Table 1. Historical Census of Agriculture[[1]](#footnote-1)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Units** | **Description and measurement** | **Temporal extent** | **Data source** | **Data.frame name** |
| Land in farms | Acres |  | 1964-2017 | 1964-1997, [COA Historical Highlights](http://lib-usda-05.serverfarm.cornell.edu/usda/AgCensusImages/1997/01/51/1604/Table-01.pdf) Table 1; adjusted 1997 – 2017, by-year COA publications | land |
| Total farm operations | Count |  | 1900-2017 | 1900-2012, Bob Hoppe, USDA historical censuses; 2017 COA publication | total\_farmop |
| Average size of operations | Ave. size |  | 1920-1997 | [ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206)](https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/studies/35206); Table Da1-13[[2]](#footnote-2) | acres\_ICPSR |
| Average size of operations | Ave. size |  | 1964-2017 | 1964-1997, COA Historical Highlights Table 1; adjusted 1997 – 2017, by-year COA publications | acres\_hcoa |
| Average age of principal operator | Ave. age |  | 1940-2017 | 1940-2012, Bob Hoppe, USDA historical censuses[[3]](#footnote-3); [2017 COA](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/usv1.pdf) publication | ave\_age |
| White operators | Count |  | 1900-2017 | 1978-2012, Bob Hoppe, USDA historical censuses[[4]](#footnote-4); [2017 COA](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_US/usv1.pdf) publication | white |
| Black operators | Count |  | 1900-2017 | 1978-2012, Bob Hoppe, USDA historical censuses; *ibid.* | black |
| Combined Other[[5]](#footnote-5) Races operators | Count |  | 1900-2017 | 1978-2012, Bob Hoppe, USDA historical censuses; *ibid.* | other |
| Male operators | Count |  | 1978-2017 | 1978-2012, Bob Hoppe, USDA historical censuses[[6]](#footnote-6); *ibid.* | male |
| Female operators | Count |  | 1978-2017 | 1978-2012, Bob Hoppe, USDA historical censuses; *ibid.* | female |
| White – Full owner | Count | Number of farms operated by white, full owners. | 1900-2017 | ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); Table Da530-545[[7]](#footnote-7); 2017 COA publication | w\_fullowner |
| White – Part owner | Count |  | 1900-2017 | ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); *ibid.*; *ibid.* | w\_partowner |
| White – Tenant | Count |  | 1900-2017 | ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); *ibid.*; *ibid.* | w\_tenant |
| Nonwhite – Full owner | Count |  | 1900-2017 | ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); *ibid.*; *ibid.* | nw\_fullowner |
| Nonwhite – Part owner | Count |  | 1900-2017 | ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); *ibid.*; *ibid.* | nw\_partowner |
| Nonwhite – Tenant | Count |  | 1900-2017 | ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); *ibid.*; *ibid.* | nw\_tenant |
| Under 5 yrs on present operation[[8]](#footnote-8) | Count |  | 1910-2017 | 1910 – 1997, ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); Table Da 513-517[[9]](#footnote-9); 1997 - 2017, by-year COA publications | exp\_5 |
| 5-9 yrs on present operation | Count |  | 1910-2017 | 1910 – 1997, ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); *ibid.*; 1997 - 2017, *ibid.* | exp\_9 |
| Over 10 yrs on present operation | Count |  | 1910-2017 | 1910 – 1997, ICPSR, US Agriculture Data, 1840 – 2012 (ICPSR 35206); *ibid.*; 1997 - 2017, *ibid.* | exp\_10 |

1. Beginning with the 2002 Census of Agriculture, census data are adjusted to compensate for undercoverage. See Allen (2004) for more information. Selected 1997 Census data were also adjusted and published in 2002 census reports, for comparative purposes. Earlier censuses were not adjusted for undercoverage, with the exception of the 1978 Census of Agriculture. Unadjusted 1978 data are used here, however, to maintain comparability with adjacent years. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Olmstead, Alan L., and Paul W. Rhode , “ Farms – number, population, land, and value of property: 1910–1999 [Annual] .” Table Da1-13 in *Historical Statistics of the United States, Earliest Times to the Present: Millennial Edition,* edited by Susan B. Carter, Scott Sigmund Gartner, Michael R. Haines, Alan L. Olmstead, Richard Sutch, and Gavin Wright. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/ISBN-9780511132971.Da1-66010.1017/ISBN-9780511132971.Da1-660 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Source for age data: Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, compiled from census of agriculture data (U.S. Dept. Comm., 1952 and 1973; Allen and Harris, 2005; USDA, NASS, 2009 and 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Source for race data: USDA, Economic Research Service, compiled from census of agriculture data. (U.S. Dept. Comm., 1973, 1977, 1981, 1984, 1989, and 1994; USDA, NASS, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Other races include American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and other operators who are neither black nor white. Starting in 2002, other races also includes operators reporting more than one race. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Source for gender data: USDA, Economic Research Service, compiled from census of agriculture data. (U.S. Dept. Comm., 1977, 1981, 1984, 1989, and 1994; USDA, NASS, 1999, 2004, 2009, and 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Source for Race-Tenancy data: Haines, Michael, Fishback, Price, and Rhode, Paul. United States Agriculture Data, 1840 - 2012. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2018-08-20. https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR35206.v4 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Under 5 yrs experience from 1997-2017 built by adding count of principal operators with less than 2 and between 3 & 4 yrs on present operation. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Olmstead, Alan L., and Paul W. Rhode , “ Farm operators, by years on present farm: 1910–1997 .” Table Da513-517 in Historical Statistics of the United States, Earliest Times to the Present: Millennial Edition, edited by Susan B. Carter, Scott Sigmund Gartner, Michael R. Haines, Alan L. Olmstead, Richard Sutch, and Gavin Wright. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/ISBN-9780511132971.Da1-66010.1017/ISBN-9780511132971.Da1-660 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)