

**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	53,930	59,120	49,406	51,854	59,284	72,792	81,706	91,280
Land in farms . . . . . acres	9,079,001	9,444,867	9,122,379	8,936,015	9,447,705	10,320,832	10,998,652	11,243,933
Average size of farm . . . . . acres	168	160	185	172	159	142	135	123
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm . . . . . dollars	518,719	349,841	375,895	269,000	199,781	187,840	141,464	72,672
Average per acre . . . . . dollars	3,088	2,127	2,081	1,573	1,263	1,314	1,038	590
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	3,327,385	2,801,685	2,425,402	1,991,218	1,799,492	2,097,628	1,818,315	1,185,798
Average per farm . . . . . dollars	63,902	47,411	49,106	38,452	30,403	28,932	22,331	14,761
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres . . . . .	4,405	5,505	3,968	4,651	5,253	6,682	7,837	7,467
10 to 49 acres . . . . .	20,207	21,075	15,601	15,852	18,088	23,286	25,567	30,195
50 to 179 acres . . . . .	19,011	21,033	18,259	19,366	22,680	28,120	32,667	38,221
180 to 499 acres . . . . .	6,398	7,491	7,506	8,007	9,337	10,914	11,887	12,103
500 to 999 acres . . . . .	2,146	2,405	2,461	2,564	2,676	2,690	2,667	2,323
1,000 to 1,999 acres . . . . .	1,212	1,133	1,133	1,054	938	823	839	734
2,000 acres or more . . . . .	551	478	478	360	312	277	242	237
Total cropland . . . . . farms	45,268	51,477	44,502	47,497	54,972	68,439	77,836	87,862
Harvested cropland . . . . . acres	5,472,128	5,701,023	5,608,388	5,578,191	5,716,256	5,950,155	6,049,163	5,752,767
Irrigated land . . . . . farms	36,622	43,225	38,241	42,135	50,108	63,392	73,870	82,844
Harvested cropland . . . . . acres	4,308,209	4,269,966	4,233,693	3,998,685	3,779,164	4,659,283	4,467,045	4,075,221
Irrigated land . . . . . farms	6,721	5,059	4,695	4,337	6,445	4,026	6,082	4,002
Irrigated land . . . . . acres	264,057	156,315	156,250	112,630	137,858	81,078	89,861	51,340
Market value of agricultural products sold (see text) <sup>2</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	6,961,686	7,832,362	7,676,523	4,834,218	3,541,419	3,500,750	2,980,078	2,121,226
Average per farm . . . . . dollars	129,087	132,482	155,376	93,227	59,737	48,093	36,473	23,239
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops . . . . . \$1,000	2,008,634	2,600,655	2,595,213	1,996,452	1,436,988	1,898,109	1,669,769	1,300,627
Livestock, poultry, and their products . . . . . \$1,000	4,953,052	5,231,707	5,081,310	2,837,765	2,104,430	1,602,642	1,310,309	804,396
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 . . . . .	22,096	19,819	13,653	12,616	16,758	19,845	19,912	29,213
\$2,500 to \$4,999 . . . . .	6,350	8,425	6,642	7,250	8,461	9,958	11,725	11,432
\$5,000 to \$9,999 . . . . .	5,925	7,052	6,261	6,968	8,344	9,720	11,806	13,861
\$10,000 to \$24,999 . . . . .	5,858	6,970	6,470	7,641	8,515	11,056	14,425	(NA)
\$25,000 to \$49,999 . . . . .	2,702	3,669	3,470	4,397	4,817	6,948	9,290	(NA)
\$50,000 to \$99,999 . . . . .	2,208	2,900	2,764	3,640	4,271	6,246	7,536	(NA)
\$100,000 to \$499,999 . . . . .	5,209	6,435	6,321	7,254	7,034	8,237	6,492	3,942
\$500,000 or more . . . . .	3,582	3,850	3,825	2,088	1,084	741	468	189
Farms by type of organization:								
Family or individual . . . . .	48,672	51,913	42,887	45,273	52,398	64,150	71,388	(NA)
Partnership . . . . .	3,209	4,663	4,166	4,750	5,238	7,092	8,520	(NA)
Corporation . . . . .	1,823	2,280	2,126	1,589	1,355	1,225	1,559	(NA)
Other-cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc . . . . .	226	264	227	242	293	325	239	(NA)
Principal operator by days of work off farm <sup>4</sup> :								
None . . . . .	26,420	22,514	19,960	21,464	23,261	27,579	34,538	33,330
Any . . . . .	27,510	32,450	25,856	25,958	31,914	37,303	41,917	37,945
200 days or more . . . . .	19,808	23,045	18,028	17,989	21,702	24,717	26,675	24,242
Principal operator by primary occupation <sup>5</sup> :								
Farming . . . . .	31,669	26,958	24,355	27,376	30,687	39,795	46,637	57,583
Other . . . . .	22,261	32,162	25,015	24,478	28,597	32,997	35,069	32,909
Average age of principal operator <sup>5</sup> . . . . . years	56.1	54.8	55.2	54.7	53.3	51.7	51.1	52.9
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	5,645,471	6,240,498	5,673,379	3,817,833	2,779,353	(NA)	(NA)	1,452,743
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased . . . . . \$1,000	1,049,514	965,030	916,191	431,873	323,978	229,516	188,501	121,616
Feed purchased . . . . . \$1,000	1,917,997	2,523,838	2,262,032	1,288,719	921,654	702,666	610,405	411,934
Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners <sup>6,7</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	238,389	268,306	243,960	233,479	179,396	238,315	209,537	177,589
Gasoline, fuels, and oils . . . . . \$1,000	170,533	219,694	198,201	184,299	143,686	235,621	161,702	97,912
Hired farm labor . . . . . \$1,000	552,486	536,818	487,395	388,338	287,037	245,364	222,451	133,835
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	164,828	226,795	205,129	143,502	130,580	206,549	(NA)	(NA)
Chemicals <sup>6</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	220,109	210,814	188,784	151,341	107,655	111,631	83,869	47,444
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory . . . . . farms	23,784	27,558	22,632	22,718	24,985	30,485	30,099	36,619
inventory . . . . . number	848,061	959,830	941,311	901,980	784,136	890,480	839,293	1,021,554
Beef cows . . . . . farms	20,461	22,664	19,616	19,531	20,630	24,286	23,632	26,231
number . . . . .	418,315	424,537	435,672	385,428	320,641	342,296	331,700	424,055
Milk cows . . . . . farms	1,250	1,304	1,092	1,552	2,336	4,353	5,716	9,523
number . . . . .	63,427	79,357	78,400	99,291	110,127	125,832	125,412	129,958
Cattle and calves sold . . . . . farms	18,584	24,803	21,286	20,771	22,682	25,272	25,691	28,259
number . . . . .	415,561	462,829	443,147	399,035	395,732	378,660	426,554	384,044
Hogs and pigs inventory . . . . . farms	2,542	3,582	2,986	4,311	6,921	11,390	18,846	22,975
number . . . . .	9,887,421	9,631,290	9,624,860	5,100,979	2,547,127	2,047,098	1,901,227	1,414,751
Hogs and pigs sold . . . . . farms	2,332	3,054	2,666	4,012	6,290	9,436	15,737	17,383
number . . . . .	42,018,621	36,451,580	36,431,039	10,776,400	5,180,960	3,907,278	3,389,145	2,616,555
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory . . . . . farms	2,571	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
number . . . . .	10,150,213	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold . . . . . farms	2,444	2,414	2,086	2,116	2,153	2,195	2,434	2,520
number . . . . .	739,566,977	663,439,144	591,248,423	499,071,743	408,721,082	348,434,068	296,848,126	225,566,077

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	6,096	9,525	8,862	13,052	21,000	30,193	38,850	49,134	
acres	700,045	820,916	821,039	1,019,871	1,056,000	1,393,496	1,489,546	1,327,640	
bushels	58,918,039	74,291,257	74,423,999	96,617,840	71,795,021	133,576,411	113,677,738	100,057,145	
Corn for silage or greenchop . . . . . farms	868	1,260	1,212	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	73,309	80,124	80,164	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
tons	873,097	1,127,700	1,128,059	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Wheat for grain, All . . . . . farms	3,488	6,099	5,949	6,893	7,747	11,950	6,517	12,557	
acres	446,438	612,866	616,397	490,214	378,744	597,539	132,445	248,308	
bushels	18,926,777	30,172,848	30,357,728	23,164,935	15,091,015	20,682,804	4,312,796	8,667,399	
Winter wheat for grain . . . . . farms	3,488	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	446,438	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
bushels	18,926,777	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Oats for grain . . . . . farms	930	1,148	1,059	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	22,293	22,147	21,870	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
bushels	1,196,859	1,400,787	1,401,369	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Barley for grain . . . . . farms	324	418	412	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	15,664	16,628	16,838	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
bushels	934,962	1,097,770	1,110,796	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Sorghum for grain . . . . . farms	128	232	210	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	7,805	8,651	8,344	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
bushels	328,816	414,191	404,508	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Sorghum for silage or greenchop . . . . . farms	130	19	19	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	4,407	761	763	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
tons	30,493	9,571	9,580	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms	7,596	10,478	9,933	13,080	17,409	26,324	29,577	33,248	
acres	1,314,672	1,279,725	1,280,412	1,287,573	1,273,278	1,746,774	1,512,294	1,208,924	
bushels	31,026,968	35,744,328	35,785,336	34,176,793	31,368,069	42,285,536	35,093,482	26,751,021	
Dry edible beans, excluding limas . . . . . farms	1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
cwt	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Cotton, All . . . . . farms	2,091	2,426	2,320	2,035	981	620	434	2,405	
acres	924,097	687,474	677,541	357,766	94,186	68,760	43,394	143,782	
bales	802,472	930,439	916,278	445,466	93,720	92,248	47,261	131,611	
Tobacco . . . . . farms	7,850	12,586	12,095	17,625	22,260	29,489	37,971	44,023	
acres	167,677	317,994	320,599	283,900	239,343	337,696	409,857	366,841	
pounds	353,125,841	696,352,165	703,559,462	604,014,807	478,051,423	690,142,724	820,615,121	714,135,918	
Potatoes . . . . . farms	504	538	459	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	19,500	18,899	18,806	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
cwt	3,435,439	3,596,222	3,586,031	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Sweet potatoes . . . . . farms	563	537	512	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	38,745	29,052	29,058	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
cwt	4,921,217	4,518,881	4,521,988	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop (see text) . . . . . farms	21,322	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	715,519	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
tons, dry	1,370,181	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Sunflower seed, All . . . . . farms	94	20	18	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	523	97	95	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
pounds	225,311	71,825	69,925	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Peanuts for nuts . . . . . farms	1,236	1,854	1,765	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	100,650	123,469	122,784	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
pounds	219,305,939	327,356,857	325,662,397	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) <sup>9</sup> . . . . . farms	2,550	2,312	2,160	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	66,521	50,286	50,079	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
All land in orchards . . . . . farms	1,211	1,476	1,213	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	
acres	13,406	16,864	15,388	(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.