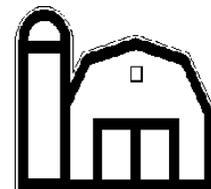


1992

Census of Agriculture



AC92-A-8

Volume 1
GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERIES

Part 8

Delaware

State and County Data



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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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.

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(301) 763-8571 Statistical Methodology



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Economics and Statistics Administration
Paul A. London, Acting Under Secretary
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INTRODUCTION

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	2 633	2 966	-11.2
Land in farms ----- acres	589 189	608 245	-3.1
Average size of farm ----- acres	224	205	9.3
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	514 156	369 751	39.1
Average per acre ----- dollars	2 246	1 765	27.3
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	67 843	53 447	26.9
Farms by size:			
1 to 9 acres -----	421	514	-18.1
10 to 49 acres -----	797	867	-8.1
50 to 179 acres -----	725	788	-8.0
180 to 499 acres -----	398	481	-17.3
500 to 999 acres -----	161	188	-14.4
1,000 to 1,999 acres -----	89	100	-11.0
2,000 acres or more -----	42	28	50.0
Total cropland ----- farms	2 162	2 397	-9.8
Harvested cropland ----- acres	495 156	501 290	-1.2
Irrigated land ----- farms	1 956	2 172	-9.9
----- acres	470 348	441 502	6.5
Irrigated land ----- farms	352	384	-8.3
----- acres	61 774	60 812	1.6
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000	559 766	443 575	26.2
Average per farm ----- dollars	212 596	149 553	42.2
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000	142 963	96 118	48.7
Livestock, poultry, and their products ----- \$1,000	416 802	347 456	20.0
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$2,500 -----	392	540	-27.4
\$2,500 to \$4,999 -----	213	270	-21.1
\$5,000 to \$9,999 -----	252	297	-15.2
\$10,000 to \$24,999 -----	301	280	7.5
\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	202	214	-5.6
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	182	257	-29.2
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	381	549	-30.6
\$250,000 to \$499,999 -----	437	403	8.4
\$500,000 or more -----	273	156	75.0
Total farm production expenses ¹ ----- \$1,000	448 199	377 102	18.9
Average per farm ----- dollars	170 613	127 184	34.1
Net cash return from agricultural sales for the farm unit (see text) ¹ ----- farms	2 627	2 965	-11.4
----- \$1,000	108 998	65 300	66.9
Average per farm ----- dollars	41 491	22 023	88.4
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming -----	1 578	1 774	-11.0
Other -----	1 055	1 192	-11.5
Operators by days worked off farm:			
Any -----	1 287	1 426	-9.7
200 days or more -----	849	955	-11.1
Livestock and poultry:			
Cattle and calves inventory ----- farms	411	461	-10.8
----- number	28 838	31 191	-7.5
Beef cows ----- farms	204	216	-5.6
----- number	2 856	2 187	30.6
Milk cows ----- farms	137	169	-18.9
----- number	8 659	9 354	-7.4
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms	337	376	-10.4
----- number	22 655	26 934	-15.9
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms	205	301	-31.9
----- number	58 913	49 714	18.5
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms	195	310	-37.1
----- number	118 100	109 600	7.8
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms	72	50	44.0
----- number	1 856	1 667	11.3
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms	117	175	-33.1
----- number	739 248	834 287	-11.4
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms	870	1 001	-13.1
----- number	223 328 864	210 492 139	6.1
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms	1 029	1 076	-4.4
----- acres	154 240	130 234	18.4
Wheat for grain ----- bushels	18 142 044	9 876 539	83.7
----- farms	599	630	-4.9
----- acres	61 754	43 573	41.7
Barley for grain ----- bushels	3 324 145	1 827 869	81.9
----- farms	323	360	-10.3
----- acres	37 520	32 642	14.9
----- bushels	2 605 621	1 897 161	37.3
Soybeans for beans ----- farms	1 324	1 515	-12.6
----- acres	231 872	219 941	5.4
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms	6 948 357	4 143 975	67.7
----- acres	428	539	-20.6
----- tons, dry	11 947	18 341	-34.9
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ----- farms	30 451	43 254	-29.6
----- acres	271	317	-14.5
----- tons, dry	42 380	43 036	-1.5

¹Data 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	2 633	2 966	-11.2
Land in farms ----- hectares	238 445	246 157	-3.1
Average size of farm ----- hectares	91	83	9.6
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	514 156	369 751	39.1
Average per hectare ----- dollars	2 246	1 765	27.3
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ :			
Average per farm ----- dollars	67 843	53 447	26.9
Farms by size:			
.01 to 3.84 hectares -----	421	514	-18.1
3.85 to 20.04 hectares -----	797	867	-8.1
20.05 to 72.67 hectares -----	725	788	-8.0
72.68 to 202.22 hectares -----	398	481	-17.3
202.23 to 404.65 hectares -----	161	188	-14.4
404.66 to 809.51 hectares -----	89	100	-11.0
809.52 hectares or more -----	42	28	50.0
Total cropland ----- farms	2 162	2 397	-9.8
----- hectares	200 390	202 872	-1.2
Harvested cropland ----- farms	1 956	2 172	-9.9
----- hectares	190 350	178 676	6.5
Irrigated land ----- farms	352	384	-8.3
----- hectares	25 000	24 611	1.6
Market value of agricultural products sold ----- \$1,000	559 766	443 575	26.2
Average per farm ----- dollars	212 596	149 553	42.2
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ----- \$1,000	142 963	96 118	48.7
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\$25,000 to \$49,999 -----	202	214	-5.6
\$50,000 to \$99,999 -----	182	257	-29.2
\$100,000 to \$249,999 -----	381	549	-30.6
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----- number	2 856	2 187	30.6
Milk cows ----- farms	137	169	-18.9
----- number	8 659	9 354	-7.4
Cattle and calves sold ----- farms	337	376	-10.4
----- number	22 655	26 934	-15.9
Hogs and pigs inventory ----- farms	205	301	-31.9
----- number	58 913	49 714	18.5
Hogs and pigs sold ----- farms	195	310	-37.1
----- number	118 100	109 600	7.8
Sheep and lambs inventory ----- farms	72	50	44.0
----- number	1 856	1 667	11.3
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ----- farms	117	175	-33.1
----- number	739 248	834 287	-11.4
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ----- farms	870	1 001	-13.1
----- number	223 328 864	210 492 139	6.1
Selected crops harvested:			
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms	1 029	1 076	-4.4
----- hectares	62 421	52 706	18.4
----- metric tons	460 829	250 876	83.7
Wheat for grain ----- farms	599	630	-4.9
----- hectares	24 992	17 634	41.7
----- metric tons	90 468	49 746	81.9
Barley for grain ----- farms	323	360	-10.3
----- hectares	15 184	13 210	14.9
----- metric tons	56 731	41 306	37.3
Soybeans for beans ----- farms	1 324	1 515	-12.6
----- hectares	93 839	89 010	5.4
----- metric tons	189 103	112 781	67.7
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms	428	539	-20.6
----- hectares	4 835	7 423	-34.9
----- metric tons	27 625	39 239	-29.6
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ----- farms	271	317	-14.5
----- hectares	17 151	17 416	-1.5

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.