

# Introduction

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## HISTORY

The 1992 Census of Agriculture is the 24th taken by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The first agriculture census was taken in 1840 as part of the sixth decennial census of population. From 1840 to 1950, an agriculture census was taken as part of the decennial census. A separate mid-decade census of agriculture was conducted in 1925, 1935, and 1945. From 1954 to 1974, a census of agriculture was taken for the years ending in 4 and 9. In 1976, Congress authorized the census of agriculture to be taken for 1978 and 1982 to adjust the data reference year so that it coincided with the economic censuses covering manufacturing, mining, construction, retail trade, wholesale trade, service industries, and selected transportation activities. This adjustment in timing established the agriculture census on a 5-year cycle collecting data for years ending in 2 and 7.

## USES OF THE CENSUS

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the Nation's agricultural production and the only source of consistent, comparable data at the county, State, and national levels. Census statistics are used by Congress in developing and changing farm programs and for determining the effects of these programs. Many national and State programs are designed or allocated on the basis of census data, such as funds for extension services, research, and soil conservation projects. Private industry uses census statistics to provide a more effective production and distribution system for the agricultural community.

## AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED

The census of agriculture is required by law under Title 13, United States Code, sections 142(a) and 191, which directs that a census be taken in 1979, 1983, and in every fifth year after 1983, covering the prior year. The 1992 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

## FARM DEFINITION

Since 1850, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes first were established, the farm definition has been changed nine times. The current definition, first

used for the 1974 census, is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. The farm definition used for the outlying areas varies according to area. The report for each area includes a discussion of its farm definition.

## COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Data on acreages and inventories for 1992 and 1987 are generally comparable. Dollar figures shown for expenses and agricultural product sales are expressed in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation or deflation. In general, data for censuses since 1974 are not fully comparable with data for 1969 and earlier censuses due to changes in the farm definition.

## TABULAR PRESENTATION

**State data.** Tables 1 through 45 in chapter 1 show detailed State-level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more past censuses. Tables 46 through 52 provide 1992 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

**County data.** Chapter 2 presents selected data items by county. Tables 1 through 17 include general data for all counties. The counties are listed in alphabetical order in the column headings. Tables 18 through 39 include only counties reporting the data item. Counties not having the item, or with a limited number of farms reporting the item, have data combined and presented as "all other counties."

## SPECIAL TABULATIONS

Custom designed tabulations can be developed to individual user specifications on a programming cost reimbursable basis. Inquiries about special tabulations should be directed to the Chief, Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233.

## CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of Title 13, United States Code, no data are published that would disclose the operations of an individual farm. However, the number of farms in a given size category or other classification is not considered a release of confidential information and is provided even though other information is withheld.

## INVENTORIES, PRODUCTION, AND SALES DATA

Inventories of livestock, poultry, and machinery and equipment are measured as of December 31 of the census year. Crop and livestock production, sales, and expense data are for the calendar year, except for a few crops (such as citrus) for which the production year overlaps the calendar year.

## ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

–	Represents zero.
(D)	Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
(H)	Standard error or relative standard error of estimate is greater than or equal to 99.95 percent.
(IC)	Independent city.
(L)	Standard error or relative standard error of estimate is less than .05 percent.
(NA)	Not available.
(S)	Withheld because estimate did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the response rate or a consistency review.
(X)	Not applicable.
(Z)	Less than half of the unit shown.
cwt	Hundredweight.
sq ft	Square feet.

# A. Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1992 and 1987

[Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	All farms		
	1992	1987	Percent change from 1987 to 1992
Farms ----- number .....	34 057	36 376	-6.4
Land in farms ----- acres .....	44 828 124	44 157 503	1.5
Average size of farm ----- acres .....	1 316	1 214	8.4
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	360 111	326 333	10.4
Average per acre ----- dollars .....	273	269	1.5
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	70 495	55 005	28.2
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres ----- farms .....	1 504	1 881	-20.0
10 to 49 acres ----- farms .....	2 622	2 638	-6
50 to 179 acres ----- farms .....	4 977	5 083	-2.1
180 to 499 acres ----- farms .....	7 286	8 625	-15.5
500 to 999 acres ----- farms .....	6 917	7 618	-9.2
1,000 to 1,999 acres ----- farms .....	5 584	5 728	-2.5
2,000 acres or more ----- farms .....	5 167	4 803	7.6
Total cropland ----- farms .....	30 142	32 451	-7.1
Harvested cropland ----- acres .....	19 582 565	19 641 972	-3
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	28 430	31 110	-8.6
----- acres .....	13 624 006	12 982 611	4.9
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....	3 243 554	2 719 498	19.3
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	95 239	74 761	27.4
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....	1 072 895	857 373	25.1
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....	2 170 659	1 862 125	16.6
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 ----- farms .....	2 792	2 888	-3.3
\$2,500 to \$4,999 ----- farms .....	1 658	2 020	-17.9
\$5,000 to \$9,999 ----- farms .....	2 779	3 190	-12.9
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ----- farms .....	5 493	6 764	-18.8
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ----- farms .....	5 792	7 026	-17.6
\$50,000 to \$99,999 ----- farms .....	6 829	7 706	-11.4
\$100,000 to \$249,999 ----- farms .....	6 496	5 316	22.2
\$250,000 to \$499,999 ----- farms .....	1 547	1 022	51.4
\$500,000 or more ----- farms .....	671	444	51.1
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....	2 563 564	2 138 164	19.9
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	75 275	58 783	28.1
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....	34 056	36 377	-6.4
----- \$1,000 .....	662 184	573 997	15.4
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	19 444	15 779	23.2
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming ----- farms .....	26 141	28 407	-8.0
Other ----- farms .....	7 916	7 969	-7
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any ----- farms .....	12 540	13 553	-7.5
200 days or more ----- farms .....	6 614	6 641	-4
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....	22 576	23 998	-5.9
----- number .....	3 777 822	3 630 200	4.1
Beef cows ----- farms .....	18 597	19 034	-2.3
----- number .....	1 604 838	1 502 927	6.8
Milk cows ----- farms .....	2 873	3 940	-27.1
----- number .....	117 454	137 020	-14.3
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....	22 802	24 464	-6.8
----- number .....	2 500 254	2 398 208	4.3
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....	6 710	7 906	-15.1
----- number .....	1 978 195	1 750 236	13.0
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....	7 125	8 265	-13.8
----- number .....	3 654 082	3 181 008	14.9
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....	3 386	3 960	-14.5
----- number .....	661 872	603 824	9.6
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....	1 110	2 173	-48.9
----- number .....	2 136 682	1 752 361	21.9
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....	130	269	-51.7
----- number .....	121 283	237 779	-49.0
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....	16 427	19 448	-15.5
----- acres .....	3 097 251	2 573 567	20.3
Corn for silage or green chop ----- bushels .....	245 398 567	199 208 883	23.2
----- farms .....	6 235	6 960	-10.4
----- acres .....	394 087	374 158	5.3
Wheat for grain ----- tons, green .....	3 335 427	3 077 579	8.4
----- farms .....	12 014	15 273	-21.3
----- acres .....	3 340 644	3 229 384	3.4
Barley for grain ----- bushels .....	101 053 975	91 141 128	10.9
----- farms .....	3 285	7 911	-58.5
----- acres .....	361 718	766 698	-52.8
Oats for grain ----- bushels .....	17 423 745	29 647 024	-41.2
----- farms .....	9 055	13 558	-33.2
----- acres .....	627 557	919 997	-31.8
Sunflower seed ----- bushels .....	37 228 291	41 997 525	-11.4
----- farms .....	1 571	1 659	-5.3
----- acres .....	349 868	262 847	33.0
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- pounds .....	427 963 785	315 806 323	35.5
----- farms .....	21 402	23 131	-7.5
----- acres .....	3 356 484	3 355 299	(Z)
----- tons, dry .....	5 734 128	5 682 824	.9

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on a sample of farms.

## B. Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1992 and 1987 (Metric Measurement)

[1 acre = 0.4047 hectare. For further metric conversions, see metric conversion table in appendix E. Dollar figures are in current dollars with no adjustment for price changes. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

Item	All farms		
	1992	1987	Percent change from 1987 to 1992
Farms ----- number .....	34 057	36 376	-6.4
Land in farms ----- hectares .....	18 141 942	17 870 541	1.5
Average size of farm ----- hectares .....	533	491	8.6
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	360 111	326 333	10.4
Average per hectare ----- dollars .....	273	269	1.5
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> :			
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	70 495	55 005	28.2
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares -----	1 504	1 881	-20.0
3.85 to 20.04 hectares -----	2 622	2 638	-6
20.05 to 72.67 hectares -----	4 977	5 083	-2.1
72.68 to 202.22 hectares -----	7 286	8 625	-15.5
202.23 to 404.65 hectares -----	6 917	7 618	-9.2
404.66 to 809.51 hectares -----	5 584	5 728	-2.5
809.52 hectares or more -----	5 167	4 803	7.6
Total cropland ----- farms .....	30 142	32 451	-7.1
----- hectares .....	7 925 064	7 949 106	-3
Harvested cropland ----- farms .....	28 430	31 110	-8.6
----- hectares .....	5 513 635	5 254 063	4.9
Irrigated land ----- farms .....	1 674	1 869	-10.4
----- hectares .....	150 250	146 419	2.6
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000 .....	3 243 554	2 719 498	19.3
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	95 239	74 761	27.4
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000 .....	1 072 895	857 373	25.1
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000 .....	2 170 659	1 862 125	16.6
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	2 792	2 888	-3.3
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	1 658	2 020	-17.9
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	2 779	3 190	-12.9
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	5 493	6 764	-18.8
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	5 792	7 026	-17.6
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	6 829	7 706	-11.4
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	6 496	5 316	22.2
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	1 547	1 022	51.4
\$500,000 or more -----	671	444	51.1
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ----- \$1,000 .....	2 563 564	2 138 164	19.9
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	75 275	58 783	28.1
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) <sup>1</sup> ----- farms .....	34 056	36 377	-6.4
----- \$1,000 .....	662 184	573 997	15.4
Average per farm ----- dollars .....	19 444	15 779	23.2
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	26 141	28 407	-8.0
Other -----	7 916	7 969	-7
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	12 540	13 553	-7.5
200 days or more -----	6 614	6 641	-4
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms .....	22 576	23 998	-5.9
----- number .....	3 777 822	3 630 200	4.1
Beef cows ----- farms .....	18 597	19 034	-2.3
Milk cows ----- farms .....	1 604 838	1 502 927	6.8
----- number .....	2 873	3 940	-27.1
----- number .....	117 454	137 020	-14.3
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms .....	22 802	24 464	-6.8
----- number .....	2 500 254	2 398 208	4.3
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms .....	6 710	7 906	-15.1
----- number .....	1 978 195	1 750 236	13.0
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms .....	7 125	8 265	-13.8
----- number .....	3 654 082	3 181 008	14.9
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms .....	3 386	3 960	-14.5
----- number .....	661 872	603 824	9.6
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms .....	1 110	2 173	-48.9
----- number .....	2 136 682	1 752 361	21.9
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms .....	130	269	-51.7
----- number .....	121 283	237 779	-49.0
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms .....	16 427	19 448	-15.5
----- hectares .....	1 253 457	1 041 523	20.3
----- metric tons .....	6 233 413	5 060 141	23.2
Corn for silage or green chop ----- farms .....	6 235	6 960	-10.4
----- hectares .....	159 487	151 422	5.3
----- metric tons .....	3 025 849	2 791 933	8.4
Wheat for grain ----- farms .....	12 014	15 273	-21.3
----- hectares .....	1 351 959	1 306 932	3.4
----- metric tons .....	2 750 239	2 480 456	10.9
Barley for grain ----- farms .....	3 285	7 911	-58.5
----- hectares .....	146 387	310 283	-52.8
----- metric tons .....	379 357	645 488	-41.2
Oats for grain ----- farms .....	9 055	13 558	-33.2
----- hectares .....	253 972	372 323	-31.8
----- metric tons .....	540 367	609 592	-11.4
Sunflower seed ----- farms .....	1 571	-----	-----
----- hectares .....	141 511	106 374	33.0
----- metric tons .....	194 121	143 247	35.5
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms .....	21 402	23 131	-7.5
----- hectares .....	1 358 369	1 357 890	(Z)
----- metric tons .....	5 201 915	5 155 373	.9

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on a sample of farms.

## 2 SOUTH DAKOTA

## 1992 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE