1987 Census of Agriculture

AC87-A-24

Volume 1 GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 24 Mississippi State and County Data

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
This report was prepared in the Agriculture Division. Many other divisions contributed to this preparation: Data Preparation performed the clerical processing; Administrative Services provided the forms design and other administrative services; Publications Services contributed in publication planning and design, editorial review, composition, and printing procurement; Computer Services provided the computer processing facilities; Field provided selected data collection activities; Economic Programming prepared the computer programs; and Economic Surveys assisted in preparation of data collection and processing procedures and computer programs.

Members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics and representatives of both public and private organizations made significant recommendations which helped establish data content.

Members of various agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided valuable advice in the planning, publicizing, and processing phases of the census, and in helping farmers and ranchers complete the report forms.

The press, farm magazines, radio and television stations, and farm organizations were most helpful in publicizing the census and encouraging cooperation of farm and ranch operators.

Special tribute is paid to the millions of farm and ranch operators who furnished the information requested. Only through their cooperation was it possible to collect and publish the data in this report.

If you have any questions concerning the statistics in this report, call:
(301) 763-8555 Division Chief
(301) 763-8567 Crops Branch
(301) 763-8569 Livestock Branch
(301) 763-8566 Farm Economics Branch
(301) 763-1113 General Information
(301) 763-8558 Statistical Methodology
Following are changes to the 1987 Census of Agriculture volume 1 publications:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Female operators</th>
<th>Operators of Spanish origin</th>
<th>Farms operated by Black and other races</th>
<th>Other (see text)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1987 OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operators by days of work off farm:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1,588</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 to 199 days</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See chapter 1, table 16, for operators not of or not reporting Spanish origin.

Following are changes to appendix C:

Table G. State Coverage Evaluation Estimates of Farms Not on the Mail List: 1987

[During additional processing for coverage evaluation estimates, minor errors in estimates and relative standard errors were discovered for selected data items in some States. Corrected estimates will be published in Volume 2, Subject Series, Part 2, Coverage Evaluation]
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*Not published for this State.
INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

The 1987 Census of Agriculture is the 23rd 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 1987 census includes each State, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Island of the United States. A census of agriculture will be conducted in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in conjunction with the 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

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 the farm definition.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

Data on acreages and inventories for 1987 and 1982 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.

The 1978 U.S., region, and State data shown in the 1978 Census of Agriculture publications included data for farms on the mail list plus estimates from an area sample for farms not on the mail list. For comparability, the 1978 data in the 1987 publications include only farms on the mail list.

TABULAR PRESENTATION

State data—Tables 1 through 47 in chapter 1 show detailed State-level data usually accompanied by historical data for one or more past censuses. Tables 48 through 53 provide 1987 State data cross-tabulated by various farm classifications.

County data—Chapter 2 presents selected data items by county. Tables 1 through 16 include general data for all counties. The counties are listed in alphabetical order in the column headings. Tables 17 through 36 include only