

**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   | 80,839     | 78,755     | 73,367                    | 75,079     | 85,079     | 94,382     | 98,671     | 98,537     |
| Land in farms . . . . . acres  | 27,512,270 | 27,560,621 | 25,994,621                | 25,666,944 | 26,573,819 | 27,708,456 | 28,459,790 | 27,605,228 |
| Average size of farm . . . . . acres   | 340        | 350        | 354                       | 342        | 312        | 294        | 288        | 280        |
| Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :                          |            |            |                           |            |            |            |            |            |
| Average per farm . . . . . dollars   | 517,132    | 398,576    | 407,863                   | 310,612    | 218,808    | 342,593    | 261,096    | 120,311    |
| Average per acre . . . . . dollars   | 1,513      | 1,148      | 1,164                     | 910        | 700        | 1,165      | 898        | 429        |
| Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> . . . . . \$1,000 | 6,665,874  | 6,440,856  | 6,208,376                 | 5,239,930  | 4,736,828  | 5,719,009  | 4,578,958  | 2,772,939  |
| Average per farm . . . . . dollars   | 86,369     | 81,809     | 84,613                    | 69,859     | 55,741     | 60,671     | 46,432     | 29,042     |
| Farms by size:   |            |            |                           |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1 to 9 acres . . . . .   | 3,591      | 3,722      | 3,090                     | 3,517      | 4,613      | 4,547      | 3,472      | 2,652      |
| 10 to 49 acres . . . . .   | 16,546     | 12,005     | 10,104                    | 8,927      | 9,481      | 10,461     | 8,775      | 6,846      |
| 50 to 179 acres . . . . .  | 23,955     | 23,374     | 21,535                    | 20,967     | 24,947     | 29,258     | 32,267     | 34,443     |
| 180 to 499 acres . . . . .   | 21,372     | 23,747     | 23,365                    | 26,395     | 30,963     | 35,897     | 40,461     | 42,356     |
| 500 to 999 acres . . . . .   | 8,986      | 9,831      | 9,781                     | 10,497     | 10,814     | 10,602     | 10,593     | 9,637      |
| 1,000 to 1,999 acres . . . . .   | 4,554      | 4,605      | 4,251                     | 3,913      | 3,619      | 2,935      | 2,529      | 2,160      |
| 2,000 acres or more . . . . .  | 1,835      | 1,471      | 1,241                     | 863        | 642        | 682        | 574        | 443        |
| Total cropland . . . . . farms   | 73,458     | 71,153     | 67,545                    | 69,866     | 79,461     | 88,399     | 94,255     | 95,160     |
| Harvested cropland . . . . . farms   | 22,729,158 | 22,583,431 | 21,491,743                | 21,387,063 | 21,876,066 | 22,189,292 | 22,577,389 | 21,320,870 |
| Irrigated land . . . . . acres   | 57,323     | 62,760     | 60,726                    | 66,549     | 76,537     | 85,948     | 92,257     | 92,776     |
| Harvested cropland . . . . . acres   | 19,398,309 | 19,794,078 | 18,968,607                | 18,201,061 | 16,635,264 | 19,722,645 | 19,122,640 | 17,896,490 |
| Irrigated land . . . . . farms   | 2,433      | 2,265      | 2,193                     | 2,368      | 2,425      | 2,172      | 2,031      | 853        |
| Irrigated land . . . . . acres   | 454,850    | 403,289    | 380,394                   | 370,404    | 353,504    | 315,376    | 271,704    | 77,823     |
| Market value of agricultural products sold (see text) <sup>2</sup> . . . . . \$1,000 | 8,575,627  | 8,404,722  | 8,290,264                 | 6,477,004  | 5,676,376  | 5,939,629  | 4,523,148  | 3,469,923  |
| Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops . . . . . dollars                      | 106,083    | 106,720    | 112,997                   | 86,269     | 66,719     | 62,932     | 45,841     | 35,214     |
| Livestock, poultry, and their products . . . . . \$1,000                             | 4,562,882  | 4,312,433  | 4,200,970                 | 3,054,747  | 2,500,827  | 2,671,482  | 2,075,014  | 1,757,546  |
| Livestock, poultry, and their products . . . . . \$1,000                             | 4,012,745  | 4,092,288  | 4,089,293                 | 3,422,257  | 3,175,549  | 3,268,146  | 2,448,134  | 1,710,584  |
| Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :   |            |            |                           |            |            |            |            |            |
| Less than \$2,500 . . . . .  | 29,024     | 19,153     | 14,647                    | 9,725      | 11,915     | 11,987     | 11,852     | 13,625     |
| \$2,500 to \$4,999 . . . . .   | 4,417      | 5,783      | 5,260                     | 5,387      | 6,509      | 6,764      | 8,209      | 7,564      |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 . . . . .   | 5,491      | 6,431      | 6,179                     | 7,028      | 8,293      | 8,655      | 10,827     | 12,068     |
| \$10,000 to \$24,999 . . . . .   | 8,099      | 9,481      | 9,207                     | 11,187     | 13,588     | 15,430     | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 . . . . .   | 7,242      | 7,855      | 8,033                     | 10,168     | 12,983     | 16,203     | 20,122     | (NA)       |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 . . . . .   | 8,024      | 9,595      | 9,402                     | 12,482     | 15,385     | 18,286     | 18,069     | (NA)       |
| \$100,000 to \$499,999 . . . . .   | 14,917     | 17,660     | 17,885                    | 17,774     | 15,546     | 16,262     | 9,543      | 5,921      |
| \$500,000 or more . . . . .  | 3,625      | 2,797      | 2,754                     | 1,328      | 860        | 785        | 412        | 239        |
| Farms by type of organization:   |            |            |                           |            |            |            |            |            |
| Family or individual . . . . .   | 73,018     | 69,320     | 64,428                    | 66,068     | 75,105     | 83,010     | 87,652     | (NA)       |
| Partnership . . . . .  | 5,056      | 6,486      | 6,174                     | 6,800      | 7,952      | 9,530      | 9,458      | (NA)       |
| Corporation . . . . .  | 2,342      | 2,583      | 2,442                     | 1,982      | 1,755      | 1,582      | 1,396      | (NA)       |
| Other-cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc . . . . .                     | 423        | 366        | 323                       | 229        | 267        | 260        | 165        | (NA)       |
| Principal operator by days of work off farm <sup>4</sup> :                           |            |            |                           |            |            |            |            |            |
| None . . . . .   | 35,659     | 31,161     | 30,237                    | 35,995     | 40,625     | 44,804     | 49,144     | 43,722     |
| Any . . . . .  | 45,180     | 41,633     | 37,550                    | 33,932     | 39,567     | 40,289     | 43,387     | 32,260     |
| 200 days or more . . . . .   | 30,727     | 26,369     | 23,115                    | 19,826     | 22,006     | 21,334     | 22,745     | 17,183     |
| Principal operator by primary occupation <sup>5</sup> :                              |            |            |                           |            |            |            |            |            |
| Farming . . . . .  | 50,808     | 45,109     | 44,047                    | 51,021     | 58,519     | 67,742     | 71,086     | 77,635     |
| Other . . . . .  | 30,031     | 33,646     | 29,300                    | 24,058     | 26,560     | 26,640     | 27,585     | 20,058     |
| Average age of principal operator <sup>5</sup> . . . . . years                       | 52.9       | 51.0       | 51.2                      | 49.6       | 48.5       | 47.2       | 47.7       | 49.8       |
| Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> . . . . . \$1,000                        | 7,288,947  | 6,508,683  | 6,362,110                 | 5,244,708  | 4,427,445  | (NA)       | (NA)       | 2,365,111  |
| Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :                                     |            |            |                           |            |            |            |            |            |
| Livestock and poultry purchased . . . . . \$1,000                                    | 836,490    | 642,827    | 639,336                   | 607,096    | 541,852    | 557,597    | 478,298    | 316,383    |
| Feed purchased . . . . . \$1,000   | 1,271,172  | 1,311,135  | 1,301,623                 | 919,271    | 747,728    | 711,701    | 496,206    | 415,271    |
| Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners <sup>6,7</sup> . . . . . \$1,000             | 493,994    | 509,578    | 491,584                   | 405,097    | 328,661    | 374,854    | 317,597    | 256,096    |
| Gasoline, fuels, and oils . . . . . \$1,000  | 322,649    | 314,563    | 306,292                   | 298,913    | 249,831    | 424,167    | 219,952    | 150,199    |
| Hired farm labor . . . . . \$1,000   | 459,332    | 342,722    | 334,790                   | 261,649    | 244,055    | 207,615    | 158,571    | 90,350     |
| Interest expense <sup>8</sup> . . . . . \$1,000                                      | 546,747    | 515,473    | 499,899                   | 449,417    | 446,200    | 712,786    | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Chemicals <sup>6</sup> . . . . . \$1,000   | 350,354    | 419,612    | 406,227                   | 301,155    | 218,630    | 224,044    | 123,394    | 73,083     |
| Livestock and poultry:   |            |            |                           |            |            |            |            |            |
| Cattle and calves inventory . . . . . farms  | 28,034     | 32,148     | 30,913                    | 34,501     | 40,222     | 51,589     | 54,088     | 61,811     |
| Cattle and calves inventory . . . . . number   | 2,265,997  | 2,399,617  | 2,395,456                 | 2,543,373  | 2,700,095  | 3,377,956  | 3,271,602  | 3,665,505  |
| Beef cows . . . . . farms  | 15,565     | 16,208     | 15,745                    | 15,101     | 15,528     | 20,435     | 21,997     | 26,342     |
| Beef cows . . . . . number   | 403,594    | 395,059    | 409,184                   | 381,869    | 360,153    | 467,732    | 490,976    | 657,260    |
| Milk cows . . . . . farms  | 6,474      | 9,910      | 9,603                     | 13,380     | 17,454     | 24,178     | 25,911     | 32,227     |
| Milk cows . . . . . number   | 478,248    | 554,274    | 541,650                   | 609,034    | 709,832    | 839,302    | 766,494    | 827,699    |
| Cattle and calves sold . . . . . farms   | 22,961     | 31,162     | 30,320                    | 33,852     | 39,972     | 50,186     | 53,369     | 60,460     |
| Cattle and calves sold . . . . . number  | 1,356,142  | 1,334,446  | 1,339,902                 | 1,388,581  | 1,474,577  | 1,759,452  | 1,850,780  | 1,804,408  |
| Hogs and pigs inventory . . . . . farms  | 5,628      | 7,765      | 7,512                     | 13,125     | 16,042     | 20,813     | 25,703     | 27,538     |
| Hogs and pigs inventory . . . . . number   | 6,440,067  | 5,665,364  | 5,722,460                 | 4,668,590  | 4,236,500  | 4,473,181  | 4,089,987  | 2,991,801  |
| Hogs and pigs sold . . . . . farms   | 6,390      | 7,892      | 7,717                     | 13,749     | 16,652     | 21,802     | 26,253     | 29,584     |
| Hogs and pigs sold . . . . . number  | 18,618,300 | 12,814,319 | 12,943,053                | 9,141,699  | 8,073,029  | 8,007,312  | 6,624,072  | 5,398,595  |
| Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory . . . . . farms                              | 2,859      | (NA)       | (NA)                      | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory . . . . . number                             | 11,876,411 | (NA)       | (NA)                      | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       | (NA)       |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold . . . . . farms                           | 1,036      | 686        | 621                       | 679        | 1,000      | 1,411      | 1,485      | 1,516      |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold . . . . . number                          | 31,138,768 | 28,483,244 | 28,456,532                | 36,828,542 | 27,356,247 | 22,556,750 | 11,253,054 | 6,057,267  |

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 . . . . . farms   | 31,782      | 37,619      | 37,630                    | 42,961      | 51,355      | 57,612      | 62,696      | 60,791      |  |
| acres  | 6,556,082   | 6,338,175   | 6,227,640                 | 6,123,731   | 4,756,348   | 5,904,579   | 5,777,316   | 5,122,623   |  |
| bushels  | 989,887,877 | 796,829,406 | 783,739,207               | 669,550,546 | 567,384,166 | 610,113,278 | 569,665,483 | 320,003,959 |  |
| Corn for silage or greenchop . . . . . farms   | 8,889       | 12,425      | 12,373                    | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 367,455     | 442,835     | 438,176                   | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| tons   | 6,230,527   | 6,542,513   | 6,482,293                 | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Wheat for grain, All . . . . . farms   | 7,023       | 9,819       | 9,518                     | 12,753      | 20,238      | 21,070      | 23,577      | 27,264      |  |
| acres  | 1,920,238   | 2,699,818   | 2,391,598                 | 2,609,161   | 2,444,294   | 2,972,376   | 2,479,152   | 2,586,938   |  |
| bushels  | 64,609,805  | 83,878,930  | 74,531,074                | 126,255,763 | 97,967,169  | 111,500,972 | 80,968,259  | 74,728,537  |  |
| Winter wheat for grain . . . . . farms   | 475         | (NA)        | (NA)                      | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 28,951      | (NA)        | (NA)                      | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| bushels  | 996,753     | (NA)        | (NA)                      | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Durum wheat for grain . . . . . farms  | 27          | 33          | 30                        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 4,156       | 4,344       | 3,823                     | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| bushels  | 147,547     | 161,464     | 142,151                   | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Spring wheat for grain . . . . . farms   | 6,888       | 9,331       | 9,051                     | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 1,887,131   | 2,628,165   | 2,329,490                 | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| bushels  | 63,465,505  | 81,749,420  | 72,702,523                | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Oats for grain . . . . . farms   | 7,464       | 10,324      | 10,122                    | 16,658      | 25,984      | 38,907      | 47,103      | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 231,859     | 306,040     | 296,188                   | 465,846     | 730,864     | 1,290,191   | 1,665,246   | (NA)        |  |
| bushels  | 12,958,117  | 16,667,790  | 16,179,495                | 29,142,473  | 39,554,088  | 78,684,380  | 89,529,688  | (NA)        |  |
| Barley for grain . . . . . farms   | 1,462       | 4,136       | 3,910                     | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 139,739     | 496,702     | 433,610                   | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| bushels  | 5,661,303   | 25,015,257  | 21,915,338                | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Sorghum for grain . . . . . farms  | 13          | 41          | 41                        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 185         | 2,188       | 2,267                     | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| bushels  | 7,942       | 104,501     | 109,199                   | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Sorghum for silage or greenchop . . . . . farms  | 80          | 180         | 174                       | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 1,529       | 3,366       | 2,993                     | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| tons   | 13,755      | 33,144      | 30,155                    | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms   | 29,347      | 31,148      | 31,292                    | 33,581      | 36,348      | 38,867      | 39,129      | 41,009      |  |
| acres  | 7,068,452   | 6,351,840   | 6,174,563                 | 5,078,066   | 4,384,981   | 4,501,543   | 3,730,704   | 3,323,124   |  |
| bushels  | 303,069,928 | 239,041,962 | 233,714,926               | 162,137,215 | 166,025,760 | 151,240,357 | 122,566,278 | 73,735,439  |  |
| Dry edible beans, excluding limas . . . . . farms  | 665         | 879         | 833                       | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 156,707     | 176,016     | 163,716                   | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| cwt  | 2,683,985   | 2,683,152   | 2,514,605                 | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Potatoes . . . . . farms   | 284         | 366         | 348                       | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 58,107      | 75,168      | 72,434                    | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| cwt  | 18,819,277  | 19,584,261  | 18,851,460                | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Forage-land used for all hay and<br>haylage, grass silage, and greenchop<br>(see text) . . . . . farms | 33,574      | (NA)        | (NA)                      | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 2,112,533   | (NA)        | (NA)                      | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| tons, dry  | 5,741,264   | (NA)        | (NA)                      | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Sunflower seed, All . . . . . farms  | 367         | 667         | 588                       | 1,131       | 683         | 2,747       | 3,020       | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 65,514      | 125,774     | 99,245                    | 202,025     | 82,278      | 467,408     | 598,062     | (NA)        |  |
| pounds   | 84,268,425  | 133,437,923 | 106,405,806               | 278,550,934 | 117,623,254 | 516,667,385 | 845,914,201 | (NA)        |  |
| Sugarbeets for sugar . . . . . farms   | 1,369       | 1,536       | 1,622                     | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 476,617     | 445,986     | 456,360                   | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| tons   | 8,793,583   | 8,092,386   | 8,269,808                 | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| Vegetables harvested for sale<br>(see text) <sup>9</sup> . . . . . farms                               | 2,639       | 3,064       | 3,002                     | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 225,640     | 223,281     | 219,881                   | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| All land in orchards . . . . . farms   | 569         | 596         | 533                       | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |
| acres  | 4,148       | 4,538       | 4,390                     | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        | (NA)        |  |

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