

Table 1. Historical Highlights: 2002 and Earlier Census Years

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

All farms	2002	1997	Not adjusted for coverage					
			1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974
Farms number	45,126	49,872	41,384	37,905	43,318	48,448	50,780	56,678
Land in farms acres	8,904,387	9,517,377	8,704,385	8,450,823	9,145,753	10,200,547	11,147,825	11,852,946
Average size of farm acres	197	191	210	223	211	211	220	209
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars	335,217	282,304	298,244	220,265	168,161	171,210	138,257	76,049
Average per acre dollars	1,698	1,471	1,442	1,000	800	826	630	364
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ \$1,000	1,842,080	1,715,628	1,485,851	1,148,900	1,115,106	1,167,165	1,061,994	699,224
Average per farm dollars	42,705	34,420	35,914	30,354	25,831	24,151	20,976	13,198
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	2,571	3,003	2,141	1,902	2,602	3,043	2,855	3,056
10 to 49 acres	14,175	15,505	11,854	10,165	12,356	14,132	13,282	15,475
50 to 179 acres	16,950	19,024	16,015	14,929	16,514	18,277	20,319	23,313
180 to 499 acres	7,692	8,313	7,561	7,162	7,776	8,471	9,503	9,962
500 to 999 acres	2,237	2,428	2,277	2,244	2,469	2,786	3,025	2,934
1,000 to 1,999 acres	978	1,083	1,039	990	1,111	1,186	1,194	1,295
2,000 acres or more	523	516	497	513	490	553	602	643
Total cropland farms	34,073	39,862	34,407	32,327	37,148	41,975	45,443	51,272
Harvested cropland farms	3,732,751	4,435,041	4,197,670	4,237,057	4,496,607	5,105,734	5,448,622	5,296,467
Irrigated land acres	23,327	28,290	24,819	24,780	28,509	33,351	37,301	40,969
Harvested cropland acres	1,995,139	2,179,636	2,077,139	2,104,064	2,231,623	3,265,361	3,364,231	2,793,621
Irrigated land acres	1,698	1,503	1,301	1,380	1,344	1,040	994	427
Market value of agricultural products sold (see text) ² \$1,000	3,264,949	3,198,630	3,098,989	2,369,179	1,908,303	1,704,160	1,531,432	1,122,481
Average per farm dollars	72,352	64,137	74,884	62,503	44,053	35,175	30,158	19,805
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops \$1,000	590,268	656,185	632,978	649,110	497,992	606,916	504,120	406,259
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000	2,674,681	2,542,444	2,466,010	1,720,070	1,410,311	1,097,244	1,027,312	699,388
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	19,558	20,414	15,286	11,663	15,082	19,246	17,918	28,361
\$2,500 to \$4,999	6,428	8,259	6,940	6,506	7,726	7,916	8,782	6,853
\$5,000 to \$9,999	6,083	7,444	6,279	5,936	6,534	6,100	7,170	6,080
\$10,000 to \$24,999	5,206	5,526	4,985	5,076	5,210	5,230	(NA)	6,249
\$25,000 to \$49,999	1,934	1,948	1,842	2,178	2,324	2,702	3,384	(NA)
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,246	1,477	1,358	1,661	1,956	2,698	3,279	(NA)
\$100,000 to \$499,999	2,721	2,900	2,830	3,825	3,946	4,173	3,728	2,341
\$500,000 or more	1,950	1,904	1,864	1,060	540	353	236	119
Farms by type of organization:								
Family or individual	42,359	45,640	37,697	34,257	39,553	44,009	45,968	(NA)
Partnership	1,882	3,138	2,734	2,843	3,014	3,754	4,074	(NA)
Corporation	658	822	735	666	570	513	606	(NA)
Other-cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc	227	272	218	139	181	172	132	(NA)
Principal operator by days of work off farm ^{4,5} :								
None	20,519	16,265	13,961	13,492	14,206	14,774	16,649	16,564
Any	24,607	31,134	25,259	21,921	26,899	29,776	31,929	30,848
200 days or more	18,443	23,163	18,677	16,343	20,154	22,074	23,392	22,664
Principal operator by primary occupation ⁵ :								
Farming	23,950	17,600	15,568	15,712	16,398	18,316	19,839	25,518
Other	21,176	32,272	25,816	22,193	26,920	30,132	30,941	30,786
Average age of principal operator ⁵ years	56.6	54.7	54.9	54.8	53.1	51.8	51.1	52.3
Total farm production expenses ¹ \$1,000	2,588,600	2,773,210	2,509,917	1,930,063	1,610,833	(NA)	(NA)	978,656
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000	505,196	368,188	341,450	294,066	290,518	203,688	181,403	131,879
Feed purchased \$1,000	927,774	1,271,085	1,140,545	731,753	570,084	467,749	456,407	398,070
Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners ^{6,7} \$1,000	106,697	114,890	106,011	103,080	86,491	110,580	104,751	92,014
Gasoline, fuels, and oils \$1,000	93,418	89,561	80,237	76,567	64,535	95,501	64,898	40,931
Hired farm labor \$1,000	180,937	146,880	134,016	140,414	123,018	87,505	82,662	52,970
Interest expense ⁸ \$1,000	112,871	101,357	90,000	82,647	81,110	110,691	(NA)	(NA)
Chemicals ⁶ \$1,000	79,322	82,184	73,867	72,317	64,530	63,014	51,862	31,450
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory farms	27,094	32,432	28,450	26,360	29,844	33,671	33,304	40,098
Beef cows farms	1,437,795	1,546,399	1,530,566	1,453,137	1,450,416	1,652,524	1,646,340	2,204,135
Milk cows farms	23,558	28,258	25,384	23,925	25,879	29,016	29,034	31,015
Cattle and calves sold farms	765,901	823,317	832,298	771,151	748,002	785,032	815,257	1,083,693
Hogs and pigs inventory farms	223	700	608	995	1,336	2,361	3,236	6,120
Hogs and pigs sold farms	18,939	28,019	27,848	45,454	45,994	58,946	65,275	83,256
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory farms	23,088	31,225	27,705	25,532	29,320	31,281	32,510	36,952
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms	782,393	791,879	767,806	676,215	831,908	822,127	942,354	850,775
Hogs and pigs inventory farms	576	1,282	932	1,880	3,585	6,061	10,325	11,500
Hogs and pigs sold farms	168,013	196,561	183,811	307,672	353,062	463,840	677,280	568,586
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory farms	561	999	750	1,715	3,220	5,127	9,202	9,291
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms	713,668	398,583	380,853	571,680	648,262	785,996	1,057,220	978,340
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory farms	1,662	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms	9,656,322	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms	2,600	2,615	2,477	2,460	2,557	2,659	3,064	3,839
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold number	1,050,885,771	905,530,341	871,123,702	737,608,903	564,583,477	426,623,399	382,146,806	337,189,357

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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Table 1. Historical Highlights: 2002 and Earlier Census Years - Con.

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

All farms	2002	1997	Not adjusted for coverage					
			1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain	2,301 farms	4,233 farms	3,687 farms	5,305 farms	7,413 farms	10,390 farms	15,084 farms	21,586 farms
	176,122 acres	242,714 acres	230,484 acres	281,053 acres	234,669 acres	310,680 acres	485,450 acres	551,586 acres
	15,241,418 bushels	20,608,991 bushels	19,735,218 bushels	24,941,228 bushels	15,623,257 bushels	20,144,774 bushels	22,723,611 bushels	23,782,615 bushels
Corn for silage or greenchop	202 farms	319 farms	293 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	17,041 acres	17,403 acres	17,181 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Wheat for grain, All	159,297 farms	196,841 farms	194,480 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	507 acres	793 acres	732 acres	870 acres	1,914 acres	4,090 acres	977 acres	1,249 acres
	57,650 acres	85,490 acres	82,440 acres	86,071 acres	156,466 acres	474,467 acres	53,076 acres	84,270 acres
Winter wheat for grain	2,278,237 bushels	3,435,906 bushels	3,326,421 bushels	3,461,454 bushels	4,903,608 bushels	14,072,021 bushels	1,482,737 bushels	1,970,250 bushels
	507 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	57,650 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Oats for grain	2,278,237 bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels
	285 farms	363 farms	347 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	13,531 acres	15,733 acres	15,609 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Barley for grain	591,232 bushels	732,107 bushels	721,962 bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels
	12 farms	4 farms	3 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	665 acres	29 acres	19 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Sorghum for grain	(D) bushels	465 bushels	365 bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels
	110 farms	110 farms	99 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	6,531 acres	5,685 acres	5,294 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Sorghum for silage or greenchop	252,654 bushels	275,278 bushels	254,902 bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels	(NA) bushels
	27 farms	13 farms	12 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	1,407 acres	675 acres	674 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Soybeans for beans	13,988 tons	5,476 tons	5,474 tons	(NA) tons	(NA) tons	(NA) tons	(NA) tons	(NA) tons
	980 farms	2,140 farms	1,889 farms	2,065 farms	4,124 farms	9,897 farms	10,998 farms	8,555 farms
	164,771 acres	336,779 acres	316,019 acres	305,713 acres	575,370 acres	1,589,247 acres	1,621,130 acres	809,461 acres
Dry edible beans, excluding limas	3,980,484 bushels	8,357,997 bushels	7,867,880 bushels	8,871,365 bushels	11,633,904 bushels	36,402,694 bushels	31,251,395 bushels	18,882,067 bushels
	5 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	5 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Cotton, All	78 cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt
	1,320 farms	1,600 farms	1,470 farms	1,469 farms	1,820 farms	1,458 farms	2,083 farms	6,827 farms
	523,123 acres	445,064 acres	433,160 acres	431,665 acres	346,013 acres	294,792 acres	328,087 acres	539,888 acres
Tobacco	567,569 bales	535,773 bales	523,864 bales	601,506 bales	380,936 bales	421,367 bales	287,622 bales	481,198 bales
	8 farms	18 farms	17 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	199 acres	277 acres	290 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Potatoes	431,600 pounds	522,373 pounds	541,112 pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds
	126 farms	183 farms	147 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	2,742 acres	6,221 acres	5,968 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
Sweet potatoes	514,738 cwt	940,122 cwt	909,170 cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt
	115 farms	140 farms	112 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	2,524 acres	3,870 acres	3,489 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
	464,695 cwt	475,497 cwt	424,573 cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt	(NA) cwt
Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop (see text)	18,060 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	823,039 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
	1,900,762 tons, dry	(NA) tons, dry	(NA) tons, dry	(NA) tons, dry	(NA) tons, dry	(NA) tons, dry	(NA) tons, dry	(NA) tons, dry
Sunflower seed, All	27 farms	6 farms	5 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	158 acres	10 acres	9 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
	59,912 pounds	9,200 pounds	8,200 pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds
Peanuts for nuts	1,134 farms	1,671 farms	1,510 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	176,395 acres	188,243 acres	181,393 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
	373,313,101 pounds	368,324,564 pounds	356,492,286 pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds	(NA) pounds
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ⁹	1,374 farms	1,416 farms	996 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	20,332 acres	25,776 acres	20,809 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres
All land in orchards	1,852 farms	2,301 farms	1,874 farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms	(NA) farms
	28,009 acres	32,631 acres	29,109 acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres	(NA) acres

¹ Data are based on a sample of farms.
² Data for 1974 include the value of forest products sold.
³ Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.
⁴ Data for 1997 and prior years do not include imputation for item nonresponse.
⁵ Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorships) and partnerships.
⁶ Data for 1982 and prior years do not include cost of custom applications; data for chemicals include the cost of lime for 1978 and prior years.
⁷ Data for 1997 and prior years exclude cost of lime and manure.
⁸ Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.
⁹ Data for 1974 were from land area used.