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CONTENTS

Introduction............................................. .......................... VII
Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974 ............. IX
State Map .................................................. X

CHARTS
2. Profile of State's Agriculture: 1978 .......................... XII
3. Land in Farms by Type of Organization: 1978 ............. XIII
4. Farms by Value of Sales: 1978 ............................. XIV
5. Value of Products Sold by Size of Sales: 1978 ...... XIV

PATTERN MAPS
1. Land in Farms by County: 1978 ............................. XV
2. Average Size of Farm by County: 1978 .............. XV
4. Value of Agricultural Products Sold by County: 1978 .... XVI
5. Milk Cows Inventory by County: 1978 .......... XVII
6. Chickens 3 Months Old or Older Inventory by County: 1978 XVII
8. Value of Nursery Products Sold by County: 1978 .... XVIII

TABLES
CHAPTER 1. State Data
1. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1945 to 1978 .......................... 1
2. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use, for Farms With Sales of $2,500 or More: 1978, 1974, and 1969 ............. 1
5. Operators by Type of Organization for Farms With Sales of $2,500 or More: 1978, 1974, and 1969 .................. 3
17. Selected Characteristics of Irrigated and Nonirrigated Farms: 1978 .... 9
TABLES—Con.

CHAPTER 1—Con.

23. Other Livestock and Livestock Products—Inventory and Sales: 1978 and 1974 ........................................ 16
24. Fish Sales: 1978 .......................................................................................................................... 16
27. Crops Harvested and Value of Production: 1978 and 1974 ....................................................... 18
28. Crops by Acres Harvested: 1978 .......................................................................................... 19
30. Summary by Type of Organization: 1978 ....................................................................... 30
31. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operator: 1978 .............................................. 38
32. Summary by Age and Principal Occupation of Operators for Farms With Sales of Less Than $20,000: 1978 .......................................................... 54
33. Summary by Size of Farm: 1978 ......................................................................................... 70
34. Summary by Value of Agricultural Products Sold: 1978 ......................................................... 86
35. Summary by Standard Industrial Classification of Farm: 1978 ............................................... 102

CHAPTER 2. County Summary Data

1. Number, Land, and Value of Farms: 1978 and 1974........................................................................ 118
2. Land Use: 1978 .......................................................................................................................... 118
3. Irrigation: 1978 .......................................................................................................................... 119
5. Farms and Land in Farms by Type of Organization: 1978 ......................................................... 120
7. Farms by Value of Sales and Occupation: 1978 .................................................................. 121
11. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold for Farms With Sales of $2,500 or More: 1978 .... 122
12. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978 ......................................................................... 123
14. Hired Farm Labor—Expenses and Number of Workers: 1978 ............................................. 125
15. Estimated Market Value of All Machinery and Equipment: 1978 ........................................ 125
16. Cattle and Calves—Inventory and Sales: 1978 .................................................................. 126
17. Hogs and Pigs—Inventory and Sales: 1978 ........................................................................ 129
18. Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978 ..................................................................................... 130
20. Sheep and Lambs—Inventory and Sales: 1978 .................................................................. 132
21. Milk Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978 ............................................................................... 133
22. Angora Goats—Inventory and Sales: 1978 ........................................................................ 133
23. Mink and Their Pelts—Inventory and Sales: 1978 ............................................................... 133
24. Colonies of Bees and Honey—Inventory and Sales: 1978 .................................................... 133
25. Fish Sales: 1978 .................................................................................................................... 133
26. Miscellaneous Poultry—Inventory and Sales: 1978 ............................................................... 134
27. Miscellaneous Livestock and Animal Specialties—Inventory and Sales: 1978 ...................... 135
32. Fruits and Nuts: 1978 ............................................................................................................. 142
33. Berries: 1978 ......................................................................................................................... 144
34. Nursery and Greenhouse Products, Mushrooms, and Sod: 1978 ........................................... 144
35. Other Crops: 1978 .................................................................................................................. 145
37. Income From Machine Work, Customwork and Other Agricultural Services: 1978 .......... 146
TABLES—Con.

CHAPTER 2—Con.

40. Farms Operated by Black and Other Races by Tenure: 1978 ................................. .
42. Operators of Spanish Origin: 1978 ................................. .
43. Female Operators: 1978 ................................. .

CHAPTER 3. Individual County Data  [The following tables are common to the State and each county]

1. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1978 and 1974
3. Farms, Land in Farms, Land Use, and Irrigation, by Size of Farm: 1978 and 1974
5. Selected Farm Production Expenses: 1978 and 1974

New Jersey .............................. 148
Farms Not on Mail List  .................. 153
Atlantic .................................. 158
Bergen ..................................... 163
Burlington ............................... 168
Camden ..................................... 173
Cape May .................................... 178
Cumberland ............................... 183
Essex ....................................... 188
Gloucester .................................. 193
Hudson ..................................... 198
Hunterdon .................................. (1)
Mercer ...................................... 203
Middlesex .................................. 208
Monmouth .................................. 213
Morris ...................................... 218
Ocean ...................................... 223
Passaic .................................... 228
Salem ...................................... 233
Somerset ................................... 238
Sussex ..................................... 243
Union ...................................... 248
Warren .................................... 253

APPENDIXES

A. General Explanation  ................................................. A-1
C. Comparison of 1974 Farm Counts With 1978 Farm Counts. ................................................. C-1
D. Report Forms. ....................................................... D-1

Index .............................................................. Index-1
Publication Program. ............................................. Inside back cover

1 Not shown separately to avoid disclosing data for individual farms. However, the data for the county are included in the State totals.
INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

The census of agriculture provides a periodic statistical picture of the Nation’s farming, ranching, and related activities. The 1978 Census of Agriculture is the 21st 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. From 1840 to 1950, an agriculture census was taken as part of the decennial census of population. A 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.

Since 1980, when minimum criteria defining a farm for census purposes were first established, the farm definition has been changed nine times, as the Nation has grown and changed. The current definition was announced on August 12, 1975, in accordance with a joint agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Bureau of the Census. It defines a farm, for statistical purposes, as any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. The previous definition (used for the 1959, 1964, and 1969 censuses, and for the 1974 preliminary county reports) counted as a farm any place with less than 10 acres from which $250 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year, or any place of 10 acres or more from which $50 or more of agricultural products were sold or normally would have been sold during the census year.

METHOD OF ENUMERATION

Evaluation studies of the 1969 and 1974 censuses, which were conducted primarily by mail, indicated that the administrative lists used to create the census mailing list were not adequate to assure complete coverage in the census. Also, censuses prior to 1969, conducted by direct enumeration, had been found by evaluation studies (conducted since 1950) to be progressively less and less complete, as increased mobility of farm operators led to increases in the numbers of nonresident operators, operators farming on a part-time basis, and operators farming two or more separate tracts.

The 1978 Census of Agriculture was conducted primarily by mail for maximum economy, supplemented by a personal canvass of a statistical area segment sample for maximum completeness of coverage. The area segment sample, which consists of selected geographic areas completely canvassed by direct enumeration, provides reliable estimates for States of the number and characteristics of any farms not represented in the mail portion of the census. Estimates for such farms are an integral part of the State totals published for the 1978 census. The direct enumeration sample estimates are statistically reliable only for State totals and have not been allocated to counties. Appendix A provides a more detailed description of how the 1978 census was taken and includes a discussion of census coverage.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

State totals for 1978 are not directly comparable with totals for 1974 or earlier censuses as they include data for farm operations represented on the mail list plus estimates from the direct enumeration sample for farms not represented on the mail list. The 1974 State level data include only operations represented on the mail list.

Coverage evaluation studies for the 1974 census indicated that 10.7 percent of all farms were not included in the census. Farms missed in the census were usually small and accounted for less than 3 percent of the total value of agricultural products sold and less than 6 percent of the land in farms. The proportion of farms missed in the 1974 census was generally higher in
States having a large proportion of small farms and urbanized areas having a sizable number of part-time farms. Farm counts for 1974, adjusted for the net undercount, are shown in appendix C.

County level data on acres and inventories for 1978 and 1974 are generally comparable; however, improvements in the coverage of the 1978 census, especially of smaller farms, should be taken into consideration when comparing farm counts.

USE OF SAMPLING

Two types of sampling were used for data collection for the 1978 census. In addition to the State estimates from the direct enumeration sample discussed previously, data for items in sections 22 through 27 of the census report form were collected from only a sample of farms. Data based on a sample are subject to sampling error. Detailed discussions of the census report forms, the use of sampling, and estimates of sampling error are included in appendix A.

GRAPHICS

Several charts and maps presented on the following pages show selected agricultural statistics for this State. The items in the charts and the first four maps are presented for all States. The last four maps present data of particular importance to this State.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

State data—In chapter 1, State tables 1 through 28 show detailed State level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more censuses. Tables 29 through 35 provide 1978 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

County summary data—Selected data items are presented by county in chapter 2. Tables 1 through 15 include general data such as land in farms, size of farms, land use, operator characteristics, expenses, and machinery and equipment. Inventory and sales data for livestock, poultry, and animal specialties are contained in tables 16 through 27 and detailed crop data in tables 28 through 35. Tables 36 through 43 present data on foreign ownership, income from customwork, direct sales to consumers, operators by racial group, and female operators.

Individual county data—Five pages of tables are presented in chapter 3 for each county with 10 farms or more in 1978. The tables include final data for each county and are more comprehensive than those in the preliminary reports. Data are provided for all farms and for farms with sales of $2,500 or more for both 1978 and 1974.

This chapter also includes a set of similar tables for the State as a whole and for those farms in the State not on the mailing list and not included in county tables.

PRELIMINARY REPORTS

Preliminary reports have been published separately for all counties in the United States with 10 farms or more in 1978, each State, the four geographic regions, and the United States. This series provided, at the earliest possible date, information on major data items, with comparable final data from the 1974 census. The data items were standard for each State and county except in table 3 where the selected crops varied by State according to their relative importance in the State. The State preliminary report also included a full set of tables providing data derived from the direct enumeration sample on the estimated number and characteristics of farms not included in county totals because they were not represented on the mailing list.

For major data items at the county level differences between the preliminary and final figures are in general less than 5 percent. At the State level, differences are significantly less.

CENSUS DISCLOSURE RULES

In keeping with the provisions of title 13, United States Code, data that would disclose the operations of an individual farm are not published. However, the number of farms in a given size category or other classification is not considered a disclosure. Appendix A presents additional information on disclosure rules.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Appendix A includes definitions and explanations of selected terms used in the tables.

“SEE TEXT” REFERENCE

Items in the tables which are followed by the reference “See text” are explained or defined in appendix A.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

The following abbreviations and symbols are used throughout the tables:

- Zero.
- (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
- (X) Not applicable.
- (Z) Less than half of the unit reported.
- (NA) Not available.
  - Independent city.
### Highlights of the State's Agriculture: 1978 and 1974

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1978</th>
<th>1978</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Not on mail list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farms</td>
<td>5,056</td>
<td>7,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in farms</td>
<td>860,223</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested crop land</td>
<td>514,388</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per farm</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value of land and buildings</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>193,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per acre</td>
<td>276,037</td>
<td>10,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form</td>
<td>136,517</td>
<td>413,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of agricultural products sold</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of machinery and equipment on farms</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per farm dollars</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per farm</td>
<td>2,511</td>
<td>3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form</td>
<td>1,972</td>
<td>1,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form dollars</td>
<td>2,807</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form</td>
<td>3,514</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form dollars</td>
<td>2,923</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of agricultural products sold</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per farm dollars</td>
<td>353,275</td>
<td>7,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form</td>
<td>52,854</td>
<td>11,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form dollars</td>
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<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form</td>
<td>84,441</td>
<td>1,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form dollars</td>
<td>12,633</td>
<td>2,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form</td>
<td>17,400</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per form dollars</td>
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<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farms by value of agricultural products sold:</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $2,500</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>2,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,500 to $9,999</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $199,999</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 or more</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal farms number</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of agricultural products sold by farms having sales of:</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $2,500</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,500 to $9,999</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>2,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $199,999</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 or more</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal farms number</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm production expenses for selected items:</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds, bulks, plants, and trees</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial fertilizer</td>
<td>13,908</td>
<td>2,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other agricultural chemicals</td>
<td>13,908</td>
<td>2,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum products - gasoline, diesel, etc.</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hired farm labor</td>
<td>2,633</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock and poultry inventory:</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle and calves</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogs and pigs</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>2,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep and lambs</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens 3 months old or older</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crops harvested:</td>
<td>2,633</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn for all purposes</td>
<td>136,517</td>
<td>413,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans for beans</td>
<td>253,236</td>
<td>754,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay crops</td>
<td>99,283</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>All vegetables harvested for sale</td>
<td>134,554</td>
<td>134,554</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Not fully comparable because of direct enumeration sample in 1978 totals; see text.
21978 data are based on a sample of farms; see text.