Reports for the 1964 Census of Agriculture

Preliminary reports

These six page reports, issued for each county and State, contain totals for farms, farm acreage, farm operators, land in farms classified by use, land-use practices, equipment and facilities, expenditures, use of agricultural chemicals, poultry, livestock, poultry and livestock products, and crops harvested, including fruits and nuts, nursery and greenhouse products, and forest products.

VOLUME I. STATE AND COUNTY STATISTICS

A separate part will be issued for each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

VOLUME II. GENERAL REPORT

Statistics by subject will be presented, with totals for the U.S. regions, geographic divisions, and States.

VOLUME III. SPECIAL REPORTS

These reports will present data for supplementary surveys for farm workers, hired farm workers, and for the 1965 Sample Survey of Agriculture.

The statistics printed in this report supersede statistics shown in preliminary reports—Series AC64–P1.

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1964 UNITED STATES CENSUS
OF AGRICULTURE

Volume I

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Introduction

AUTHORITY AND AREA COVERED—The census of agriculture is authorized by an Act of Congress, "Title 13, United States Code—Census," codified August 31, 1954, and amended in August 1957, September 1960, June and October 1962, and August 1964. Section 142 paragraph (a) provides for the census of agriculture to be taken in October 1959 and each fifth year thereafter. Section 191 provides that the census data for Guam and the Virgin Islands may be collected by the Governor, or highest ranking Federal official, in accordance with plans prescribed or approved by the Director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The 1964 census covers agriculture in each of the States and in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

ENUMERATION—The statistics presented in this report represent totals obtained by adding information obtained from farm operators in November and December 1964. The information was obtained from the operator of each farm by means of an agricultural questionnaire containing questions and space for answers. (See appendix B for a copy of the agriculture questionnaire.) A few days before the start of the enumeration, a questionnaire was mailed to most households in rural areas and to operators of farms included in the 1959 census in urban areas. A letter attached to each agriculture questionnaire asked the farm operator to fill out the questionnaire and give it to the census enumerator when the enumerator visited his place.

The enumeration of the 1964 Census of Agriculture was completed by a census enumerator. An enumerator was assigned a specific area—such as a township or a combination of adjacent townships—to enumerate. The enumerator was given a detailed map for the area assigned. Except in urban and built-up residential areas, the enumerator was required to visit each dwelling (or place) in his assignment, list the head of each household, and obtain answers regarding agricultural operations on the place. (See appendix C for a facsimile of the A2 listing form used by the enumerator.) For places having agricultural operations, the enumerator was required to obtain a completed agriculture questionnaire. If the agriculture questionnaire had already been filled out by the farm operator, the enumerator examined the agriculture questionnaire for completeness and accuracy and completed the questionnaire as necessary. In built-up residential areas outside of urban areas, enumerators were required to visit and to list on the A2 listing form only places with agricultural operations. In urban areas, the enumerator was given a list of farm operators in 1959 in his assignment and was required to enumerate only the places operated as farms in 1959.

To assist in obtaining an enumeration as complete as possible, enumerators were required to plot on the detailed map of their assignment the location of each dwelling or place listed on the A2 listing form and in 9 States (Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota) to indicate on a special map the location of the land comprising each place for which an agriculture questionnaire was filled. Enumerators were also given lists of special and large farms located in the assigned area and were required to obtain an agriculture questionnaire for each special or large farm, or give an explanation as to why an agriculture questionnaire was not required. The list of special and large farms included farms with 5,000 acres or more in the Western States, or 1,000 acres or more in the Eastern States, State licensed nurseries, greenhouses, cranberry bogs, citrus groves, institutions, etc.

OFFICE PROCESSING—During the office processing, agriculture questionnaires and A2 listing forms were reviewed for completeness. Missing agriculture questionnaires were obtained by mail, or if the missing questionnaire was for a large agricultural operation, by telephone or personal visit of an enumerator. When a questionnaire representing significant agriculture operations was incomplete, the missing information was obtained from the farm operator by mail or by telephone.

The data for questionnaires representing farms comprising 1,000 acres or more, for farms having a total value of farm products sold of $100,000 or more, and data on questionnaires for other large agricultural operations were reviewed by an agricultural statistician. The data from each agriculture questionnaire were placed on magnetic tapes by means of punched cards. The data for each agriculture questionnaire were reviewed by an electronic computer to determine that punched data for all items for the questionnaire were consistent and present, to correct data inconsistent or in error, to supply missing data, and to make classifications of the farm necessary for tabulation of data. Changes made by the computer
in order to make data consistent, or to correct 
errors, or to provide missing data were recorded 
and the most significant changes were re-
viewed by an agricultural statistician.

When the changes made during the computer 
processing appeared to be in error or un-
reasonable or when data not corrected by the 
computer were in error, and the errors were 
large enough to affect totals or distributions 
significantly, additional changes were made on 
the computer record for the farm before tabu-
lations were made.

CENSUS DEFINITION OF A FARM—The statis-
tics given in this report relate to places qualify-
ing as census farms. For the 1964 Census of 
Agriculture, the definition of a farm was based 
primarily on a combination of "acres in the 
place" and the estimated value of agricultural 
products sold.

The word "place" was defined to include all 
land on which agricultural operations were con-
ducted at any time in 1964 under the control 
or supervision of one person or partnership. 
Control may have been exercised through own-
ership or management, or through a lease, 
rental, or cropping arrangement.

Places of less than 10 acres in 1964 were 
counted as farms if the estimated sales of agri-
cultural products for the year amounted to at 
least $250. Places of 10 or more acres in 
1964 were counted as farms if the estimated 
sales of agricultural products for the year 
amounted to at least $50. Places having less 
than the $50 or $250 minimum estimated 
sales in 1964 were also counted as farms if 
they could normally be expected to produce 
agricultural products in sufficient quantity to 
meet the requirements of the definition. This 
additional qualification resulted in the inclu-
sion as farms of some places engaged in farm-
ing operations for the first time in 1964 and 
places affected by crop failure or other unusual 
conditions.

Some places for which an agriculture ques-
tionnaire was obtained did not qualify as a cen-
sus farm. The calculations and determination 
whether the place for which an agriculture ques-
tionnaire was obtained qualified as a cen-
sus farm, were made by an electronic computer.

COMPARISON OF DATA FOR THE 1964 AND 
1959 CENSUSES—Generally the data for the 
1964 and the 1959 censuses are comparable. 
The definitions and explanations given in ap-
pendix A for individual items explain some of 
the limitations regarding the comparability of 
data for the two censuses. More detailed state-
ments will be found in the Introduction to Vol-
ume II of the reports for the 1964 Census of 
Agriculture.

COMPLETENESS OF THE CENSUS—A com-
plete and fully accurate count of farms, farm 
land, and farm production has never been ob-
tained in a general and nationwide census. The 
causes of the incompleteness are related to the 
large number of farms to be enumerated; the 
variety of arrangements under which farms are 
operated; the continuing changes in the rela-
tionship of farm operators to the land they 
operate because of expirations of leases and 
the making of new leases, or the renewal of 
other leases; the widespread leasing of agri-
cultural lands without written leases; the 
employment of a large number of temporary person-
nel to take and to supervise the taking of a 
nationwide census; the reluctance of some 
farm operators to provide information to cen-
sus enumerators; the problems of locating and 
identifying places that might be farms; the un-
availability of information, locally, for some 
agricultural operations; the absence from their 
farms during the period of enumeration of 
some farmers and their families; the failure of 
some enumerators to perform a thorough job; 
the opinion of some farm operators that their 
agricultural operations should not be included 
in the census; errors during office processing, 
etc. For a more detailed statement of the in-
completeness of the 1964 and the 1959 Cen-
suses of Agriculture, reference may be made to 
the Introduction, Volume II, of the reports for 
the 1964 and 1959 Censuses of Agriculture.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS—The follow-
ing abbreviations and symbols may occur in the 
tables:

- Zero.
- X Not applicable.
- NA Not available.
- D Data withheld to avoid disclosing 
figures for an individual farm or farm 
operations.
SELECTED MEASURES OF AGRICULTURE: 1964 and 1959

VALUE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD
Percent of all farms represented by farms reporting—

- Under $2,500
- $2,500 to $9,999
- $10,000 or more

Percent of total dollar value represented by farms reporting—

- Under $2,500
- $2,500 to $9,999
- $10,000 or more

FARM OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS
Percent of all farm operators represented by operators—

- Working off their farms 100 days or more
- Under 35 years of age
- 65 years old and over
- Reporting 1 to 4 years of high school as highest grade completed
- Reporting 1 year or more of college as highest grade completed

INCOME FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN THE FARM OPERATED
For farm operator households reporting, percent represented by households with—

- Under $1,000
- $1,000 to $2,999
- $3,000 or more

TEXAS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Bureau of the Census