



GLOSSARY

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

FARMS

The definition of a farm for census purposes was first established in 1850. It has changed nine times since. 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.

FARMS BY VALUE OF SALES

All farms were tabulated by size based on reported sales. The category "farms with sales of less than \$1,000" included all farms with actual sales of less than \$1,000 but having the production potential for sales of \$1,000 or more, or receiving government payments of \$1,000 or more. These farms normally would be expected to sell \$1,000 or more of agricultural products.

FARMS BY SIZE

All farms were classified into selected size groups according to the total land area in the farm. The land area of a farm is an operating unit concept and includes land owned and operated as well as land rented from others. Land rented to or assigned to a tenant was considered to be part of the tenant's farm and not the owner's.

MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD

This category represents the gross market value before taxes and production expenses of all agricultural products sold or removed from the place in 1997 regardless of who received the payment. It includes sales by the operator as well as the value of any shares received by partners, landlords, contractors, or others associated with the operation. In addition, it includes receipts from placing commodities in the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan program in 1997. It does not include payments received for participation in other federal farm programs nor does it include income from farm-related sources such as customwork and other agricultural services, or income from nonfarm sources.

The value of crops sold in 1997 does not necessarily represent the sales from crops harvested in 1997. Data may include sales from crops produced in earlier years and may exclude some crops produced in 1997 but held in storage and not sold. For commodities such as sugar beets and wool sold through a co-op which made payments in several installments, respondents were requested to report the total value received in 1997.

The value of agricultural products sold was requested of all operators. If the operator failed to report this information, estimates were made based on the amount of crops harvested, livestock or poultry inventory, or number sold. Extensive estimation was required for operators growing crops or livestock under contract.

Caution should be used when comparing sales in 1997 with sales reported in earlier censuses. Sales figures are expressed in current dollars and have not been adjusted for inflation or deflation.

FARM-RELATED INCOME AND DIRECT SALES

Income from farm-related sources consists of gross income received in 1997 before taxes and expenses from the sales of farm by-products and other sales and services closely related to the principal functions of the farm business. The data exclude income from employment or business activities which are separated from the farm business.

Changes in items comprising farm-related income occurred between 1992 and 1997. Cut Christmas tree sales and maple product sales were included as farm-related income in 1992. These items are included in the appropriate crop production sales for 1997.

Customwork and other agricultural services. This income includes gross receipts received by farm operators for providing services for others such as planting, plowing, spraying, and harvesting. Income from customwork and other agricultural services is generally included in the agriculture census if it is closely related to the farming operation. However, it is excluded if it constituted a separate business or was conducted from another location.

Rental of farmland. This income includes gross cash rent or share payments received from renting out farmland; payments received from the lease or sale of allotments for crops such as tobacco; and payments received for livestock pastured on a per-head, per-month, or per-pound basis. It excludes rental income from nonfarm property.

Sales of forest products. This income includes gross receipts from sales of standing timber, gum for naval stores, firewood, and other forest products from the farm business. It excludes income from nonfarm timber tracts, sawmill businesses, cut Christmas trees, and maple products.

Value of agricultural products sold directly to individuals for human consumption. This item represents the value of agricultural products produced and sold directly to individuals for human consumption from roadside stands, farmers' markets, pick-your-own sites, etc. It excludes nonedible products such as nursery products, cut flowers, wool, etc. Sales of agricultural products by vertically integrated operations through their own processing and marketing operations were excluded.

Other farm-related income sources. This income includes gross receipts from hunting leases, fishing fees, camping, other recreational services, patronage dividends from farm cooperatives, sales of farm by-products, and other sales and services closely related to the farm business. It excludes income from nonfarm businesses.

TOTAL FARM PRODUCTION EXPENSES

Expenses include the share of the expenditures provided by landlords, contractors, and partners in the operation of the farm business. Expenses were limited to those incurred in the operation of the farm business. Property taxes paid by landlords are excluded. Also excluded were expenditures for nonfarm activities; farm-related activities such as providing customwork for others, producing and harvesting of forest products, and providing recreational services; and household expenses. In 1997, as in other recent censuses, operators producing crops, livestock, or poultry under contract often were unable or unwilling to estimate the cost of production inputs furnished by the contractors. As a consequence, extensive estimation for some expenditure items was required for contract producers.

LAND IN FARMS AND LAND USE

Land in farms. The acreage designated as "land in farms" consists primarily of agricultural land used for crops, pasture, or grazing. It also includes woodland and wasteland not actually under cultivation or used for pasture or grazing, provided it was part of the farm operator's total operations. Large acreages of woodland or wasteland held for nonagricultural purposes were deleted from individual reports during the processing operations. Land in farms includes acres in the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve Programs.

Land in farms is an operating unit concept and includes land owned and operated as well as land rented from others. Land used as rent free was to be reported as land rented from others. All grazing land, except land used under government permits on a per-head basis, was included as "land in farms" provided it was part of a farm or ranch. Land under the exclusive use of a grazing association was to be reported by the grazing association and included as land in farms. All land in American Indian reservations used for growing crops or grazing livestock was to be included as land in farms. Land in reservations not reported by individual American Indians or non-Native Americans was to be reported in the name of the cooperative group that used the land. In many instances, an entire American Indian reservation was reported as one farm.

Total cropland. This category includes land from which crops were harvested or hay was cut, land in orchards, citrus groves, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses; cropland used only for pasture or grazing; land in covered crops, legumes, and soil-improvement grasses; land on which all crops failed; land in cultivated summer fallow; and idle cropland.

Harvested cropland. This category includes all land from which crops were harvested or hay was cut, all land in orchards, citrus groves, Christmas trees, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Land from which two or more crops were harvested was counted only once. Land in tapped maple trees is included in woodland not pastured.

Pastureland. This category includes all types of pastureland. It includes cropland used only for pasture or grazing, woodland pastured, and other pastureland and rangeland.

IRRIGATED LAND

This category includes all land watered by any artificial or controlled means, such as sprinklers, flooding, furrows or ditches, and spreader dikes. Included are supplemental, partial, and preplant irrigation. Each acre was to be counted only once regardless of the number of times it was irrigated or harvested.

AVERAGE VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS

Respondents were asked to report their estimate of the current market value of land and buildings owned, rented or leased from others, and rented or leased to others. Market value refers to the value that the land and buildings would sell for under current market conditions. If the value of the land and buildings was not reported, it was estimated using the average value of land and buildings from a similar farm in the same geographic area.

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT ON PLACE

Farm operators estimated the market value of all machinery and equipment kept primarily on the farm and used for the farm business. The reported value represents an estimate of how much the machinery and equipment would sell for in its present condition, not the replacement cost or the depreciated value.

Inventory of selected items of farm equipment includes only the equipment owned, leased, rented, or temporarily borrowed from others that was on the farm on December 31, 1997, and that was used for the farm business in 1996 or 1997. These items were asked on a sample basis.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS USED

For each type of agricultural chemical, the acres treated were to be reported only once even if the acres were fertilized or treated more than once. If multipurpose chemicals were used, the acres treated for each purpose were to be reported. These items were asked on a sample basis.

Commercial Fertilizer. The expense for commercial fertilizer is the amount spent on all forms of fertilizer including rock phosphate and gypsum. It also includes the cost of custom application.

Other agricultural chemicals. These expenses include the cost of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other pesticides, including costs of custom application. Data exclude commercial fertilizers purchased.

TENURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF FARM OPERATORS

Full owners - operated only the land they own.

Part owners - operated land they owned and also land they rented from others.

Tenants - operated only land they rented from others or worked on shares for others.

All operators were asked to report age, race, sex, place of residence, principal occupation, days worked off the farm, year in which his/her operation of the farm began, and Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin. If race, age, sex, and principal occupation were not reported, they were imputed based on information reported by farms with similar acreage, tenure, and value of sales. No imputation were made for nonresponse to place of residence, Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin, off-farm work, or year began operation. Operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin were tabulated by reported race.

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION OF OPERATOR

Data on principal occupation were requested from all operators in 1997. The principal occupation classification used were as follows:

Farming. The operator spent 50 percent or more of his/her worktime in 1997 at farming or ranching.

Other. The operator spent more than 50 percent of his/her worktime in 1997 at occupations other than farming or ranching.

FARMS BY TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

All farms were classified by type of organization in the 1997 census. The classification used were as follows:

Individual or family (sole proprietorship), excluding partnership and corporation.

Partnership, including family partnership.

Corporation, including family corporation-further subclassified into the following two categories:

1. Family held or other than family held
2. More than 10 stockholders or less than 10 stockholders.

Other, cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.

LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND OTHER ANIMAL SPECIALTIES

Inventory. Livestock , poultry, and other animal specialties inventories are reported as of December 31, 1997. These include all animals kept on the place regardless of ownership, including livestock or poultry being custom fed or fed on contract for others.

Sales. Livestock, poultry, and other animal specialties sold include all animals sold or removed from the place during the year regardless of ownership. Those sold for a landlord or given to others in trade or in payment for goods and services as well as those custom fed for others were to be included. Animals bought and sold within a 30-day period were to be excluded.

The value of livestock, poultry, and other animal specialties sold represents the gross sales value before deducting any marketing or production costs. For livestock or poultry fed under contract for others, the estimated market value is at the time they were taken from the place.

CROPS HARVESTED

This category includes land from which crops were harvested or hay was cut, and land in orchards, citrus groves, Christmas trees, vineyards, nurseries, and greenhouses. Land from which two or more crops were harvested was counted only once. Land in tapped maple trees is included in woodland not pastured.

Cash grains. The major cash grains that are shown in the maps include corn for grain, sorghum for grain, wheat, oats, barley, rice, soybeans for beans, dry edible beans and peas, and sunflowers. The maps are limited to the acres harvested for each of these crops.

Other field crops. All other field crops were collected in the census. Sugar crops, peanuts, cotton, potatoes, excluding sweetpotatoes, tobacco, hay crops, canola, and field seeds are shown in our maps. These represent the major crops in this category.

VEGETABLES HARVESTED

The acres of vegetables harvested is the summation of the acres of individual vegetables harvested. The maps are limited to the acres of major vegetables harvested.

FRUITS, NUTS, AND BERRIES

In 1997, data for individual fruits, nuts, and berries were collected. Also, the total land in bearing and nonbearing fruit orchards, citrus or other groves, vineyards, and nut trees was reported. The maps show the major crop acres harvested by type of fruits, nuts, or berries.

NURSERY AND GREENHOUSE CROPS

These data are a summation of the individual items reported. Only the major categories of crops are represented in these maps.

