

**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	77,131	79,541	65,602	67,959	75,131	82,199	86,505	89,479
Land in farms . . . . . acres	15,741,552	16,232,744	14,900,205	15,463,551	16,606,567	17,234,127	17,838,982	17,624,826
Average size of farm . . . . . acres	204	204	227	228	221	210	206	197
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm . . . . . dollars	464,127	258,638	282,135	210,179	182,950	232,606	175,095	85,560
Average per acre . . . . . dollars	2,272	1,264	1,244	925	826	1,113	853	434
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	5,386,373	4,762,238	4,375,650	4,481,945	4,053,360	4,410,681	3,475,058	2,074,183
Average per farm . . . . . dollars	72,300	59,899	66,731	66,001	54,037	53,698	40,204	23,751
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres . . . . .	4,141	4,500	3,142	3,605	4,012	4,254	3,117	2,392
10 to 49 acres . . . . .	17,152	13,915	9,673	8,655	8,778	10,256	9,447	8,176
50 to 179 acres . . . . .	29,458	30,995	24,546	24,121	27,498	31,202	35,701	41,160
180 to 499 acres . . . . .	20,021	24,043	22,228	25,570	28,828	30,855	32,997	33,612
500 to 999 acres . . . . .	4,465	4,592	4,573	4,790	4,923	4,682	4,437	3,527
1,000 to 1,999 acres . . . . .	1,395	1,166	1,121	1,014	921	778	672	484
2,000 acres or more . . . . .	499	330	319	204	171	172	134	118
Total cropland . . . . . farms	69,883	72,657	61,166	64,229	71,320	78,060	83,666	87,263
Harvested cropland . . . . . acres	10,728,655	10,999,803	10,353,300	10,948,614	11,618,876	11,769,183	12,088,709	11,668,509
Irrigated land . . . . . acres	54,741	62,656	54,369	61,125	69,141	75,734	81,708	84,970
Market value of agricultural products sold (see text) <sup>2</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	8,928,083	8,996,941	8,625,011	8,843,649	9,335,007	10,062,154	9,863,051	9,340,375
Average per farm . . . . . dollars	2,457	2,269	2,025	2,146	1,850	1,695	1,645	1,165
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops . . . . . \$1,000	385,902	358,467	341,813	330,838	284,637	259,270	234,557	127,881
Livestock, poultry, and their products . . . . . \$1,000	5,623,275	5,794,100	5,579,861	5,259,670	4,909,869	4,854,582	3,444,600	2,352,996
Average per farm . . . . . dollars	72,906	72,844	85,056	77,395	65,351	59,059	39,820	26,297
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 . . . . .	1,690,071	1,754,487	1,640,283	1,126,566	936,624	943,422	671,094	478,736
\$2,500 to \$4,999 . . . . .	3,933,204	4,039,613	3,939,578	4,133,103	3,973,245	3,911,160	2,773,506	1,867,277
\$5,000 to \$9,999 . . . . .	30,491	22,254	14,007	9,932	9,838	10,768	11,653	15,233
\$10,000 to \$24,999 . . . . .	5,389	6,711	5,161	5,355	6,039	6,472	8,119	7,602
\$25,000 to \$49,999 . . . . .	5,788	7,278	6,177	6,576	7,505	7,884	9,901	11,517
\$50,000 to \$99,999 . . . . .	8,362	10,024	8,841	8,995	10,678	12,178	(NA)	(NA)
\$100,000 to \$499,999 . . . . .	5,929	7,700	6,826	7,872	10,491	12,995	18,018	(NA)
\$500,000 or more . . . . .	7,242	9,153	8,818	11,916	15,223	18,022	16,463	(NA)
Farms by type of organization:								
Family or individual . . . . .	12,192	14,928	14,325	16,471	14,750	13,389	6,211	2,250
Partnership . . . . .	1,738	1,493	1,447	842	607	465	231	124
Corporation . . . . .	68,719	69,452	56,598	58,298	64,642	70,842	76,016	(NA)
Other-cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc . . . . .	5,347	6,452	5,746	6,930	7,909	8,937	8,749	(NA)
Principal operator by days of work off farm <sup>4</sup> :	2,726	3,145	2,870	2,502	2,322	2,193	1,555	(NA)
None . . . . .	339	492	388	229	258	227	185	(NA)
Any . . . . .	34,899	35,003	31,334	36,175	40,587	43,143	44,825	38,627
200 days or more . . . . .	42,232	41,029	31,303	28,081	30,014	33,440	38,202	33,542
Principal operator by primary occupation <sup>5</sup> :	30,495	28,511	21,088	18,307	18,776	20,200	23,036	20,947
Farming . . . . .	45,798	43,356	39,030	46,180	53,342	57,939	59,222	64,805
Other . . . . .	31,333	36,185	26,572	21,779	21,789	24,260	27,283	23,619
Average age of principal operator <sup>5</sup> . . . . . years	53.0	52.0	52.2	50.6	50.3	48.4	49.0	50.2
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	4,642,287	4,430,522	4,202,802	4,029,737	3,638,957	(NA)	(NA)	1,680,806
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased . . . . . \$1,000	294,121	324,928	306,830	349,520	294,202	261,923	233,653	138,150
Feed purchased . . . . . \$1,000	785,165	880,382	847,206	785,140	675,221	667,669	450,562	380,336
Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners <sup>6,7</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	260,006	268,793	258,450	248,410	236,568	262,517	181,264	126,706
Gasoline, fuels, and oils . . . . . \$1,000	193,005	198,442	187,629	183,421	175,966	264,315	141,420	97,613
Hired farm labor . . . . . \$1,000	515,473	431,317	409,009	362,356	312,325	279,154	181,536	93,914
Interest expense <sup>8</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	342,250	379,856	356,573	346,096	400,274	531,636	(NA)	(NA)
Chemicals <sup>6</sup> . . . . . \$1,000	184,368	175,810	169,356	135,926	104,934	90,030	59,702	35,460
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory . . . . . farms	38,120	46,036	39,593	46,052	53,315	62,836	64,192	71,092
Beef cows . . . . . farms	3,338,122	3,497,475	3,440,300	3,866,998	4,138,221	4,458,683	3,971,214	4,218,103
Milk cows . . . . . farms	13,300	13,594	11,642	10,394	10,355	14,386	15,185	19,252
Cattle and calves sold . . . . . farms	231,649	220,031	222,522	195,810	180,276	236,967	229,258	328,144
Hogs and pigs inventory . . . . . farms	16,886	24,065	22,576	30,156	37,325	44,093	45,518	51,655
Hogs and pigs sold . . . . . farms	1,243,315	1,361,041	1,336,626	1,521,969	1,743,427	1,852,784	1,699,839	1,728,670
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory . . . . . farms	31,807	43,947	38,832	45,227	52,816	61,246	62,894	69,642
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold . . . . . farms	1,533,092	1,616,528	1,547,935	1,808,889	1,982,183	1,806,185	1,743,443	1,621,155
Hogs and pigs sold . . . . . farms	2,993	3,974	3,686	6,760	8,737	11,940	15,713	17,816
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory . . . . . farms	535,393	758,141	738,339	1,173,783	1,312,818	1,479,028	1,473,818	1,240,808
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold . . . . . farms	3,245	3,857	3,591	6,776	8,899	12,059	15,396	17,978
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold . . . . . farms	1,294,440	1,590,206	1,523,490	2,244,673	2,515,246	2,658,032	2,558,847	2,345,238
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory . . . . . farms	4,243	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold . . . . . farms	4,415,462	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold . . . . . farms	1,226	830	587	504	674	897	995	1,097
Average per farm . . . . . number	33,652,214	27,747,569	27,607,761	13,686,548	10,761,742	8,803,544	8,721,401	9,463,734

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	29,021	37,383	34,315	36,674	48,665	52,645	56,602	52,645
acres	2,862,031	2,981,830	2,877,971	2,830,496	2,787,734	3,257,104	2,975,928	2,271,002
bushels	385,057,040	374,550,814	362,498,739	283,709,848	311,689,830	332,327,822	288,060,992	161,241,513
Corn for silage or greenchop . . . . . farms	17,632	23,830	22,498	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	704,513	733,284	717,549	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
tons	11,233,740	10,643,670	10,444,465	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Wheat for grain, All . . . . . farms	4,801	4,867	4,578	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	194,863	156,454	150,469	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
bushels	11,693,175	8,387,371	8,083,650	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Winter wheat for grain . . . . . farms	4,653	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	188,363	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
bushels	11,485,097	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Spring wheat for grain . . . . . farms	183	325	298	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	6,500	6,841	6,393	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
bushels	208,078	274,278	256,716	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Oats for grain . . . . . farms	11,300	16,416	14,925	22,195	31,065	40,594	50,851	(NA)
acres	245,695	335,107	314,722	488,332	679,203	890,503	1,092,308	(NA)
bushels	14,600,211	19,746,962	18,623,580	27,900,172	37,458,060	46,411,629	60,582,588	(NA)
Barley for grain . . . . . farms	1,489	3,006	2,806	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	35,226	67,107	64,060	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
bushels	1,735,478	3,556,712	3,403,587	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Sorghum for grain . . . . . farms	19	9	9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	1,294	595	595	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
bushels	93,075	44,000	44,000	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Sorghum for silage or greenchop . . . . . farms	159	134	125	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	2,048	2,130	2,008	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
tons	20,255	20,425	19,467	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms	15,245	12,580	12,028	8,957	5,628	5,667	4,587	5,182
acres	1,520,471	997,861	990,531	575,087	297,226	332,235	222,157	194,962
bushels	67,060,605	42,996,339	42,681,842	17,659,688	11,491,031	10,619,901	6,602,755	3,813,422
Dry edible beans, excluding limas . . . . . farms	17	88	75	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	7,398	11,611	10,554	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
cwt	148,408	186,131	171,239	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Tobacco . . . . . farms	452	950	839	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	1,517	2,846	2,553	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Potatoes . . . . . pounds	3,807,667	5,996,086	5,355,466	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
farms	399	442	418	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	80,332	84,922	85,304	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
cwt	29,990,800	30,143,466	30,242,152	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop (see text) . . . . . farms	43,561	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	3,089,564	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
tons, dry	10,135,628	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Sunflower seed, All . . . . . farms	46	72	69	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	2,076	4,056	3,985	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
pounds	2,774,463	5,653,925	5,566,905	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) <sup>9</sup> . . . . . farms	2,850	3,540	3,288	4,269	4,177	4,262	5,188	6,264
acres	252,693	285,311	270,130	347,581	328,902	280,326	319,090	337,959
All land in orchards . . . . . farms	1,009	1,116	853	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres	9,683	12,758	10,851	(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.