

**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..	1 911 859	1 925 300	2 087 759	2 240 976	2 257 775	2 314 013	2 730 250	3 157 857
Land in farms .....acres..	931 795 255	945 531 506	964 470 625	986 796 579	1 014 777 234	1 017 030 357	1 062 892 501	1 110 187 000
Average size of farm .....acres..	487	491	462	440	449	440	389	352
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm .....dollars..	449 748	357 056	289 387	345 869	279 672	147 838	75 714	50 646
Average per acre .....dollars..	933	727	627	784	619	336	194	144
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> , \$1,000..	110 256 802	93 316 496	85 801 360	93 662 947	77 600 689	48 402 624	25 343 077	(NA)
Average per farm .....dollars..	57 678	48 605	41 227	41 919	34 471	22 303	9 770	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres .....	153 515	166 496	183 257	187 665	151 233	128 254	162 111	182 581
10 to 49 acres .....	410 833	387 711	412 437	449 252	391 554	379 543	473 465	637 434
50 to 179 acres .....	592 972	584 146	644 849	711 652	759 047	827 884	1 001 706	1 175 370
180 to 499 acres .....	402 769	427 648	478 294	526 510	581 631	616 098	726 363	806 743
500 to 999 acres .....	175 690	186 387	200 058	203 925	213 209	207 297	215 659	210 437
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	101 468	101 923	102 078	97 395	97 800	92 712	91 039	84 999
2,000 acres or more .....	74 612	70 989	66 786	64 577	63 301	62 225	59 907	60 293
Total cropland ..... farms..	1 661 395	1 697 137	1 848 574	2 010 609	2 081 604	2 157 511	2 521 659	2 907 265
Harvested cropland ..... acres..	431 144 896	435 365 878	443 318 233	445 362 028	453 874 133	440 039 087	458 989 605	434 232 200
Irrigated land ..... farms..	1 410 606	1 491 786	1 643 633	1 809 756	1 904 602	1 954 700	2 219 631	2 701 694
acres..	309 395 475	295 936 976	282 223 880	326 306 462	317 145 955	303 001 943	273 016 000	286 891 974
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> , \$1,000..	196 864 649	162 608 334	136 048 516	131 900 223	107 073 458	81 526 126	45 563 891	35 292 431
Average per farm .....dollars..	102 970	84 459	65 165	58 858	47 424	35 231	16 689	11 176
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	98 055 656	75 228 256	58 931 085	62 256 087	48 203 200	41 790 365	16 922 023	16 236 248
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000..	98 808 993	87 380 078	77 117 431	69 644 136	58 870 258	39 503 850	28 480 921	18 841 027
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 .....	496 514	422 767	490 296	536 327	460 535	649 448	1 031 638	1 338 259
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	228 477	231 867	262 918	278 208	300 699	257 263	357 922	443 918
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	237 975	251 883	274 972	281 802	314 088	296 373	390 425	504 614
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	274 040	301 804	326 166	340 254	394 876			
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	170 705	195 354	219 636	248 828	300 515	956 092	896 159	837 507
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	158 160	187 760	218 050	251 501	263 092			
\$100,000 to \$499,999 .....	277 194	286 951	263 698	274 580	203 695	141 187	47 916	31 401
\$500,000 or more .....	68 794	46 914	32 023	27 800	17 973	11 412	4 079	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	1 643 424	1 653 491	1 809 324	1 945 639	1 965 860	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership .....	169 462	186 806	199 559	223 274	232 538	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation .....	84 002	72 567	66 969	59 792	50 231	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. ....	14 971	12 436	11 907	12 271	9 146	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>4</sup> :								
None .....	755 254	801 881	844 476	861 798	942 803	829 843	(NA)	(NA)
Any .....	1 042 158	992 773	1 115 560	1 187 374	1 203 286	1 011 476	1 482 292	1 462 183
200 days or more .....	709 279	665 570	737 206	774 844	770 045	657 971	870 815	824 173
Operators by principal occupation <sup>4</sup> :								
Farming .....	961 560	1 053 150	1 138 179	1 234 787	1 269 305	1 427 368	(NA)	(NA)
Other .....	950 299	872 150	949 580	1 006 189	988 470	851 902	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>4</sup> ..... years..	54.3	53.3	52.0	50.5	50.3	51.7	51.2	51.3
Total farm production expenses <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..	150 590 993	130 779 261	108 138 053	(NA)	(NA)	61 007 649	37 559 615	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased ..... \$1,000..	21 614 559	23 043 431	19 344 645	17 174 334	16 039 244	9 953 946	8 077 779	4 177 785
Feed for livestock and poultry ..... \$1,000..	32 759 966	24 084 507	19 163 364	18 591 984	15 785 995	13 647 816	7 082 274	5 511 813
Commercial fertilizer <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	9 597 128	8 204 324	6 684 944	7 689 365	6 330 581	5 137 361	2 209 185	1 771 617
Petroleum products ..... \$1,000..	6 371 515	6 120 452	5 277 227	7 888 052	4 691 425	3 087 606	1 906 579	1 786 796
Hired farm labor ..... \$1,000..	14 841 036	12 961 639	10 866 236	8 441 180	6 814 428	4 652 075	3 375 203	2 798 571
Interest <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	8 928 107	8 111 337	8 158 268	11 668 942	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	7 581 424	6 133 705	4 690 243	4 282 213	2 889 503	1 757 779	908 036	(NA)
Livestock and poultry: Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms..	1 046 863	1 074 349	1 176 346	1 354 992	1 346 106	1 503 244	1 719 403	2 283 881
number..	98 989 244	96 135 825	95 847 299	104 475 827	103 865 109	113 174 700	106 345 741	105 557 830
Beef cows ..... farms..	804 595	803 241	841 778	957 698	954 360	1 024 935	(NA)	1 323 912
number..	34 066 615	32 545 976	31 652 593	34 202 607	34 326 274	41 257 898	34 337 320	32 719 198
Milk cows ..... farms..	116 874	155 339	202 068	277 762	312 095	403 754	568 237	1 133 912
number..	9 095 439	9 491 818	10 084 697	10 849 890	10 221 692	10 654 516	11 174 036	14 622 604
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms..	1 011 809	1 034 189	1 150 523	1 278 609	1 320 163	1 437 101	1 645 518	1 990 968
number..	74 089 046	70 562 908	72 603 841	71 216 727	78 020 351	70 019 180	74 616 155	62 952 104
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms..	109 754	191 347	243 398	329 833	445 117	470 258	686 097	1 081 438
number..	61 206 236	57 563 118	52 271 120	55 366 205	57 697 318	45 503 604	55 454 828	54 080 194
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms..	102 106	188 167	238 819	315 095	423 578	449 841	645 129	802 620
number..	142 611 882	111 326 807	96 569 359	94 783 598	90 757 143	79 897 397	89 313 449	83 537 060
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) <sup>7</sup> ..... farms..	72 616	88 235	144 438	215 812	240 891	316 243	471 284	1 210 669
number..	366 989 851	351 310 317	373 577 186	362 464 997	354 357 427	335 740 245	371 008 459	343 161 807
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms..	23 937	23 949	27 645	30 100	31 743	34 340	33 753	35 128
number..	6 741 927 110	5 428 589 485	4 361 975 630	3 516 622 889	3 062 154 490	2 518 513 032	2 429 773 426	1 915 373 928

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 . .	430 711	503 935	627 602	715 171	810 577	883 309	985 629	1 382 773
acres . .	69 796 716	69 339 869	58 701 505	69 857 993	70 043 480	61 653 842	52 540 249	53 751 095
bushels . .	8 578 634 770	8 697 362 804	6 725 001 837	7 508 721 493	6 805 185 861	4 396 912 922	4 441 808 244	3 361 141 669
Wheat for grain . . . . . farms . .	243 568	292 464	352 237	446 075	378 574	533 520	583 605	739 662
acres . .	58 836 344	59 089 470	53 224 174	70 910 293	54 155 168	62 957 215	45 372 868	47 958 362
bushels . .	2 204 026 684	2 206 729 476	1 887 103 964	2 373 246 659	1 607 540 430	1 691 553 354	1 328 003 477	1 217 791 875
Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms . .	354 692	381 000	441 899	511 229	537 037	542 029	529 798	560 156
acres . .	66 147 726	56 351 304	55 291 205	64 832 842	61 339 849	48 118 849	38 549 663	29 843 540
bushels . .	2 504 307 294	2 053 163 265	1 838 053 979	1 989 993 158	1 722 154 229	1 145 788 470	1 041 489 049	669 664 562
Cotton . . . . . farms . .	31 493	34 812	43 046	38 266	52 628	89 536	199 785	324 361
acres . .	13 235 236	10 961 720	9 826 081	9 781 404	12 693 772	12 223 500	11 496 220	13 916 648
bales . .	17 878 743	15 370 310	13 280 143	11 375 524	10 686 447	10 887 205	10 360 171	14 734 217
Tobacco . . . . . farms . .	89 706	124 270	136 682	179 141	188 649	197 764	276 188	331 365
acres . .	838 530	831 231	633 310	931 655	963 224	877 113	876 927	1 025 240
pounds . .	1 747 702 321	1 697 831 562	1 215 221 360	1 871 309 459	1 918 189 782	1 733 365 121	1 643 934 800	1 987 526 982
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) . . . . . farms . .	888 597	905 296	994 551	1 050 992	1 132 997	1 145 540	1 229 877	(NA)
acres . .	60 799 788	56 596 466	57 967 530	56 743 836	60 241 391	56 236 381	53 203 606	65 294 703
tons, dry . .	139 365 313	126 981 302	128 816 054	128 474 661	130 713 685	115 028 236	111 813 581	115 760 894
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) <sup>8</sup> . . . . . farms . .	53 727	61 969	60 819	69 109	73 183	78 566	101 760	131 653
acres . .	3 773 219	3 782 358	3 467 563	3 330 637	3 534 142	3 124 257	3 352 385	3 333 772
Land in orchards . . . . . farms . .	106 069	116 207	120 434	123 663	121 852	105 997	133 311	224 568
acres . .	5 158 064	4 770 778	4 560 163	4 750 667	4 463 627	4 190 340	4 233 897	4 251 130

<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.

<sup>8</sup>Data for 1974 were from land area used.