

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.. | 46 027 | 46 562 | 51 172 | 58 661 | 60 426 | 64 094 | 77 946 | 93 504 |
| Land in farms acres.. | 9 872 812 | 10 088 170 | 10 316 861 | 10 942 172 | 11 038 419 | 10 832 234 | 11 900 689 | 13 598 992 |
| Average size of farm acres.. | 215 | 217 | 202 | 187 | 183 | 169 | 153 | 145 |
| Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ : | | | | | | | | |
| Average per farm dollars.. | 358 166 | 247 370 | 196 065 | 228 238 | 175 171 | 93 435 | 49 821 | 34 027 |
| Average per acre dollars.. | 1 671 | 1 131 | 971 | 1 223 | 960 | 553 | 326 | 233 |
| Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000.. | 3 055 199 | 2 558 206 | 2 347 585 | 2 676 343 | 1 988 471 | 1 313 311 | 715 931 | (NA) |
| Average per farm dollars.. | 66 361 | 55 028 | 45 954 | 45 711 | 32 963 | 21 225 | 9 412 | (NA) |
| Farms by size: | | | | | | | | |
| 1 to 9 acres | 2 611 | 2 562 | 2 866 | 2 714 | 1 972 | 1 788 | 1 951 | 2 659 |
| 10 to 49 acres | 12 075 | 11 148 | 12 174 | 14 300 | 12 627 | 12 233 | 14 334 | 17 753 |
| 50 to 179 acres | 17 439 | 17 449 | 19 779 | 23 336 | 26 479 | 30 567 | 39 876 | 47 784 |
| 180 to 499 acres | 8 989 | 10 289 | 11 329 | 13 539 | 15 035 | 16 078 | 19 209 | 22 956 |
| 500 to 999 acres | 3 201 | 3 576 | 3 667 | 3 672 | 3 451 | 2 880 | 2 248 | 2 129 |
| 1,000 to 1,999 acres | 1 338 | 1 234 | 1 134 | 924 | 747 | 486 | 285 | 180 |
| 2,000 acres or more | 374 | 304 | 223 | 176 | 115 | 62 | 43 | 43 |
| Total cropland farms.. | 43 017 | 44 320 | 48 653 | 56 321 | 59 080 | 62 914 | 75 656 | 91 560 |
| Harvested cropland farms.. | 7 891 802 | 8 156 388 | 8 181 320 | 8 458 021 | 8 382 317 | 8 005 478 | 8 580 391 | 9 454 589 |
| acres.. | 37 941 | 41 334 | 46 017 | 53 738 | 57 294 | 60 836 | 70 605 | 87 947 |
| Irrigated land farms.. | 3 752 | 3 823 | 3 755 | 3 179 | 3 157 | 2 036 | 2 150 | 2 041 |
| acres.. | 393 485 | 366 465 | 314 953 | 285 983 | 225 928 | 96 839 | 77 097 | 48 991 |
| Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000.. | 3 567 825 | 3 028 547 | 2 545 078 | 2 588 317 | 1 914 314 | 1 491 439 | 829 451 | 766 394 |
| Average per farm dollars.. | 77 516 | 65 043 | 49 736 | 44 123 | 31 680 | 23 270 | 10 641 | 8 196 |
| Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops... \$1,000.. | 2 199 721 | 1 671 563 | 1 272 802 | 1 364 665 | 997 743 | 828 865 | 349 704 | 360 094 |
| Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000.. | 1 368 104 | 1 356 984 | 1 272 276 | 1 223 652 | 916 571 | 657 721 | 475 210 | 399 783 |
| Farms by value of sales ³ : | | | | | | | | |
| Less than \$2,500 | 12 557 | 10 923 | 12 670 | 13 718 | 14 282 | 18 360 | 34 817 | 39 517 |
| \$2,500 to \$4,999 | 5 049 | 5 579 | 6 774 | 7 751 | 9 125 | 8 420 | 11 508 | 15 848 |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 | 5 800 | 6 387 | 7 548 | 8 741 | 9 652 | 10 412 | 10 887 | 15 298 |
| \$10,000 to \$24,999 | 7 213 | 7 752 | 8 460 | 10 335 | 10 851 | | | |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 | 4 472 | 4 683 | 5 002 | 6 143 | 6 644 | 24 069 | 19 980 | 22 477 |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 3 663 | 4 163 | 4 322 | 5 334 | 5 544 | | | |
| \$100,000 to \$499,999 | 5 962 | 6 156 | 5 808 | 6 140 | 4 044 | 2 678 | 705 | 333 |
| \$500,000 or more | 1 311 | 919 | 588 | 480 | 258 | 131 | 31 | |
| Farms by type of organization: | | | | | | | | |
| Individual or family (sole proprietorship)..... | 40 190 | 40 654 | 45 166 | 52 022 | 53 931 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Partnership | 3 778 | 4 316 | 4 662 | 5 495 | 5 635 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Corporation | 1 834 | 1 431 | 1 167 | 947 | 699 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. | 225 | 161 | 177 | 197 | 161 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ : | | | | | | | | |
| None | 17 964 | 18 547 | 19 384 | 21 350 | 21 888 | 19 760 | (NA) | (NA) |
| Any | 25 906 | 25 462 | 29 155 | 33 579 | 36 289 | 34 349 | 49 652 | 52 438 |
| 200 days or more | 18 568 | 17 984 | 20 818 | 23 181 | 26 054 | 24 549 | 34 807 | 35 909 |
| Operators by principal occupation ⁴ : | | | | | | | | |
| Farming | 22 043 | 24 396 | 26 112 | 30 107 | 29 296 | 34 438 | (NA) | (NA) |
| Other | 23 984 | 22 166 | 25 060 | 28 554 | 31 130 | 29 164 | (NA) | (NA) |
| Average age of operator ⁴ years.. | 53.3 | 51.9 | 50.9 | 49.5 | 49.7 | 50.9 | 50.4 | 50.7 |
| Total farm production expenses ⁵ \$1,000.. | 2 835 658 | 2 583 189 | 2 211 823 | (NA) | (NA) | 1 096 587 | 676 628 | (NA) |
| Selected farm production expenses ¹ : | | | | | | | | |
| Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000.. | 175 474 | 205 867 | 190 386 | 170 034 | 145 691 | 105 358 | 85 819 | 52 756 |
| Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000.. | 414 770 | 333 497 | 273 192 | 254 964 | 179 958 | 150 759 | 84 811 | 75 299 |
| Commercial fertilizer ⁶ \$1,000.. | 244 613 | 218 185 | 194 526 | 242 091 | 173 192 | 131 619 | 53 169 | 54 123 |
| Petroleum products \$1,000.. | 142 449 | 141 653 | 120 821 | 181 320 | 97 893 | 67 528 | 39 971 | 41 977 |
| Hired farm labor \$1,000.. | 369 145 | 318 276 | 242 445 | 186 312 | 136 868 | 92 002 | 70 564 | 59 667 |
| Interest ⁶ \$1,000.. | 189 849 | 181 417 | 197 966 | 273 637 | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) | (NA) |
| Agricultural chemicals ⁶ \$1,000.. | 182 494 | 149 282 | 119 993 | 114 159 | 67 558 | 39 559 | 22 383 | (NA) |
| Livestock and poultry: | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle and calves inventory farms.. | 15 468 | 17 031 | 19 436 | 25 657 | 25 293 | 30 665 | 36 040 | 54 150 |
| number.. | 1 025 702 | 1 113 604 | 1 163 352 | 1 345 793 | 1 248 623 | 1 430 262 | 1 441 556 | 1 724 957 |
| Beef cows farms.. | 7 566 | 7 548 | 8 163 | 10 810 | 10 575 | 12 839 | (NA) | 13 109 |
| number.. | 116 399 | 116 106 | 110 156 | 140 969 | 139 275 | 195 130 | 159 924 | 132 015 |
| Milk cows farms.. | 3 990 | 5 198 | 6 499 | 9 142 | 9 867 | 12 533 | 17 082 | 33 176 |
| number.. | 300 641 | 316 954 | 344 550 | 398 211 | 377 999 | 392 888 | 413 907 | 573 545 |
| Cattle and calves sold farms.. | 14 293 | 15 780 | 18 164 | 22 849 | 23 057 | 27 566 | 33 746 | 48 806 |
| number.. | 537 681 | 594 685 | 653 806 | 642 060 | 675 773 | 653 930 | 759 959 | 879 828 |
| Hogs and pigs inventory farms.. | 2 853 | 4 774 | 5 577 | 7 433 | 8 572 | 8 508 | 10 965 | 18 266 |
| number.. | 1 032 014 | 1 231 641 | 1 227 069 | 1 064 073 | 931 240 | 619 910 | 699 478 | 716 052 |
| Hogs and pigs sold farms.. | 2 690 | 4 770 | 5 603 | 7 194 | 8 065 | 7 811 | 10 636 | 15 683 |
| number.. | 2 206 940 | 2 300 151 | 2 215 872 | 1 734 236 | 1 392 522 | 1 013 950 | 1 109 623 | 1 167 122 |
| Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms.. | 2 276 | 2 454 | 3 550 | 5 788 | 6 146 | 8 303 | 9 477 | 23 216 |
| number.. | 6 043 468 | 5 388 894 | 8 428 623 | 7 572 108 | 7 011 188 | 7 609 220 | 7 311 189 | 7 773 877 |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms.. | 336 | 386 | 495 | 636 | 493 | 459 | 205 | 122 |
| number.. | 393 028 | 400 262 | 702 431 | 601 403 | 496 339 | 362 042 | 737 669 | 1 560 202 |

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 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Selected crops harvested: | | | | | | | | |
| Corn for grain or seed farms . . | 16 712 | 18 962 | 25 140 | 30 792 | 33 676 | 35 690 | 32 957 | 51 051 |
| acres . . | 2 122 283 | 2 221 271 | 1 982 401 | 2 568 541 | 2 337 985 | 1 895 841 | 1 190 087 | 1 500 291 |
| bushels . . | 238 319 129 | 226 824 263 | 189 779 819 | 256 473 754 | 184 697 964 | 112 269 703 | 92 288 328 | 87 838 628 |
| Wheat for grain farms . . | 8 976 | 12 433 | 10 327 | 15 416 | 13 966 | 29 897 | 32 513 | 48 253 |
| acres . . | 499 742 | 583 245 | 356 073 | 513 445 | 370 398 | 810 197 | 540 778 | 929 907 |
| bushels . . | 28 432 159 | 29 350 586 | 16 465 394 | 20 764 229 | 14 669 977 | 31 891 280 | 21 102 066 | 37 094 513 |
| Oats for grain farms . . | 3 707 | 5 436 | 11 392 | 16 627 | 17 875 | (NA) | (NA) | 39 069 |
| acres . . | 77 588 | 113 359 | 259 445 | 398 618 | 395 419 | (NA) | (NA) | 638 075 |
| bushels . . | 4 624 435 | 6 650 151 | 14 634 547 | 24 770 648 | 22 618 711 | (NA) | (NA) | 32 931 429 |
| Soybeans for beans farms . . | 12 561 | 13 175 | 12 734 | 14 905 | 13 914 | 12 289 | 12 471 | 11 396 |
| acres . . | 1 694 872 | 1 332 114 | 1 023 599 | 1 122 617 | 888 449 | 570 683 | 472 153 | 315 900 |
| bushels . . | 62 242 411 | 41 633 625 | 36 267 622 | 34 307 197 | 21 174 856 | 12 080 412 | 11 054 019 | 7 090 057 |
| Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms . . | 20 858 | 22 285 | 25 983 | 28 522 | 32 863 | 33 374 | 39 049 | (NA) |
| acres . . | 1 264 350 | 1 283 598 | 1 436 630 | 1 365 495 | 1 561 452 | 1 359 191 | 1 375 505 | 1 827 892 |
| tons, dry . . | 2 830 915 | 2 821 347 | 3 323 175 | 3 476 731 | 3 599 083 | 2 956 963 | 3 165 340 | 3 647 477 |
| Land in orchards farms . . | 2 863 | 3 531 | 3 791 | 4 280 | 4 722 | 4 746 | 5 913 | 8 999 |
| acres . . | 139 607 | 162 183 | 161 567 | 165 238 | 169 413 | 167 747 | 191 048 | 198 960 |

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

²Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

³Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

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

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

⁶Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

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