$2,500 to \$4,999 .....  | 4 577      | 4 753      | 5 498      | 5 535      | 6 234      | 6 399      | 11 756     | 15 390     |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 .....  | 5 878      | 7 030      | 8 252      | 8 230      | 9 901      | 11 002     | 20 543     | 31 546     |
| \$10,000 to \$24,999 .....  | 10 507     | 13 820     | 17 436     | 17 531     | 21 822     | 28 293     | 84 747     | 85 065     |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 .....  | 11 448     | 14 852     | 17 752     | 20 458     | 25 887     | 84 747     | 86 346     | 85 065     |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 .....  | 13 735     | 17 570     | 20 656     | 25 735     | 28 293     | 84 747     | 86 346     | 85 065     |
| \$100,000 to \$499,999 .....  | 27 523     | 28 595     | 25 157     | 28 128     | 21 419     | 13 822     | 4 193      | 1 445      |
| \$500,000 or more .....   | 3 933      | 2 287      | 1 630      | 1 660      | 986        | 451        | 132        | 1 445      |
| Farms by type of organization:  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Individual or family (sole proprietorship) .....  | 75 880     | 81 127     | 89 188     | 97 610     | 103 884    | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Partnership .....   | 8 231      | 10 028     | 11 088     | 13 213     | 14 345     | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Corporation .....   | 6 128      | 4 924      | 4 404      | 4 110      | 2 668      | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. ....                              | 553        | 464        | 500        | 480        | 442        | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Operators by days worked off farm <sup>4</sup> :  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| None .....  | 40 767     | 47 557     | 51 753     | 55 958     | 62 890     | 56 414     | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Any .....   | 45 408     | 42 672     | 46 229     | 48 480     | 51 057     | 38 253     | 59 074     | 53 238     |
| 200 days or more .....  | 28 673     | 25 568     | 25 928     | 25 240     | 25 073     | 20 278     | 24 906     | 19 192     |
| Operators by principal occupation <sup>4</sup> :  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Farming .....   | 56 256     | 66 885     | 75 279     | 86 041     | 92 309     | 102 163    | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Other .....   | 34 536     | 29 658     | 29 901     | 29 372     | 29 030     | 22 512     | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Average age of operator <sup>4</sup> ..... years..  | 52.4       | 50.3       | 49.3       | 47.6       | 47.5       | 49.3       | 48.5       | 48.5       |
| Total farm production expenses <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..                               | 8 405 838  | 7 744 947  | 6 647 645  | (NA)       | (NA)       | 4 276 217  | 2 790 717  | (NA)       |
| Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Livestock and poultry purchased ..... \$1,000..   | 1 260 448  | 1 490 792  | 1 358 161  | 1 536 601  | 1 519 139  | 1 018 548  | 888 254    | 526 204    |
| Feed for livestock and poultry ..... \$1,000..  | 1 585 107  | 1 317 636  | 1 101 866  | 1 214 715  | 1 033 523  | 881 383    | 593 256    | 443 782    |
| Commercial fertilizer <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..  | 636 785    | 578 142    | 467 355    | 562 767    | 481 090    | 394 865    | 146 486    | 88 365     |
| Petroleum products ..... \$1,000..  | 350 799    | 379 607    | 315 061    | 536 937    | 293 963    | 204 875    | 121 911    | 106 960    |
| Hired farm labor ..... \$1,000..  | 316 779    | 259 210    | 282 515    | 222 146    | 192 667    | 108 412    | 79 039     | 57 626     |
| Interest <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..   | 600 284    | 593 994    | 579 338    | 101 556    | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Agricultural chemicals <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..                                       | 521 566    | 424 136    | 309 894    | 331 924    | 208 549    | 139 620    | 56 611     | (NA)       |
| Livestock and poultry:  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms..   | 38 435     | 43 610     | 49 469     | 62 412     | 69 226     | 79 851     | 96 738     | 124 407    |
| ..... number..  | 3 647 129  | 3 963 602  | 4 303 682  | 5 822 488  | 6 531 710  | 6 658 298  | 7 020 754  | 7 284 905  |
| Beef cows ..... farms..   | 27 452     | 29 987     | 32 279     | 41 117     | 44 755     | 52 930     | (NA)       | 65 042     |
| ..... number..  | 1 029 172  | 1 065 744  | 1 123 745  | 1 536 397  | 1 606 685  | 1 868 308  | 1 548 103  | 1 247 101  |
| Milk cows ..... farms..   | 4 208      | 5 878      | 7 748      | 10 485     | 12 623     | 18 213     | 30 005     | 59 673     |
| ..... number..  | 222 142    | 258 925    | 294 888    | 339 664    | 339 469    | 399 573    | 476 944    | 735 647    |
| Cattle and calves sold ..... farms..  | 38 548     | 43 780     | 50 509     | 62 765     | 70 693     | 81 011     | 99 981     | 123 505    |
| ..... number..  | 2 881 122  | 3 223 645  | 3 539 020  | 4 595 676  | 5 457 944  | 5 018 819  | 5 954 623  | 5 142 522  |
| Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms..   | 17 243     | 31 790     | 36 670     | 45 768     | 57 325     | 59 582     | 83 251     | 106 184    |
| ..... number..  | 14 651 919 | 14 153 158 | 12 983 074 | 14 332 644 | 14 695 418 | 11 476 589 | 13 438 546 | 13 674 088 |
| Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms..  | 18 370     | 34 058     | 38 638     | 49 012     | 60 065     | 66 336     | 88 196     | 108 909    |
| ..... number..  | 27 495 818 | 26 812 736 | 23 483 812 | 23 801 117 | 22 082 311 | 19 359 946 | 20 826 437 | 19 872 227 |
| Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) <sup>7</sup> ..... farms.. | 1 892      | 2 633      | 4 897      | 7 637      | 10 050     | 16 038     | 29 984     | 73 804     |
| ..... number..  | 24 876 834 | 12 560 235 | 9 580 666  | 9 584 663  | 9 343 813  | 9 816 088  | 11 154 735 | 19 503 609 |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms..                                  | 519        | 652        | 1 060      | 1 041      | 1 142      | 1 337      | 775        | 106        |
| ..... number..  | 6 852 810  | 9 199 943  | 666 016    | 429 389    | 675 938    | 658 267    | 474 699    | 1 906 367  |

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1997 and Earlier Census Years—Con.**

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

| All farms  | 1997          | 1992          | 1987          | 1982          | 1978          | 1974        | 1969        | 1964        |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Selected crops harvested:</b>   |               |               |               |               |               |             |             |             |
| Corn for grain or seed . . . . . farms . .   | 61 860        | 72 756        | 83 301        | 92 462        | 100 984       | 106 135     | 116 162     | 133 918     |
| acres . .  | 11 595 308    | 12 512 815    | 10 147 051    | 12 880 050    | 12 664 796    | 11 865 605  | 9 480 821   | 9 612 937   |
| bushels . .  | 1 537 482 128 | 1 754 149 889 | 1 274 388 346 | 1 466 953 043 | 1 389 912 254 | 930 743 547 | 912 535 502 | 734 502 692 |
| Oats for grain . . . . . farms . .   | 10 823        | 17 854        | 25 398        | 35 752        | 39 710        | (NA)        | (NA)        | 87 530      |
| acres . .  | 211 985       | 368 086       | 544 907       | 811 716       | 866 584       | (NA)        | (NA)        | 2 233 231   |
| bushels . .  | 14 293 977    | 23 246 559    | 30 918 660    | 45 769 302    | 49 306 381    | (NA)        | (NA)        | 107 339 285 |
| Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms . .   | 56 436        | 59 945        | 68 278        | 73 175        | 78 579        | 82 952      | 80 892      | 88 639      |
| acres . .  | 9 944 865     | 8 243 067     | 7 903 395     | 8 044 305     | 7 420 862     | 6 905 647   | 5 175 289   | 4 173 021   |
| bushels . .  | 445 574 589   | 352 590 997   | 326 081 351   | 291 189 890   | 265 870 687   | 190 916 604 | 165 975 386 | 116 215 629 |
| Hay—alfalfa, other tame,<br>small grain, wild, grass<br>silage, green chop, etc.<br>(see text) . . . . . farms . . | 37 711        | 44 768        | 48 271        | 56 372        | 64 657        | 72 217      | 84 168      | (NA)        |
| acres . .  | 1 575 777     | 1 762 425     | 1 968 207     | 2 035 033     | 2 285 255     | 2 259 243   | 2 269 783   | 3 201 635   |
| tons, dry . .  | 4 365 999     | 5 107 237     | 5 612 944     | 6 201 756     | 6 728 686     | 5 896 261   | 6 166 678   | 7 643 516   |

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

<sup>2</sup>Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

<sup>3</sup>Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

<sup>4</sup>Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorship) and partnerships.

<sup>5</sup>Data for 1964 to 1982 do not include cost of custom applications; data for agricultural chemicals include the cost of lime for 1969 to 1978.

<sup>6</sup>Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

<sup>7</sup>Data for 1969 to 1992 are for chickens 3 months old or older inventory; data for 1964 are for chickens 4 months old or older.