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## **CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS**

### **New York State, 1997**

#### Background

The Census of Agriculture provides a continuing historical record of what has happened on the State's farms and its rural economy. The first agricultural census was taken throughout the United States in 1840, as part of the Census of Population. There is a detailed census record of agricultural activity by counties for New York State at the start of each decade from 1840 to 1950. In 1925 and again in 1935 and 1945, a Census of Agriculture was taken in mid decade as well. Beginning in 1954 and continuing to 1974, the Census of Agriculture was taken every five years. In 1976, Congress decided that the Census of Agriculture should be taken in the same years as the other economic censuses such as manufacturing, mining and commercial trade. In 1982, the agricultural census was taken at the same time as the other economic censuses and from 1987 onward will revert to a five-year cycle.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this summary report is to provide information on key agricultural distributions such as land in farms, numbers of farms, acreage of major crops and numbers of livestock. Tables containing this information from the census and charts showing the nature of the distributions are presented first. A set of state maps with county information showing numbers of farms and comparative information on crop and livestock distributions are presented last.

The intent of this report is to supplement and summarize some of the detail in the published volume for New York State issued by the Bureau of the Census (AC97-A-32 New York, Volume 1, part 32, State and County Data). The detailed information including definitions, explanations, and the original questionnaire are all included in this reference volume.

#### Comparability with 1992 Census Totals

Both the 1997 and 1992 censuses were conducted in January and February 1998 using a mail survey questionnaire. In 1997, this was followed by a number of letters to non-respondents, three of which included a report form. Telephone interviews were carried out with as many non-respondents as could be located. A non-response adjustment procedure was used to represent the final non-respondent farms in the census results.

Most of the problems of non-response were associated with farms selling less than \$10,000 of products. Follow-up procedures were similar in both 1992 and 1997. The procedures suggest that the undercount of small farms, if any, would be of a somewhat similar magnitude. A description of the statistical methodology can be obtained by

referring to Appendix C, Statistical Methodology, in AC97-A-32. There is no apparent reason to assume that there is any methodological upward or downward bias in the number of farms reporting in these two census years.

One feature of the statistics for 1992 and 1997 is that farm prices in New York were higher in 1997 than in 1992. The index of prices received by farmers in 1992 was 98 compared to 107 for 1997, using 1990-92 = 100. The New York milk price index was 99 in 1992 and 99 in 1997, using 1990-92 = 100. Thus, in making comparisons on the value of sales over this period, one should recognize that all farm prices increased by 9 percent, while milk prices were the same in both years.

### Definition of a Farm

The Census defines a farm in both 1992 and 1997 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 from 1959 to 1974 counted a farm as any place with less than 10 acres from which \$250 or more of agricultural products were sold or any place of 10 acres or more where \$50 or more of agricultural products were sold during the census year.

Since 1850, the census definition of a farm has changed nine times. In all cases, the effort has been made to include all the units where any commercial production occurred or where the operator obtained an important part of his livelihood from agriculture, even if no sales took place. Because of the changes in definitions and the large number of relatively small and part-time farms, one should be cautious in making comparative statements about changes in farm numbers particularly in the past 20 years.

## **STATEWIDE DATA**

### Farm Numbers, Land in Farms and Farm Organization

The land area of the State of New York is about 30.6 million acres. In 1997, 23.9 percent or 7.3 million acres were in farms. This is a decrease of more than 203,000 acres from 1992 and more than 1.1 million acres since 1987. One hundred years earlier, the census of 1900 reported 22.6 million acres in farms, the peak period in history. Much of the land formerly in farms has reverted to forest or brush. Much of this is privately owned and used for recreation or forestry. Some tracts were purchased by the State in the 1920s and 1930s in a period of great depression in agriculture.

Land in farms is distributed by the Census into four categories of cropland, woodland, other pastureland and rangeland, and land in house lots, ponds, roads and wasteland. Total cropland harvested increased gradually between 1969 and 1982, dropped back in 1987 to about the 1969 level, and in 1992 and 1997 fell considerably below 1969 acreage. Total cropland in 1997 was 4.72 million acres of which 78.7 percent was harvested.



Table 1.

TOTAL CROPLAND AND HARVESTED CROPLAND  
New York, 1969 – 1997

Year	Total Cropland <u>acres</u>	Total Cropland Harvested <u>acres</u>
1969	6,081,847	3,835,623
1974	5,788,149	4,156,266
1978	5,940,788	4,348,591
1982	5,697,926	4,430,198
1987	5,382,175	3,899,819
1992	4,876,169	3,534,898
1997	4,722,143	3,716,942

Of the total land in farms in 1997, over 65.1 percent are in cropland, essentially the same percentage (65.4%) as in 1992 (Table 2). As farms have gone out of production, the better cropland has been maintained in agricultural production and woodland and nontillable pasture makes up a smaller proportion of the total remaining in farms.

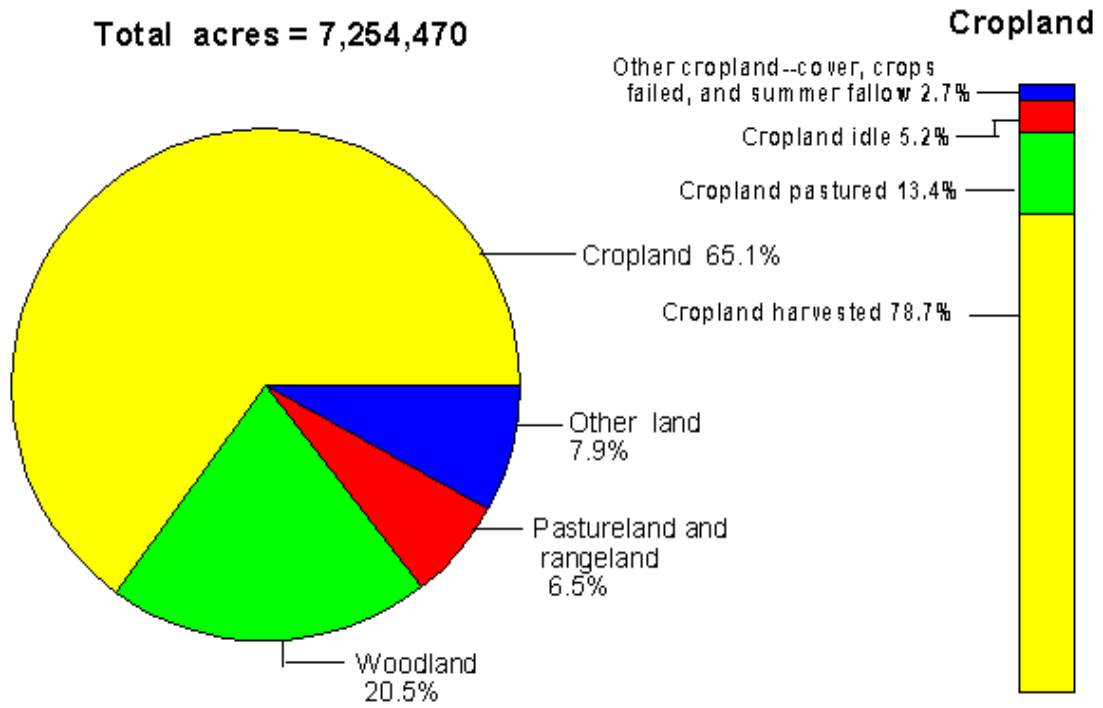
Table 2.

LAND IN FARMS BY MAJOR CATEGORIES  
New York, 1997

Description	1997 <u>acres</u>	Percent Of Total
Total cropland	4,722,143	65.1
Harvested	3,716,942	51.2
Cropland pasture	632,596	8.7
Idle cropland & government programs	319,113	4.4
All other cropland	53,492	0.7
Total woodland	1,486,529	20.5
Woodland pastured	225,550	3.1
Woodland not pastured	1,260,979	17.4
Other pastureland and rangeland	473,453	6.5
Land in house lots, ponds, roads and wasteland	<u>572,345</u>	<u>7.9</u>
Total land in farms	7,254,470	100.0

Chart 1.

LAND IN FARMS BY MAJOR USES  
New York, 1997



The distribution of farm numbers in 1992 and 1997 by size of farm shows small increases in all of the lesser size categories except those farms with 140 – 999 acres per farm. The bulk of the state's farmland is in units of 260 acres or more (Table 3). Nearly 70 percent of the farmland is operated by the 8,877 largest units. There are 12,913 farms with less than 100 acres. Most of these are residential or part-time farms although some are intensively managed full-time, commercial operations.

Table 3.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND TOTAL LAND IN FARMS  
BY SIZE CLASS  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Acres Per Farm	Number Of Farms		Total Area, 1997
	1992	1997	
<u>acres</u>			<u>acres</u>
1 - 9	2,129	2,226	8,949
10 - 49	5,201	5,499	149,771
50 - 69	2,187	2,402	139,529
70 - 99	2,704	2,786	233,344
100 - 139	3,482	3,482	406,250
140 - 179	2,774	2,649	417,848
180 - 219	2,257	2,084	413,872
220 - 259	1,928	1,752	417,842
260 - 499	6,120	5,491	1,947,695
500 - 999	2,713	2,530	1,678,032
1,000 - 1,999	680	688	903,791
2,000 and over	<u>131</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>537,547</u>
Total	32,306	31,757	7,254,470

Full owners continue to be the dominant tenure class of farms (Table 4). Part owners account for one-third of the total number; these are primarily active commercial farms on which some land is rented from others to provide additional cropland or pasture. There was no important change in the distributions between 1987 and 1992.

Table 4.

FARMS BY TENURE STATUS AND FORM OF ORGANIZATION  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Description	Number Of Farms		Land In Farms, 1997
	1992	1997	
<u>Tenure status:</u>			
Full owners	18,924	19,170	2,782,516
Part owners	11,417	10,742	4,126,147
Tenants	<u>1,965</u>	<u>1,845</u>	<u>345,807</u>
Total	32,306	31,757	7,254,470
<u>Form of organization:</u>			
Individual or family	27,346	26,855	5,165,428
Partnership	3,284	3,153	1,358,273
Corporations			
Family-held/less than 10 stockholders	1,351	1,395	575,018
Family-held/more than 10 stockholders	14	21	21,462
Other than family-held	156	152	59,988
Other- -cooperative, estates, trusts, and institutional	<u>155</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>74,301</u>
Total	32,306	31,757	7,254,470

The predominant form of organization is individual or family operation. Partnerships account for a little under 10 percent of the businesses. The number of incorporated businesses has increased modestly from 1992 and is still a small component of the total. The number of non-family type corporations with farms is small and relatively unimportant in this state. The land they operate accounts for only 0.8 percent of the total farmed.

Table 5.

FARM OPERATORS BY AGE GROUP  
AND DAYS OF WORK OFF-FARM  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Description	1992	1997
<hr/>		
<u>Operators By Age Group:</u>	<u>Number Of Operators</u>	
Under 25 years	331	225
25 – 34	2,736	1,977
34 – 44	6,997	6,628
45 – 54	7,912	8,527
55 – 64	7,341	7,155
65 and over	6,989	7,245
Average age	52.5	53.5
<hr/>		
<u>Days of work off-farm:</u>		
0	15,838	14,960
1 – 99	2,388	2,548
100 – 199	2,729	2,852
200 and over	9,355	9,886
Not reporting	1,996	1,511
<hr/>		

The average age of farm operators increased from 52.5 to 53.5 years between 1992 and 1997 (Table 5). The number of operators working off-farm increased by 5.6% from 1992 to 1997. Over 17,000 reported either no days worked off the farm or less than 100. At the other end of the spectrum, there are 9,886 with full-time jobs off the farm and another 2,852 with 100-199 days of such work. Relatively few were in the middle categories reflecting the nature of the job market and the demands of most farm enterprises.

### Farm Size by Value of Products sold

Value of agricultural products sold is one of the most common ways of measuring farm size (Table 6). Of the 31,757 farms enumerated, 35 percent had sales of \$5,000 or less in 1997. In total, they accounted for less than one percent of all agricultural sales. Most of this group can be described as living on residential farms with agricultural enterprises as a very small component of family activity.

Table 6.

#### NUMBER OF FARMS BY VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD New York, 1992 and 1997

Value Of Agricultural Products Sold	<u>Number Of farms</u>		Total Value Of Sales, 1997  <u>millions</u>
	1992	1997	
Less than \$ 2,500	7,324	7,707	\$ 6.8
\$ 2,500 - 4,999	3,389	3,424	12.3
5,000 - 9,999	3,536	3,484	24.6
10,000 - 19,999	3,224	3,348	46.7
20,000 - 39,999	2,648	2,673	75.6
40,000 - 49,999	885	921	41.1
50,000 - 99,999	3,973	3,335	243.9
100,000 - 249,999	5,053	4,442	685.8
250,000 - 499,999	1,535	1,441	488.2
500,000 - 999,999	518	639	437.4
\$1,000,000 and over	<u>221</u>	<u>343</u>	<u>772.1</u>
Total	32,306	31,757	\$2,834.5

The second group of farms with agricultural sales from \$5,000 to \$50,000 are primarily part-time farm operations. The agricultural operations are important to the family but the primary source of family income in most cases comes from outside agriculture. In 1997 there were 6,832 farms with sales between \$5,000 and \$20,000 or 21.5 percent of the total. The larger part-time businesses, sales of \$20,000-49,999, included 3,594 farms or 11.3 percent of the total. This group of part-time farms (\$5,000-50,000) sold about \$188 million of products or seven percent of the total.

The farms with sales of \$50,000 or more include 10,200 businesses or 32 percent of the total. Most of these get their primary source of family income from farming. The largest decline in numbers between 1992 and 1997 was from the group with sales from \$50,000-99,999. Those with sales of \$100,000-249,999 decreased by 12 percent in five years. The two larger sales classes increased reflecting national trends. Ninety-three percent of all agricultural sales were produced by the farms with sales of \$50,000 or more.

#### Total Sales by Type of Product and Type of Farm

The relative importance of individual crops and livestock products in terms of sales is presented in Table 7. Livestock products continue as the most important with the dairy industry dominant among that group. In the five-year period, relatively little change occurred in the aggregates. Poultry sales increased by 7 percent, an important change for that sector.

Table 7.

#### TOTAL SALES BY TYPE OF PRODUCT New York, 1992 and 1997

Description	Value Of Sales		Percent Of Total, 1997
	1992	1997	
	<u>millions</u>		
<u>Livestock:</u>			
Dairy products	\$1,428.8	\$1,459.7	51.5
Cattle and calves	218.7	198.0	7.0
Poultry and poultry products	80.9	86.4	3.0
Sheep, lambs & wool	3.5	3.4	0.1
Hogs and pigs	13.7	14.9	0.5
Other livestock	<u>67.1</u>	<u>71.7</u>	<u>2.5</u>
Total livestock	\$1,812.7	\$1,834.1	64.7
<u>Crops:</u>			
Fruit, nuts & berries	\$179.3	\$185.1	6.5
Vegetables & melons	180.9	206.9	7.3
Nursery & greenhouse products	218.2	290.7	10.3
Corn for grain	78.8	118.6	4.2
Hay, silage, seeds	69.3	87.1	3.1
Wheat	16.2	21.2	0.7
Oats	4.8	3.6	0.1
Other grains	17.1	13.5	0.5
Miscellaneous crops	<u>44.7</u>	<u>73.7</u>	<u>2.6</u>
Total crops	\$809.3	\$1,000.4	35.3
Total agricultural sales	\$2,622.0	\$2,834.5	100.0

Crop sales increased as a share of the total with the major change associated with nursery and greenhouse products. Sales were up 33.2 percent in five years reflecting important growth in this industry. Vegetables and melons were up by 14 percent; corn for grain increased 50 percent from 1992 to 1997.

All farms are classified by type according to a North American Industry Classification System (NAIC) used for all census tabulations (Table 8). The most important group in terms of sales as well as numbers is dairy, 56 percent of all sales. The next three groups, ornamentals and nursery, vegetables and melons, and fruit and tree nuts are much smaller in both numbers of farms and value of sales. Average sales per farm for dairy, ornamentals and nursery and vegetables and melons are \$100,000 or more. Fruit and tree nuts at \$93,900 includes a number of part-time operations.

Table 8.

FARMS BY TYPE:  
NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM  
New York, 1997

Type Of Farm	Number Of Farms	Market Value Of Total Sales
		<u>millions</u>
Dairy	7,852	1,588
Ornamentals and Nursery	2,820	290
Vegetables and Melons	1,585	253
Fruits and Nuts	1,913	180
Cash Grain	2,549	154
Field Crops	5,744	90
Poultry and Eggs	281	90
Beef Cattle, Cow-Calf, Feeders	4,821	88
Animal Specialties*	2,602	74
Other Livestock	<u>1,590</u>	<u>32</u>
Total	31,757	\$2,835

\* Fur bearing animals, rabbit, horses, bees, fish

There are large numbers of part-time and residential farms especially in the groups designated as "Animal specialties" and "other livestock". The only other NAIC group where the bulk of the farms are relatively large commercial enterprises is poultry and eggs; average sales per farm is \$321,700.



## Government Payments and Other Farm-Related Income

Direct government payments to farmers have increased in 1997 by about \$2.1 million compared to 1992. Deficiency payments were received as part of participation in wheat and feed grains programs. New York farmers received a total of 30.8 million dollars from these sources (Table 9). This is a small amount of total cash receipts compared to the totals for states in the Corn Belt, Great Plains and much of the south.

Table 9.

GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS AND OTHER FARM-RELATED INCOME New York, 1997		
Distribution Of Such Income	Number Of Farms	Total Value Of Such Income
<u>Government payments:</u>		<u>millions</u>
\$1 – 999	2,602	\$1.1
1,000 – 4,999	3,583	8.5
5,000 – 9,999	891	6.1
10,000 – 24,999	608	8.9
25,000 – 49,999	129	4.4
\$50,000 and over	<u>28</u>	<u>1.8</u>
Total	7,841	\$30.8
<u>Other farm-related income:*</u>		
\$1 – 999	3,301	\$1.2
1,000 – 4,999	3,198	7.4
5,000 – 9,999	1,023	7.0
10,000 – 24,999	1,029	15.3
25,000 – 49,999	199	6.7
\$50,000 and over	<u>110</u>	<u>14.2</u>
Total	8,860	\$51.8

\*Includes custom work, rentals of real estate, sales of forest products, etc.

More than 7,000 farmers received some direct payments in New York. Over half, however, received payments of \$5,000 or less. There were only 157 farms that received \$25,000 or more during the year; most of these were individuals with relatively large acreages of corn for grain or wheat. This group received 20 percent of the total income.

Other farm-related income is reported but not included as part of agricultural sales. This is a relatively small component of total agricultural income in this state. Most of those receiving such returns do not rely on it for much of their total family income. More than 73 percent of those reporting obtained less than \$5,000 from such sources. Custom work, renting out some land or buildings, sales of forest products, and recreation income are the primary sources.

### Net Cash Return from Agricultural Sales

For the second time, the Census provided a distribution of “net cash returns” based on subtracting cash farm expenses from cash agricultural sales. Depreciation and changes in inventory values are not included in making this calculation. It is a measure of cash flow provided from these records. Because such a large number of farms have sales of less than \$10,000, 46 percent of the total, one should expect that a large number of the net cash returns would be small, falling between losses of \$5,000 and gains of \$5,000 (Table 10). In fact, there is a much wider distribution of gains and losses than might have been expected.

Table 10.

#### NET CASH RETURN FROM AGRICULTURAL SALES

New York, 1997

Size Of Net Cash Return Or Loss	Number Of Farms	Percent Of All Farms
<u>Gains of:</u>		
\$50,000 and over	2,975	9.3
25,000 – 49,999	2,852	8.9
10,000 – 24,999	3,357	10.6
5,000 – 9,999	1,954	6.1
1,000 – 4,999	3,070	9.7
\$0 – 999	<u>1,290</u>	<u>4.1</u>
Subtotal	15,498	48.7
<u>Losses of:</u>		
\$0 – -999	1,751	5.5
-1,000 – -4,999	7,080	22.3
-5,000 – -9,999	4,055	12.8
-10,000 – -24,999	2,616	8.2
-25,000 – -49,999	583	1.8
-\$50,000 and over	<u>227</u>	<u>0.7</u>
Total	31,810	100.0
	=====	=====
Average net return per farm	\$16,181	
Average net return, farms w/grains	42,373	
Average net return, farms w/losses	-8,703	

There were 15,498 farms reporting gains, 48.7 percent of the total. The number reporting cash losses was substantial; eleven percent of the total had losses of \$10,000 or more. The spread in these statistics is perhaps the most noteworthy item of interest. There is no way to associate the large gains or losses with a particular type or size of farm operation.

Field Crops

Cropland harvested in New York increased by a little more than 5 percent between 1992 and 1997 to about 3.7 million acres. The primary uses of cropland (Table 11) are shown below.

Table 11.

PRIMARY USES OF CROPLAND  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Crop	Percent Of Harvested Cropland	
	1992	1997
Hay and grass silage	57	56
Corn for grain	15	16
Corn for silage	15	15
Oats	3	2
Wheat	3	3
Vegetables & potatoes	4	5
Fruit & berries	3	3
All other	<1	<1
Total	100	100

Between 1987 and 1992, hay and grass silage maintained its importance even though the total acreage committed to these crops actually declined by 59,840 acres. Corn continues as the most important cereal grain. Both oats and wheat were relatively less important as percentages of the total.

### Hay and Grass Silage

The most commonly grown field crop is hay or hay harvested as grass silage. Nearly 66 percent of all farms reported some acreage harvested. Of those with some hay harvested, 42 percent had 50 acres or less. Those with 50 acres or more included a large share of the commercial farms and accounted for 90 percent of the total acreage in these crops.

Table 12.

ALL HAY AND GRASS SILAGE:  
FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Acres Harvested	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Acres	
		1992	1997
1 – 14	2,385	23,193	20,152
15 – 24	2,277	44,494	42,753
25 – 49	4,051	154,143	141,394
50 – 99	4,686	374,680	322,438
100 – 249	5,564	873,049	826,822
250 – 499	1,528	424,397	499,403
500 – 999	280	100,675	173,594
1,000 and over	34	19,015	46,930
Total	20,805	2,013,646	2,073,486

### Corn for Grain

The acreage committed to corn for grain grew steadily between 1950 and 1982. In 1987, the upward trend in corn for grain was reversed. In 1997, about 579,000 acres were harvested, an increase of about 60,000 acres from 1992.

Table 13.

CORN FOR GRAIN ACRES  
New York, 1950 – 1997

<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
1950	163,045
1959	218,647
1969	243,475
1978	593,674
1982	749,492
1987	598,815
1992	518,839
1997	578,715

Most of the increase in production occurred in the 1970s. The reductions in 1987 and 1992 are partly attributable to the Acreage Reduction Program but probably not all of it.

Table 14.

CORN FOR GRAIN OR SEED:  
FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Acres Harvested	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Acres	
		1992	1997
1 – 14	1,183	8,946	8,637
15 – 24	633	11,157	11,915
25 – 49	1,047	40,798	36,673
50 – 99	1,087	84,255	73,592
100 – 249	934	144,724	138,669
250 – 499	405	107,177	137,071
500 – 999	151	79,043	98,696
1,000 and over	<u>53</u>	<u>42,739</u>	<u>73,462</u>
Total	5,493	518,839	578,715

Corn for grain was harvested on 17 percent of the farms in the state. About 52 percent of the farms had enterprises of 50 acres or less. These accounted for 10 percent of the acreage. The important reductions in acreage from 1992 occurred on farms with less than 250 acres of corn as suggested in Table 14. The increase in acreage for enterprises of 250 acres or more is particularly noticeable.

#### Corn for Silage

Corn for silage is a primary source of feed for livestock on New York farms. It is particularly important on dairy farms and was harvested on over 8,000 units. The bulk of the acreage was in enterprises of 50 acres or more (Table 15). The total acres of corn for silage increased by only one percent between 1992 and 1997. There were decreases in farms harvesting less than 100 acres, and increases in farms harvesting more than 100 acres.

Table 15.

CORN FOR SILAGE: FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Acres Harvested	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Acres	
		1992	1997
1 – 14	1,379	15,192	11,605
15 – 24	1,191	29,103	22,608
25 – 49	2,276	97,484	78,208
50 – 99	1,887	149,743	123,829
100 – 249	1,160	159,688	161,894
250 – 499	269	60,182	87,913
500 and over	<u>88</u>	<u>32,653</u>	<u>65,308</u>
Total	8,250	544,045	551,365

Oats

Oats continues as one of the most important of the small grains produced in the state even though the acreage harvested continues to decline. The trend has been rather steady since 1940.

Table 16.

OATS FOR GRAIN ACREAGE New York, 1940 – 1997	
<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
1940	626,234
1950	563,728
1959	612,834
1964	489,850
1978	272,507
1982	249,804
1987	162,733
1992	109,686
1997	77,240

The drop in acreage and in numbers of producers from 1992 is important. Acreage decreased by 30 percent. The number of producers dropped from 4,059 in 1992 to 2,808 in 1997. There were decreases in acreage in each of the different size classes (Table 17).

Table 17.

OATS FOR GRAIN: FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES New York, 1992 and 1997			
Acres Harvested	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Acres	
		1992	1997
1 – 14	1,233	14,410	10,331
15 – 24	619	16,174	11,525
25 – 49	549	28,597	18,060
50 – 99	294	26,487	18,773
100 – 249	101	17,860	13,501
250 and over	<u>12</u>	<u>6,158</u>	<u>5,050</u>
Total	2,808	109,686	77,240

Wheat

Wheat production increased between 1992 and 1997 from 117,908 to 120,927 acres (Table 18). There have been other large ups and downs in wheat production. Only 64,655 acres were harvested in 1978, but 142,311 in 1969. Much depends on weather conditions and varieties available in the years the censuses are taken.

Table 18.

WHEAT FOR GRAIN ACREAGE New York, 1959 – 1997	
<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
1959	241,986
1964	191,493
1969	142,311
1974	205,634
1978	64,655
1982	116,994
1987	86,345
1992	117,908
1997	120,927

Table 19

WHEAT FOR GRAIN: FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES New York, 1992 and 1997			
Acres Harvested	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Acres	
		1992	1997
1 – 14	432	4,855	3,648
15 – 24	341	7,267	6,428
25 – 49	456	18,992	15,634
50 – 99	313	25,030	20,568
100 – 249	268	33,520	38,330
250 and over	<u>77</u>	<u>28,244</u>	<u>36,319</u>
Total	1,887	117,908	120,927

### Other Small Grains

Numbers of farms reporting other field crops and the number of acres produced in 1992 and 1997 are listed below:

Table 20.

#### OTHER CROPS: FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES New York, 1992 and 1997

Crops	<u>Farms Reporting</u>		<u>Total Acres</u>	
	1992	1997	1992	1997
Dry edible beans	430	402	36,531	43,305
Soybeans	627	952	48,107	99,879
Barley	409	494	9,791	12,847
Rye	483	312	9,842	5,558
Buckwheat	98	101	2,520	2,423
Sorghum, forage	290	189	4,873	3,232
Sunflowers	28	22	462	411

### Vegetables

Commercial vegetable production, both for fresh market and for processing, is an important part of commercial agriculture in New York. Irish potatoes are treated separately from vegetables in the census tabulations. It is a major crop with 544 farms producing 23,920 acres in 1997. This is a decline from 1992 when 587 farms produced potatoes on 28,861 acres. Most decreases occurred in Suffolk County where the acreage harvested fell from 7,032 to 5,868 acres, and in Steuben County where acreage fell to 5,091 from 5,686 in 1992. The other counties with 1,000 acres or more of potatoes in 1997 were Wayne, Wyoming and Livingston.

Table 21.

#### ALL VEGETABLES: FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES New York, 1992 and 1997

Acres Harvested	Number Of Farms In 1997	<u>Total Acres</u>	
		1992	1997
0.1 – 0.9	219	95	99
1.0 – 4.9	759	1,911	1,793
5.0 – 14.9	634	5,887	5,267
15.0 – 24.9	225	4,834	4,212
25.0 – 49.9	311	9,610	10,796
50.0 – 99.9	217	15,472	14,478
100.0 – 249.9	222	27,501	33,086
250.0 – 499.9	73	22,940	25,484
500.0 and over	60	51,592	74,117
Total	2,720	139,841	169,331



The acreage of commercial vegetable production (excluding potatoes) and its distribution by size of enterprise is presented in Table 21. Of the nearly 170,000 acres, over 93 percent are on the 883 farms with 25 acres of vegetables or more. Over 43 percent of the total acreage is produced by the 60 farms with 500 acres or more of commercial vegetable production and 78 percent by those with 100 acres or more.

The census does not provide a breakdown between crops harvested for fresh market and for processing. Listed below are the total acreages of some of the more important vegetables harvested in 1997 and the acreages in the 1992 census.

Table 22.

VEGETABLE ACREAGE  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Crop	<u>Total Acres</u>	
	1992	1997
Sweet corn	52,187	66,581
Snap beans	23,933	28,675
Peas	9,956	18,365
Cabbage	13,842	13,678
Onions	12,066	11,792
Pumpkins	4,574	5,388
Cucumbers	3,099	3,789
Tomatoes	3,110	3,289
Squash	2,586	2,899
Beets	1,856	2,832
Lettuce	1,537	1,384
Carrots	1,089	1,227
Sweet peppers	1,129	958
Cauliflower	1,046	691
Spinach	1,648	627
Broccoli	646	612

Sweet corn continues as the most important of these vegetable crops in terms of acreage (Table 22). Snap beans was one of the major vegetables to increase in acreage over 1992. Onions declined as did cabbage. The area devoted to peas increased by 8,400 acres. Tomatoes and spinach lost position. Pumpkins are now a much more important crop, increasing by over 800 acres.

## Fruit and Berries

The acreage in commercial fruit production decreased by nearly 10 percent between 1992 and 1997. Most of the decrease was in apples and grapes, the two principal crops. There were 2,436 farms reporting some acreage of fruit (Table 23). Of these, 845 had orchards or vineyards of 25 acres or more which accounted for 88 percent of the total acres. Those with 100 acres or more made up 60 percent of the total.

Table 23.

### LAND IN ORCHARDS AND VINES: FARMS AND ACREAGE New York, 1992 and 1997

Acres Harvested	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Acres	
		1992	1997
0.1 – 4.9	680	1,881	1,454
5.0 – 14.9	644	6,466	5,453
15.0 – 24.9	267	6,129	4,991
25.0 – 49.9	326	14,274	11,341
50.0 – 99.9	255	19,494	17,389
100.0 – 499.9	248	50,480	46,876
500 acres & over	<u>16</u>	<u>12,433</u>	<u>14,124</u>
Total	2,436	112,905	101,628

The primary fruit crops in 1997 compared to 1992 are shown in Table 24.

Table 24.

### PRIMARY FRUIT CROP ACREAGE New York, 1992 and 1997

Crop	Total Acres	
	1992	1997
Apples	67,313	60,250
Grapes	34,250	33,047
Cherries, tart	4,083	2,732
Cherries, sweet	1,122	957
Pears	2,882	1,944
Peaches	2,266	1,841
Berries, all brambles	3,264	1,766
Strawberries	1,991	1,538
Plums and prunes	584	337

None of the fruit crops increased in acreage over this five-year period. In general, the number of trees per acre has increased especially for apples as dwarf rootstock is used to replace older trees.

## Nursery and Greenhouse

Nursery and greenhouse operations have increased in numbers and importance between 1992 and 1997. Total acreage devoted to these intensive operations increased from 16,066 in 1987 to 18,791 in 1992 and 47,461 in 1997. Included in the 1997 total are the lands used to produce sod and turf grass as well as Christmas trees not included in the 1992 totals or in any previous census years. Total sales increased from \$218.2 million in 1992 to \$290.7 million in 1997, an increase of 33 percent, partly reflecting the added activities.

There were 3,346 farms reporting nursery and greenhouse operations in 1997 compared with 2,069 in 1992 partly as a result of the change in definition. Over the five years, the area under glass or other protection increased from 25.0 million square feet to 28.8 million, a 15 percent increase. The counties with the largest areas of greenhouse space are Suffolk (32 percent of the total), Erie (9 percent of the total) and Orange (5 percent of the total). The leading county in terms of land area devoted to these crops is Suffolk.

## LIVESTOCK

### Dairy

Much of the cropland in New York is best suited for growing forage crops and these are converted most efficiently into saleable products over much of the State by dairy animals. Dairying is the dominant industry in most upstate counties. In 1997, there were 8,732 farms reporting one or more dairy animals. Unlike the crops, having a few dairy cows is not a very economic proposition unless it is one cow for family consumption. The 1,095 farms with less than 20 cows counted for 12.5 percent of the farms and one percent of all the dairy cows (Table 25).

Table 25.

#### NUMBER OF FARMS BY SIZE OF DAIRY MILKING HERD New York, 1992 and 1997

Number Of Milk Cows	Number Of Farms In 1997	Number Of Milk Cows	
		1992	1997
1 – 9	777	3,062	2,505
10 – 19	318	5,869	4,286
20 – 49	2,351	121,073	85,529
50 – 99	3,506	272,573	234,261
100 – 199	1,210	178,890	156,300
200 – 499	461	99,191	130,156
500 and over	<u>109</u>	<u>40,628</u>	<u>87,443</u>
Total	8,732	721,286	700,480

The size class with the most farms and the most cows was 50-99 milking animals. Most of the decreases in cows between 1992 and 1997 occurred on the farms with less than 100 cows. There were important reductions in each of the small herd sizes as some individuals moved out of dairying and others increased herd size. In the two larger herd sizes, cow numbers increased as has been generally true during the same period throughout the United States.

## Beef Cattle

The other important user of pasture and forage crops in the State is the beef cattle industry. Cow-calf operations are the most important component of this industry although some animals are also fed out at slaughter weights.

Table 26.

### BEEF CATTLE: FARMS AND NUMBERS New York, 1992 and 1997

Number Of Beef Cows	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Number Of Beef Cows	
		1992	1997
1 – 9	3,388	14,114	13,977
10 – 19	1,426	17,041	18,582
20 – 49	1,065	24,148	29,663
50 – 99	220	9,250	14,149
100 – 199	45	4,548	5,379
200 and over	<u>16</u>	<u>3,870</u>	<u>4,328</u>
Total	6,160	72,971	86,078

The number of farms reporting beef cows in 1997 was 6,160, a 5 percent increase from 1992 when there was 5,880 (Table 26). All size categories, except those farms with 1-9 beef cows, increased the number of beef cows from 1992 to 1997. The 50-99 category had the highest increase in beef cows of 53 percent. The number of farms with 100 cows or more remains small, 61 such operations accounting for about 11 percent of all the cattle.

### Laying Hens and Pullets

Egg production is the most important reason for keeping poultry in New York. This industry increased less than one percent between 1992 and 1997 as numbers of layers increased from 3.779 million to 3.784 million. There were 30 farms in 1997 with 20,000 hens or pullets of laying age or more. These 30 farms accounted for 97 percent of the state's laying flock (Table 27).

Table 27.

HENS AND PULLETS OF LAYING AGE New York, 1992 and 1997			
Hens And Pullets Of Laying Age	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Number Of Hens And Pullets	
		1992	1997
1 – 99	1,687	41,659	35,714
100 – 399	99	17,689	13,627
400 – 3,199	22	41,953	9,380
3,200 – 19,999	4	137,667	33,540
20,000 – 49,999	13	506,434	404,589
50,000 – 99,999	7	600,730	458,027
100,000 and over	<u>10</u>	<u>2,432,969</u>	<u>2,829,866</u>
Total	1,842	3,779,101	3,784,743

There were decreases in numbers of farms with laying hens in each of the size categories, except the largest category, in comparison with 1992. Most of the decrease in numbers reporting layers was in the smallest size category as individuals gave up keeping a small family flock. The tendency for most of the egg production to be concentrated on a few large farms is common throughout the United States.

### Other Poultry

There were 172 farms reporting broilers and other meat-type chickens sold in 1997 compared with 142 in 1992. Production was also up by 26 percent in 1997 with 1.3 million birds sold compared with 1.0 million in 1992. Most of this production was concentrated on the three farms with 100,000 birds or more.

The numbers of farms selling turkeys decreased from 171 in 1992 to 147 in 1997. One large farm selling more than 100,000 turkeys accounted for most of the state's production.

### Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms reporting hogs or pigs declined by 28 percent from 2,094 in 1992 to 1,508 in 1997. Most of this decrease was in farms with 1-24 pigs (Table 28). The number of hogs and pigs declined by 12 percent. Most of this occurred by reductions of numbers in the smaller enterprises. There were 60 farms with 200 hogs or more. They accounted for 76 percent of total numbers.

Table 28.

#### HOGS AND PIGS: FARMS AND INVENTORY NUMBERS

New York, 1992 and 1997

Number Of Hogs And Pigs	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Number Of Hogs And Pigs	
		1992	1997
1 – 24	1,270	9,785	7,036
25 – 49	69	4,323	2,382
50 – 99	67	6,305	4,338
100 – 199	42	10,421	5,586
200 – 499	31	16,589	9,747
500 and over	<u>29</u>	<u>42,859</u>	<u>49,911</u>
Total	1,508	90,282	79,000

### Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms reporting sheep and lambs decreased from 1,705 in 1992 to 1,515 in 1997. The total number of sheep and lambs decreased by 20 percent to 61,440 (Table 29). Numbers decreased in all the different sizes of enterprises. Over half of the sheep are in enterprises with 25 to 300 head. There were 35 farms with 300 or more sheep accounting for 33 percent of total numbers.

Table 29.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: FARMS AND INVENTORY NUMBERS  
New York, 1992 and 1997

Number Of Sheep And Lambs	Number Of Farms In 1997	Total Number Of Sheep And Lambs	
		1992	1997
1 – 24	970	9,731	8,268
25 – 99	421	22,172	19,102
100 – 299	89	18,274	13,656
300 – 999	30	19,151	13,362
1,000 and over	<u>5</u>	<u>7,354</u>	<u>7,052</u>
Total	1,515	76,682	61,440

### Other Livestock

In 1997, there were 6,491 farms reporting 47,755 horses in contrast to 6,458 farms in 1992 with 43,278 horses, an increase of 10 percent in numbers. There were 586 farms reporting colonies of bees in 1997 down from 761 in 1992. Total numbers of colonies was 49,445 a 9 percent decrease from 1992 which reported 54,625 colonies.

There were 1,195 farms reporting goats in 1997 compared with 1,064 in 1992. Numbers were up to 14,322 in 1997 compared to 11,296 in 1992.

Thirteen farms reported 8,341 mink in 1997 compared to 22 farms with 18,449 mink in 1992, a small but declining industry. There were 523 farms reporting 24,467 rabbits in 1997 compared to 530 farms reporting 15,203 rabbits in 1992.



## STATE MAPS

Twenty-seven maps depicting concentrations by county of major agricultural commodities or characteristics of the New York agricultural industry follow this discussion. These maps provide a means to obtain spatial perspective on the geographic distribution of the State's agriculture. Each map is shaded from white to depict relatively low levels of activity, to single lines to represent intermediate density, to cross hatching for the highest levels. Within the borders of each county are the corresponding data and at the bottom of each map is the State total or average. For those unfamiliar with the State, a map including county names is included on page 31.

### Farm Numbers, Land in Farms, and Value of Agricultural Product Sales

There is a wide and relatively even distribution of farms over the State with most counties containing a minimum of three to four hundred farms (Figure 1). Chautauqua County has the largest number of farms with over 1,500, second is St. Lawrence county with over 1,300 farms.

Land in farms exhibits a similar distribution to farm numbers (Figure 2). St. Lawrence county has the largest number of acres in farms with over 396,000 acres devoted to agriculture. Harvested cropland is a measure of the amount of land in each county, which provides the basis for most of the production (Figure 3). Cayuga County has the largest number of acres of harvested cropland at 167,000 followed by St. Lawrence County at 166,000 and Steuben County at 165,000. Total cropland acres measures the amount of land normally used for crop production (Figure 4). St. Lawrence County at 220,000 acres and Steuben County at 217,000 acres, have the largest number of acres followed by Jefferson, Cayuga, Livingston and Ontario Counties.

Total cropland as a percent of land in farms enables a comparison of the intensity of use of land in farms from county to county (Figure 5). Relatively high percentages indicate that a large proportion of the land in farms was used for crops and a low percentage the opposite. All of the counties in the Finger Lakes and Western plains have a higher than average percentage with Niagara, Monroe, Orleans, Genesee, Suffolk, Ontario and Seneca Counties having the highest percentages.

The value of agricultural products sold represents the gross market value before taxes and production expenses are subtracted from the total (Figure 6). Suffolk County with sales of over 160 million dollars had the greatest output, followed by Wyoming, Cayuga and Genesee Counties. Twenty-one Counties recorded a value of agricultural products sold in excess of 60 million dollars in 1997.

A measure of the proportion of farms that are part-time or residential farms can be obtained by calculating the percent of total farms with sales less than \$50,000 (Figure 7). Along the corridor from Ulster to Essex Counties and west of a line from Broome to Oswego Counties includes the greatest proportion of small farms.

Farms with sales of \$100,000 or more represents average and larger “commercial farms” (Figure 8). The number of farms with sales of \$100,000 or more is greatest in St. Lawrence County followed by Lewis, Oneida, Wyoming, Chautauqua and Cayuga Counties.

### Field Crops

Corn for grain acreage had steadily increased in recent years with a reduction in 1992. The 1997 Census showed a significant increase in corn acreage. The Finger Lakes and Western Plains regions are the centers of corn grain production in the State (Figure 9). Cayuga County had the largest corn for grain acreage – over 57,000 followed by Ontario, Livingston, Wayne, Orleans and Niagara counties.

Corn silage acreage has remained relatively stable in recent years, with an increase in 1997. Corn silage acreage is more widely distributed over the State than is corn for grain (Figure 10). Wyoming, St. Lawrence, Washington, Jefferson and Madison Counties have the largest acreages of corn silage.

The acreage of hay is widely distributed over the State (Figure 11). St. Lawrence County has the largest acreage; when combined with five other Northern New York counties they account for approximately one-fifth of the total hay acreage of the State. Central New York and the Western Southern Tier are other areas where large concentrations of hay acreage occur.

Wheat is the fourth most important crop in terms of acreage and is concentrated in Western New York and the Finger Lakes region (Figure 12). Livingston County has the largest wheat acreage followed by Genesee and Ontario Counties.

### Vegetable Crops

New York’s vegetable, sweet corn, and melon acreage is centered in Western and Central New York along with large acreages in Orange and Suffolk Counties in Southeastern New York (Figure 13). Genesee and Orleans Counties have the largest acreages accounting for more than one-fourth of the State total.

Potato acreage is concentrated in Western New York with Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Livingston Counties accounting for approximately 50 percent of the State’s potato acreage (Figure 14). Suffolk County is the largest potato county with nearly 6,000 acres of potatoes.

### Orchards and Vineyards, and Nursery and Greenhouse Product Sales

Orchard and vineyard acreage is found in four important areas of the State (Figure 15). The Finger Lakes and Western New York regions are dominant with a significant acreage in the Hudson Valley and a smaller acreage in the Northern New York Counties of Clinton and Essex along Lake Champlain. Apple acreage is concentrated along the shores of Lake Ontario in Western New York and in the Hudson Valley, primarily in Ulster county (Figure 16). Grape acreage is concentrated in Chautauqua County and the Finger Lakes region (Figure 17). Suffolk County has shown a significant increase in acreage in recent years.

Sales of nursery and greenhouse products are highest in the metropolitan areas of the State (Figure 18). Suffolk County recorded sales of 126 million dollars or approximately 43 percent of the State total. Other counties with large sales were Erie, Orange, Monroe and Dutchess.

### Livestock and Poultry

The distribution of milk cows across the State finds every county other than metropolitan New York City, Long Island and the Adirondacks, with significant numbers of dairy cows (Figure 19). Wyoming and St. Lawrence Counties have the largest cow inventories followed by Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Cayuga and Washington counties.

The inventory of beef cows is also widespread throughout the State with the Western Southern Tier Counties showing the greatest numbers (Figure 20). Finger Lakes and Western New York regions have the largest concentrations of hogs and pigs (Figure 21). The sheep and lamb inventory is largely located in Cortland, Columbia and Wyoming counties.

### Economic Characteristics

Farm production expenditures totaled approximately 2.2 billion dollars in 1997 (Figure 23). Production expenditures include normal operating expenses such as feed, seed, fuel, labor, property taxes, repairs and interest on debt. It does not include machinery and equipment or real estate purchases or depreciation on capital assets. Farms in almost every county purchased over 20 million dollars in inputs, adding in an important way to value-added in the county economy.

Net cash return from agricultural sales was over 514 million dollars in 1997 (Figure 24). Net cash return was calculated by the Census simply by subtracting cash expenses from cash receipts. Suffolk, Genesee and Wayne Counties recorded the largest net return from agricultural sales.

Net cash return per farm averaged \$16,181 in 1997 (Figure 25). Suffolk County averaged \$69,000 net cash return per farm, the highest in the State.

### Dairy Characteristics

The number of dairy farms in the state for 1997 totaled 8,162 (Figure 26). Southeastern New York has the fewest farms per county with counties in Central and Northern New York, and Western New York having the largest number of dairy farms. Counties with over 300 farms include St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Madison, Otsego, Chenango, Steuben, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua.

The value of dairy product sales per county follows the distribution of dairy farms (Figure 27). Counties with 40 million dollars or more in dairy product sales include Wyoming, Chautauqua, Genesee, Steuben, Cayuga, Clinton, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Madison, Chenango, Otsego, Montgomery and Washington. The total value of dairy product sales from the state in 1997 was \$1.46 billion.





Figure 2. Land in Farms, Thousand Acres, 1997.

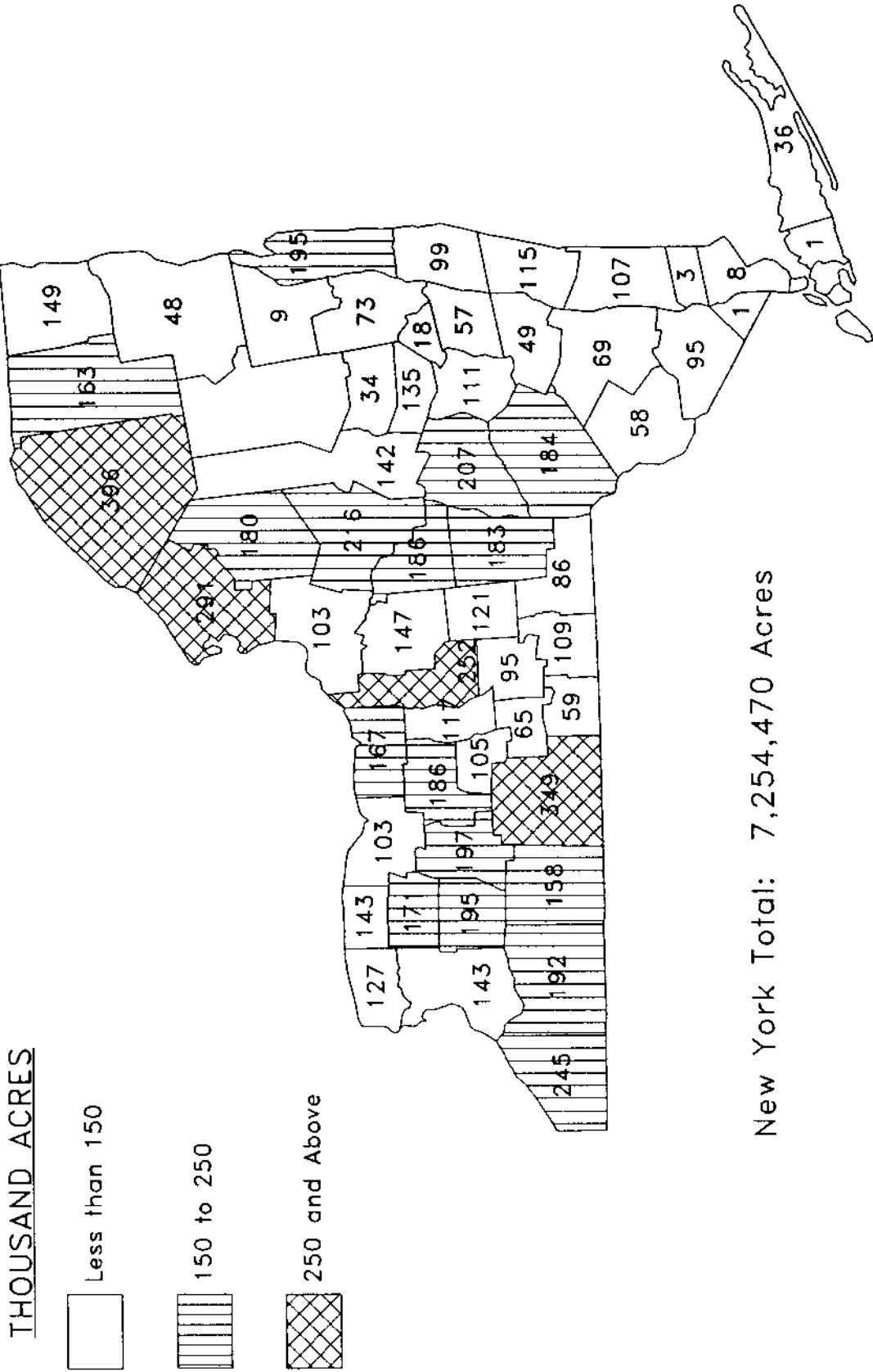


Figure 3. Harvested Cropland, Thousand Acres, 1997.

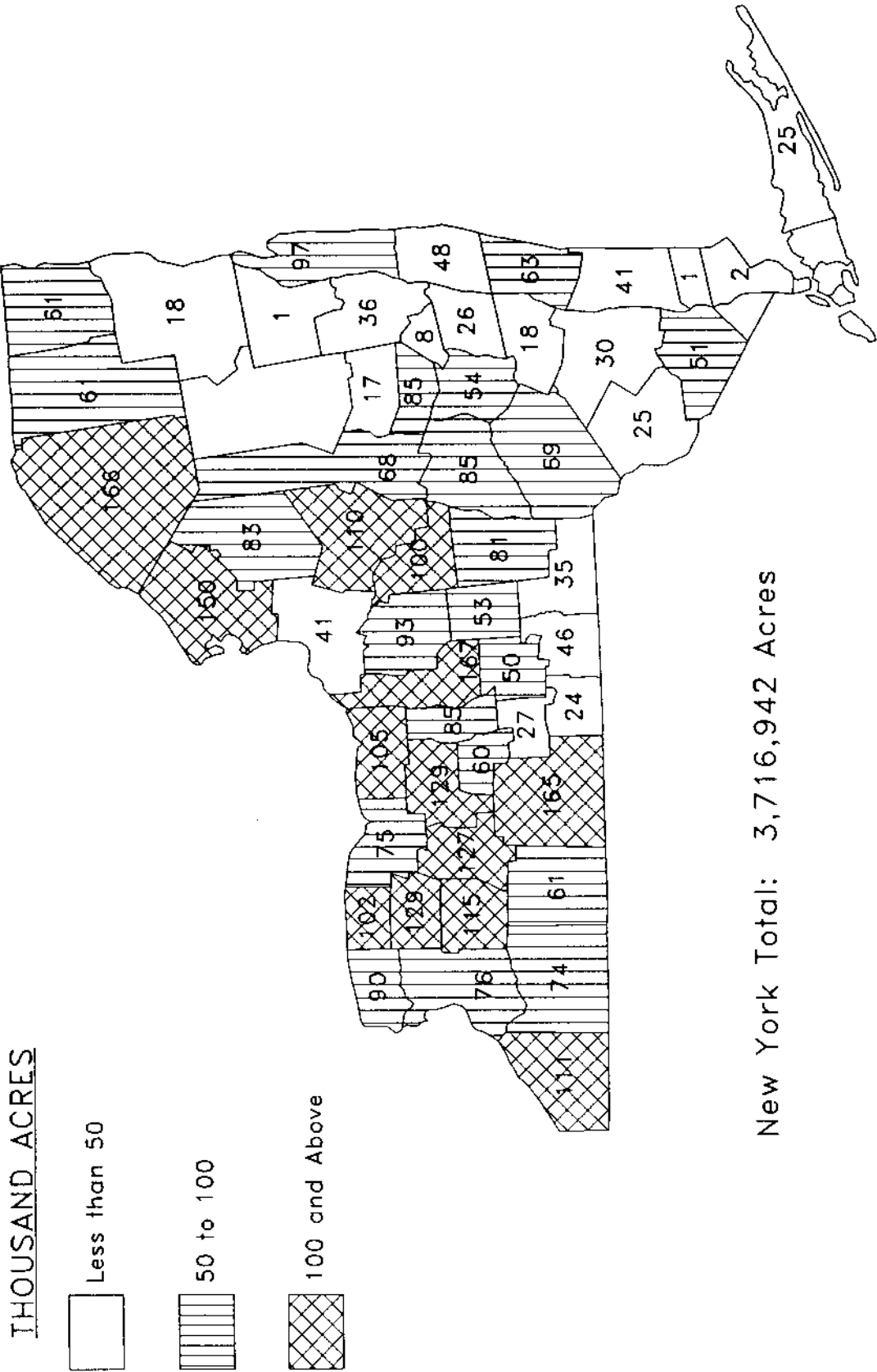




Figure 4. Total Cropland, Thousand Acres, 1997.

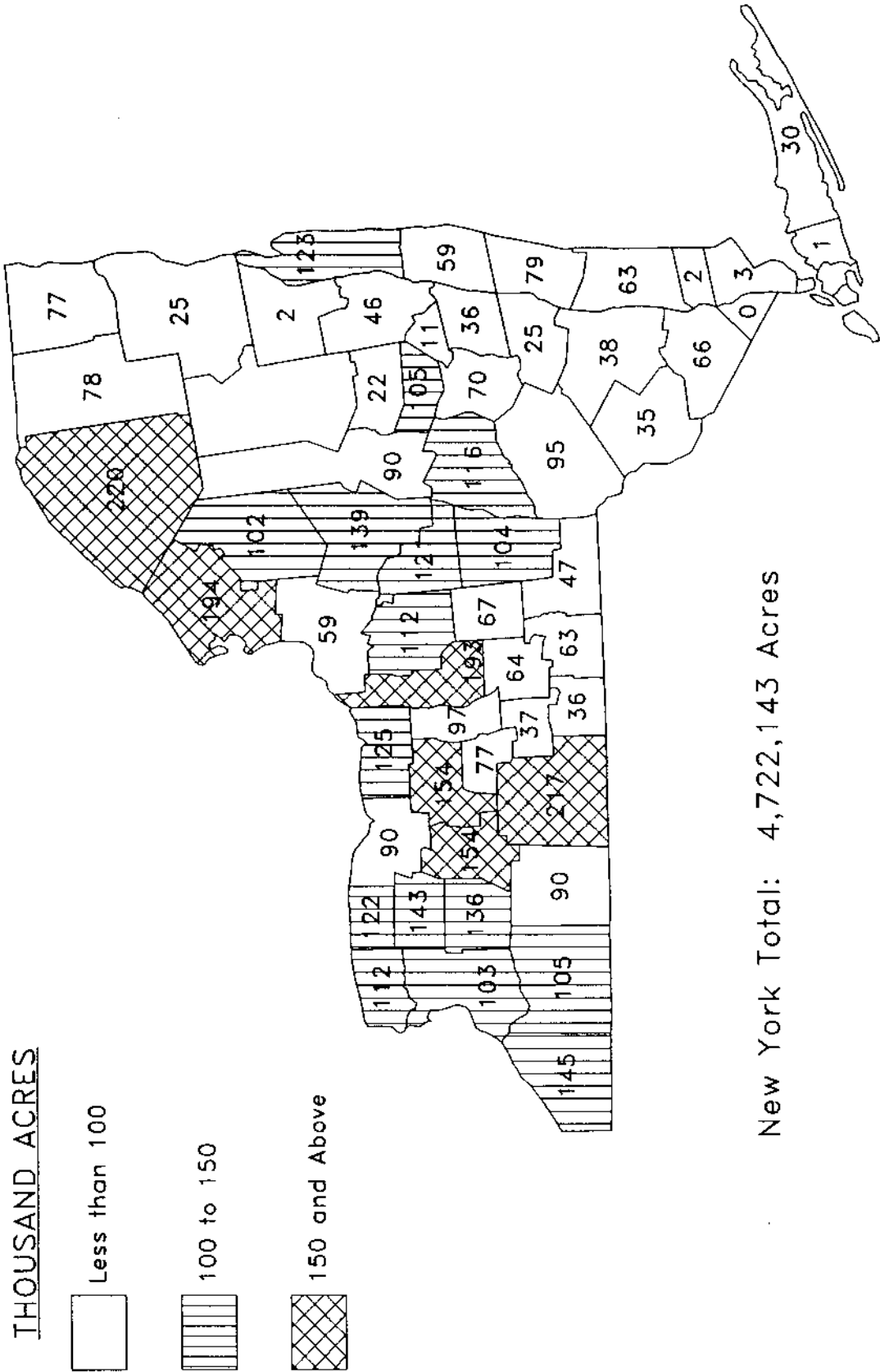


Figure 5. Total Cropland as a Percent of Land in Farms, 1997.

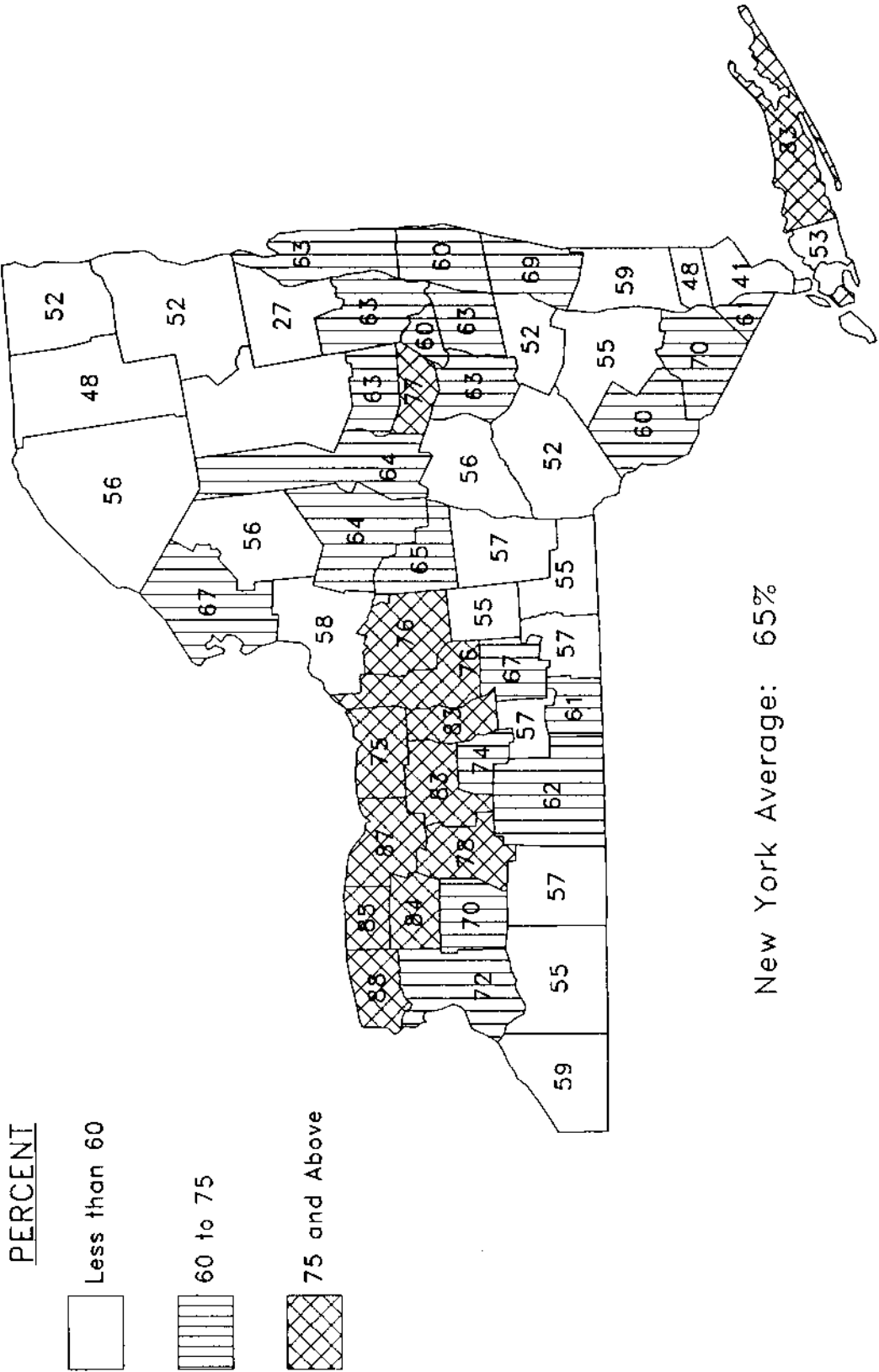








Figure 9. Corn Grain Acreage, Thousands, 1997.

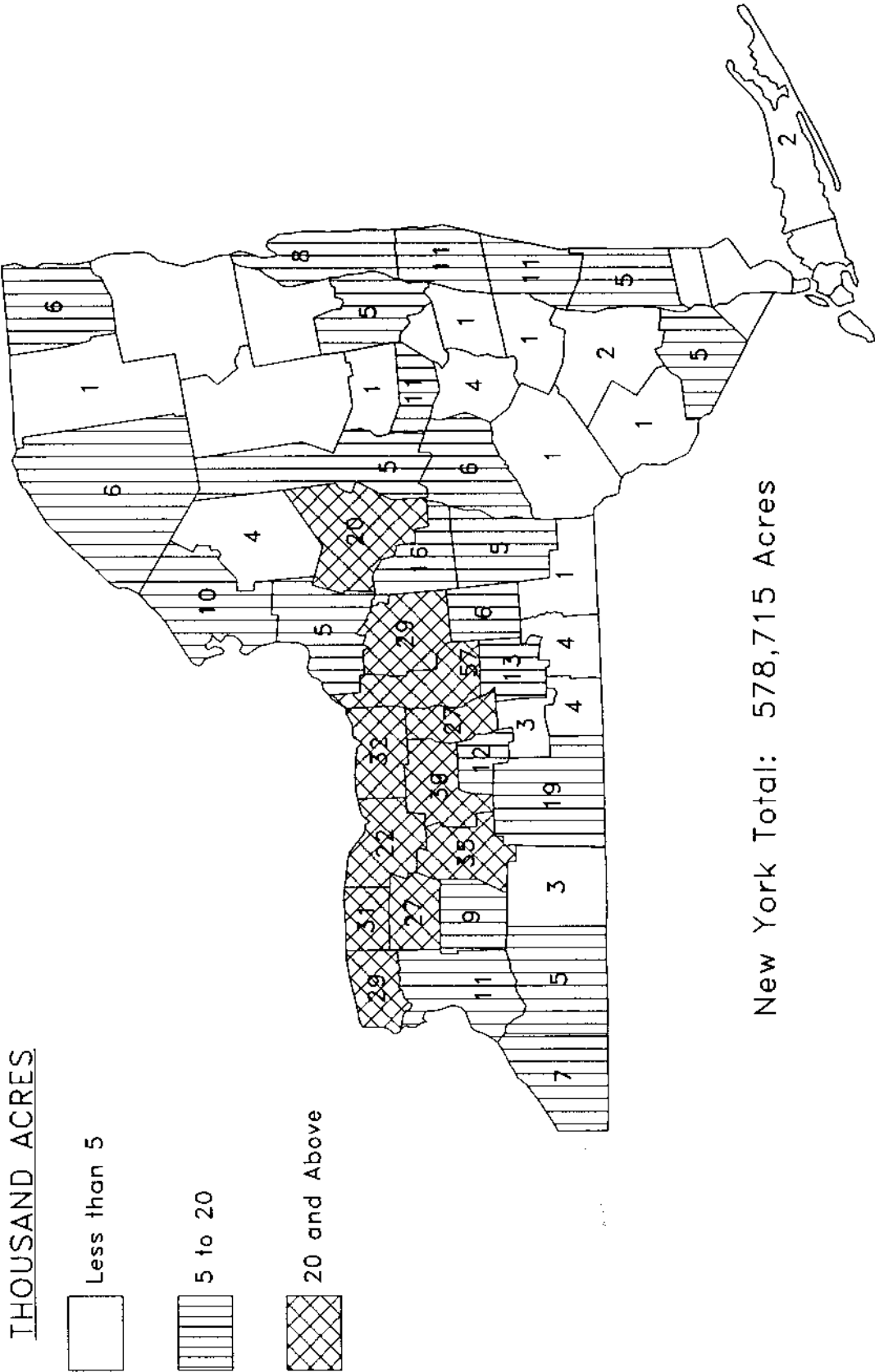


Figure 10. Corn Silage Acreage, Thousands, 1997.

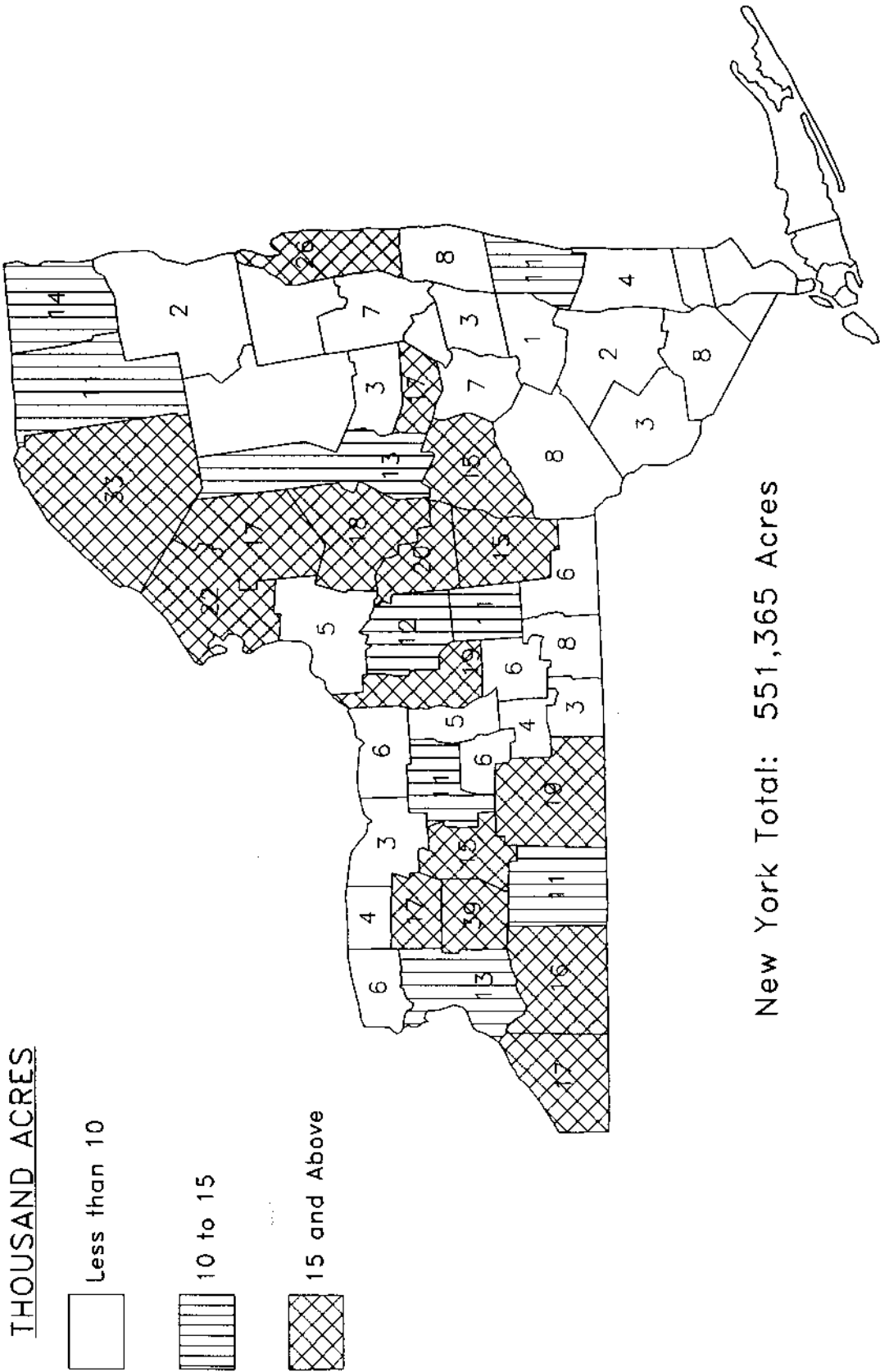


Figure 11. Hay Crops Acreage, Thousands, 1997.

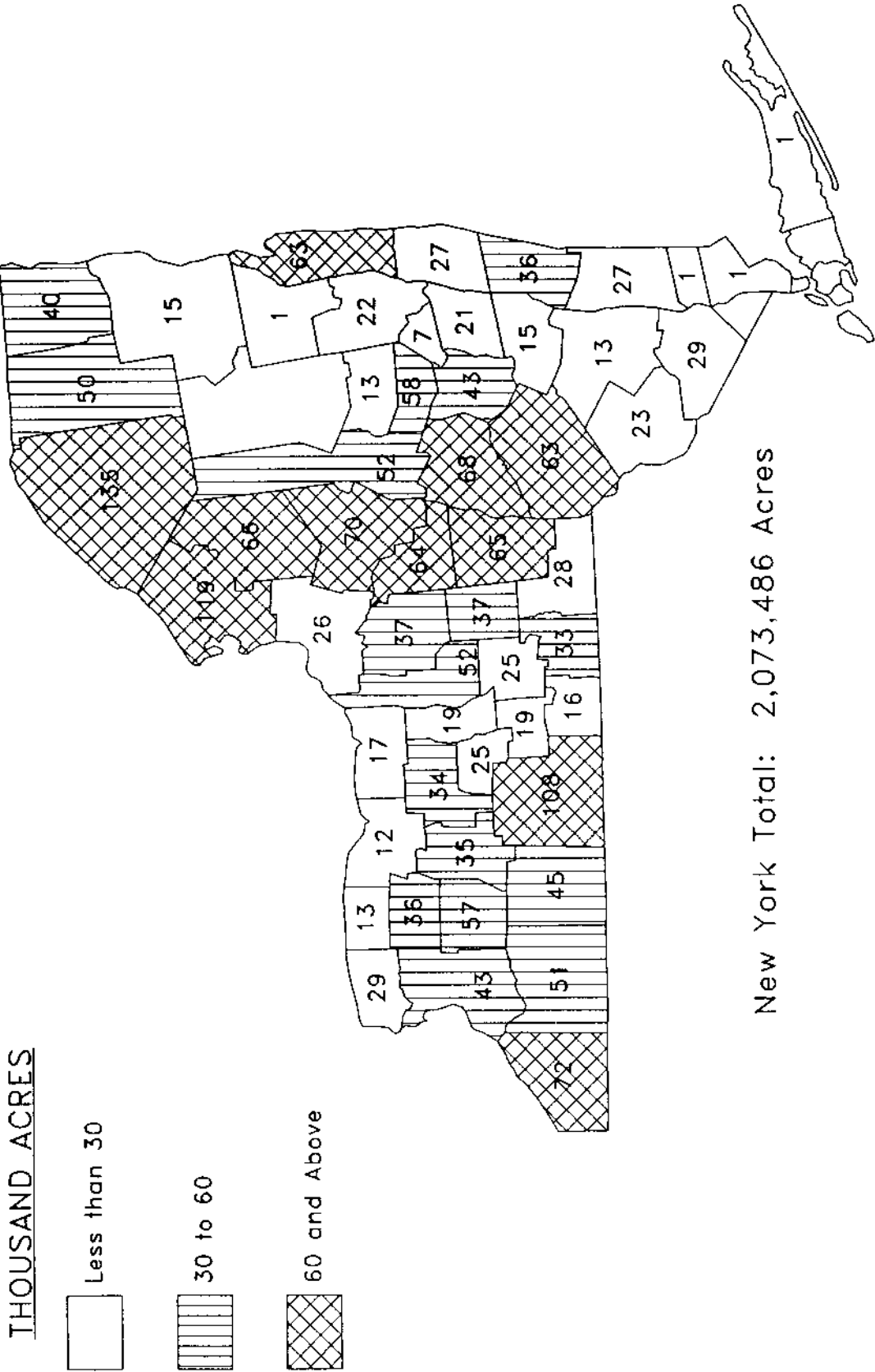








Figure 14. Potato Acreage, Thousands, 1997.

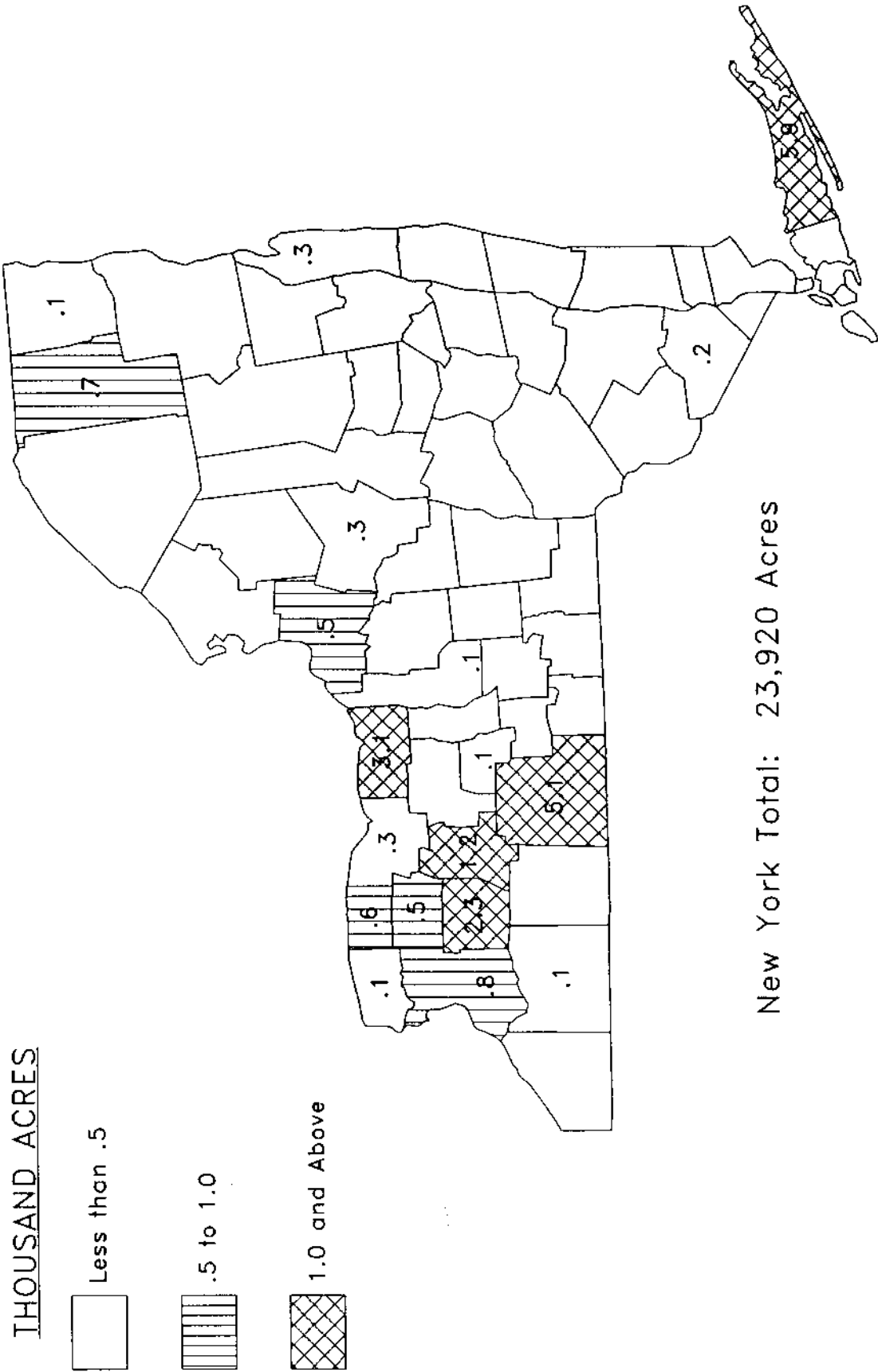


Figure 15. Orchards and Vineyards Acreage, Thousands, 1997.

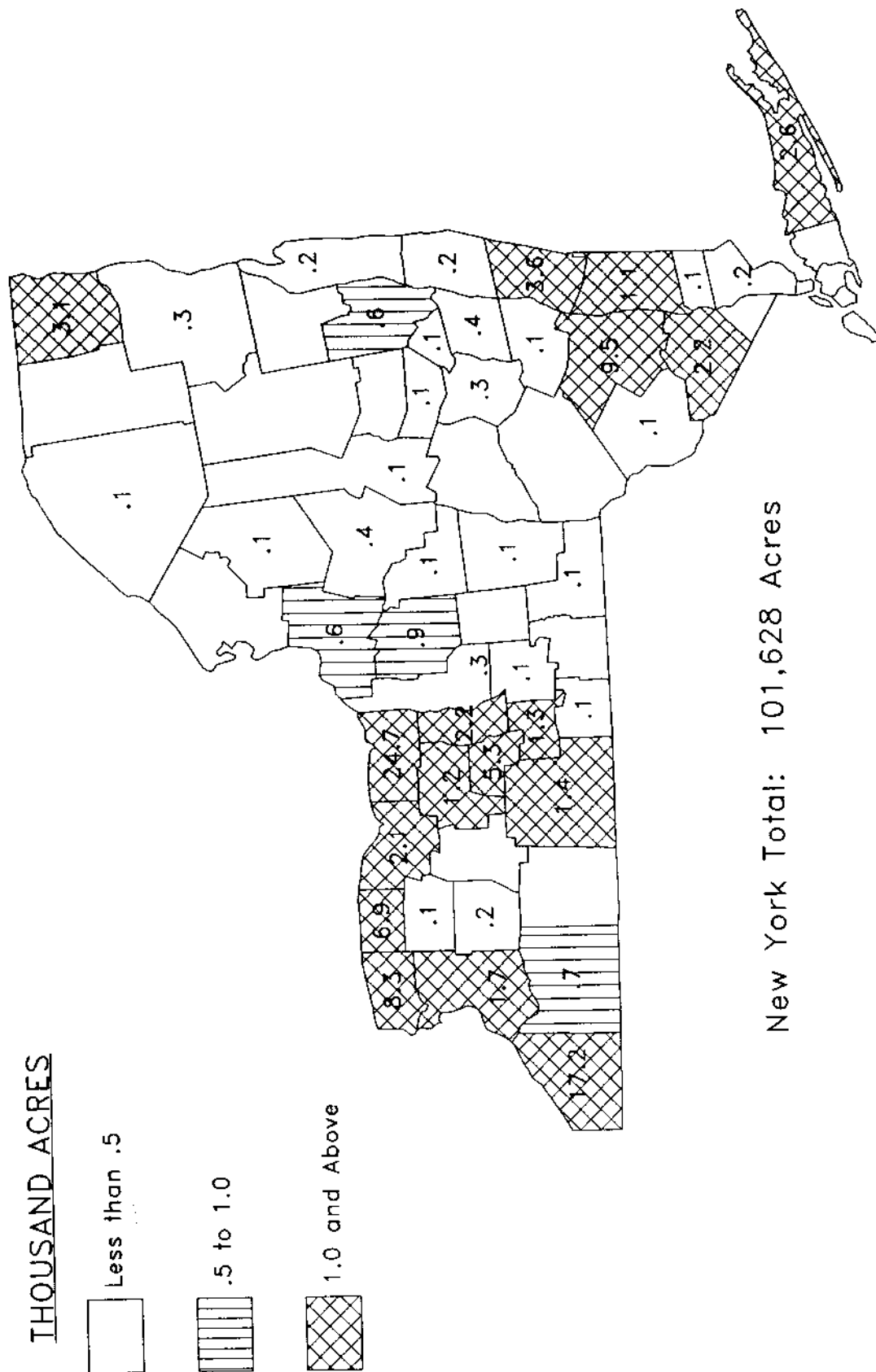




Figure 17. Grape Acreage, Thousands, 1997.

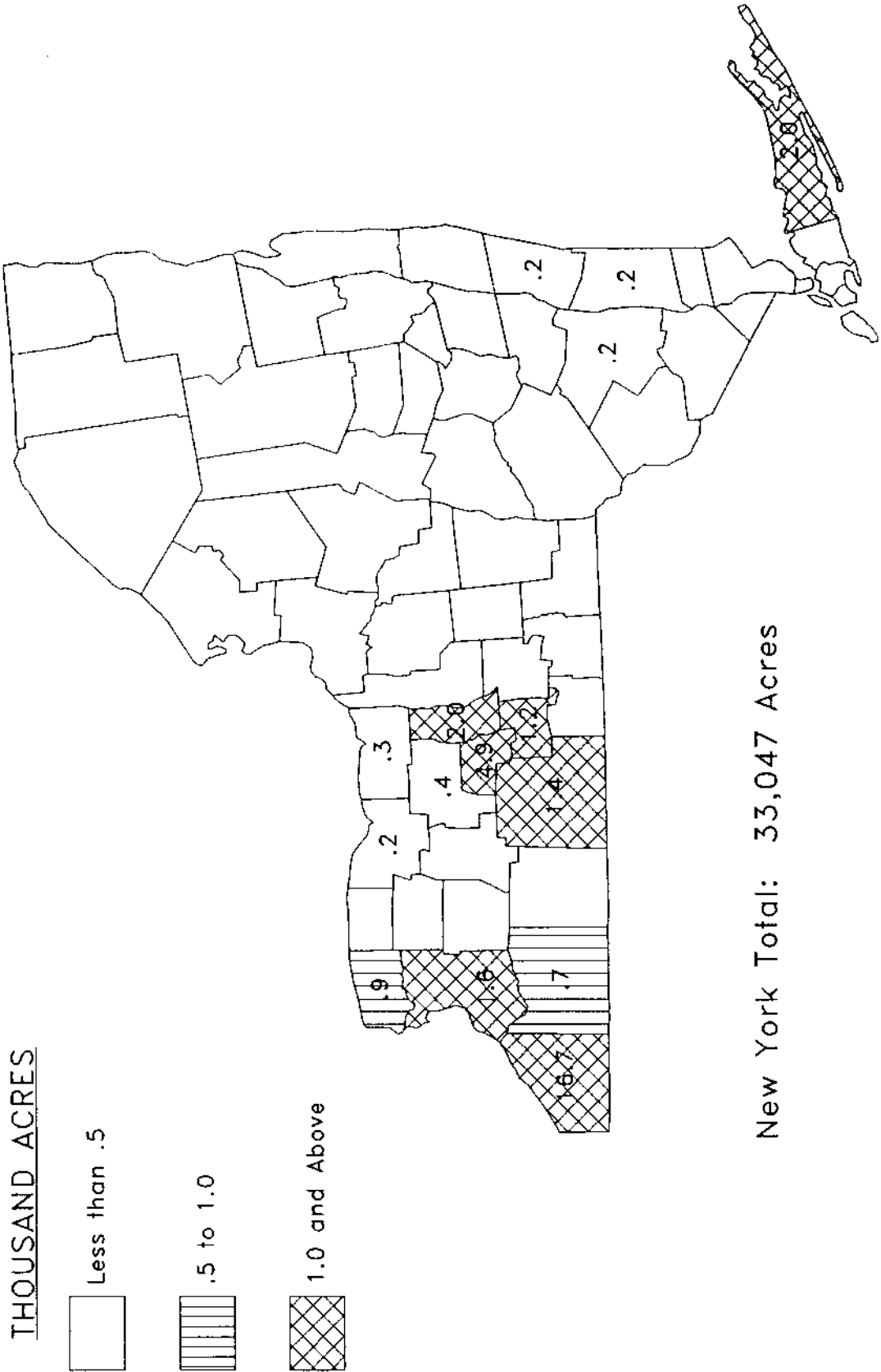




Figure 19. Number of Milk Cows, Thousands, 1997.

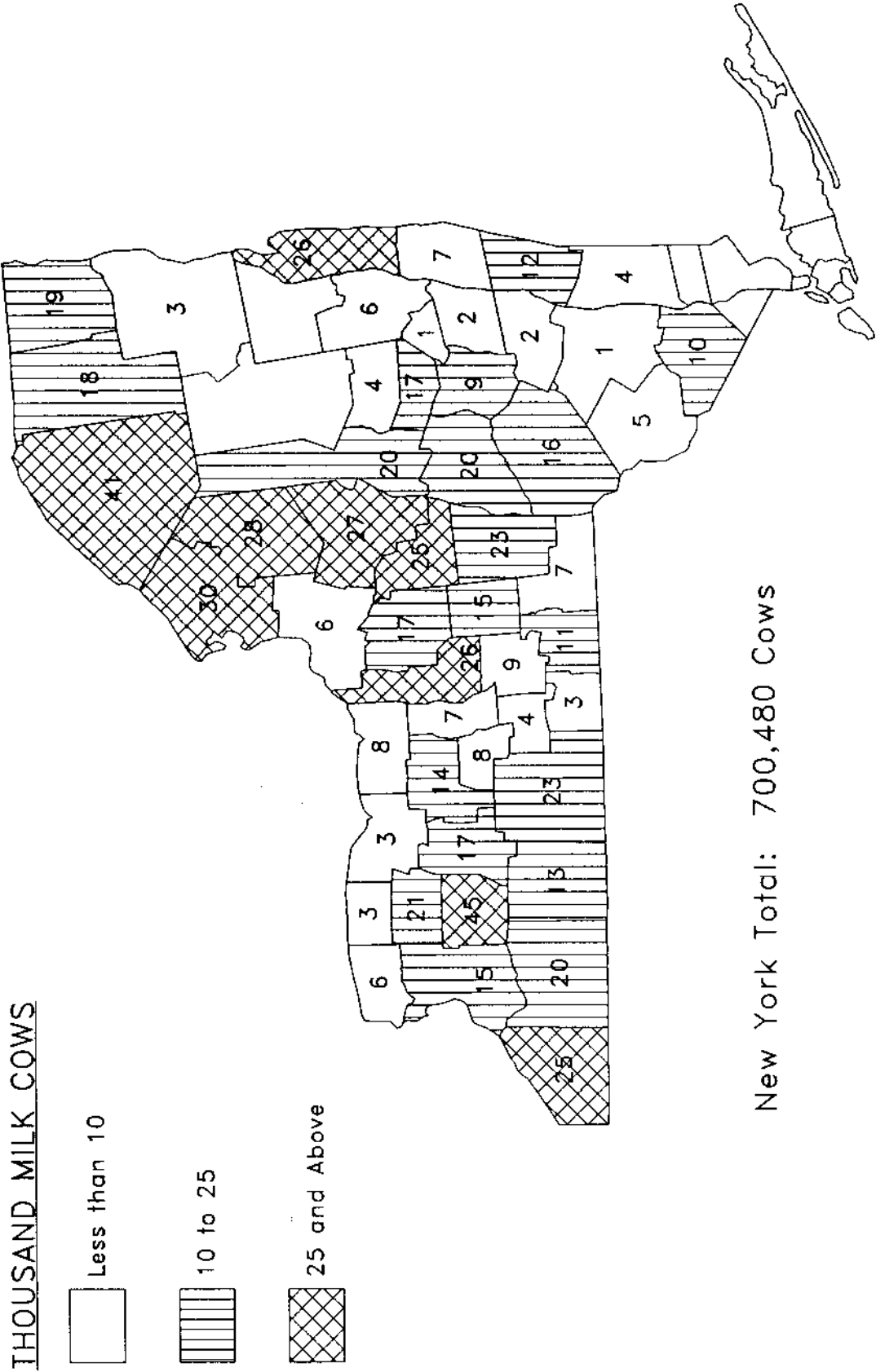






Figure 21. Hog and Pig Inventory, Thousands, 1997.

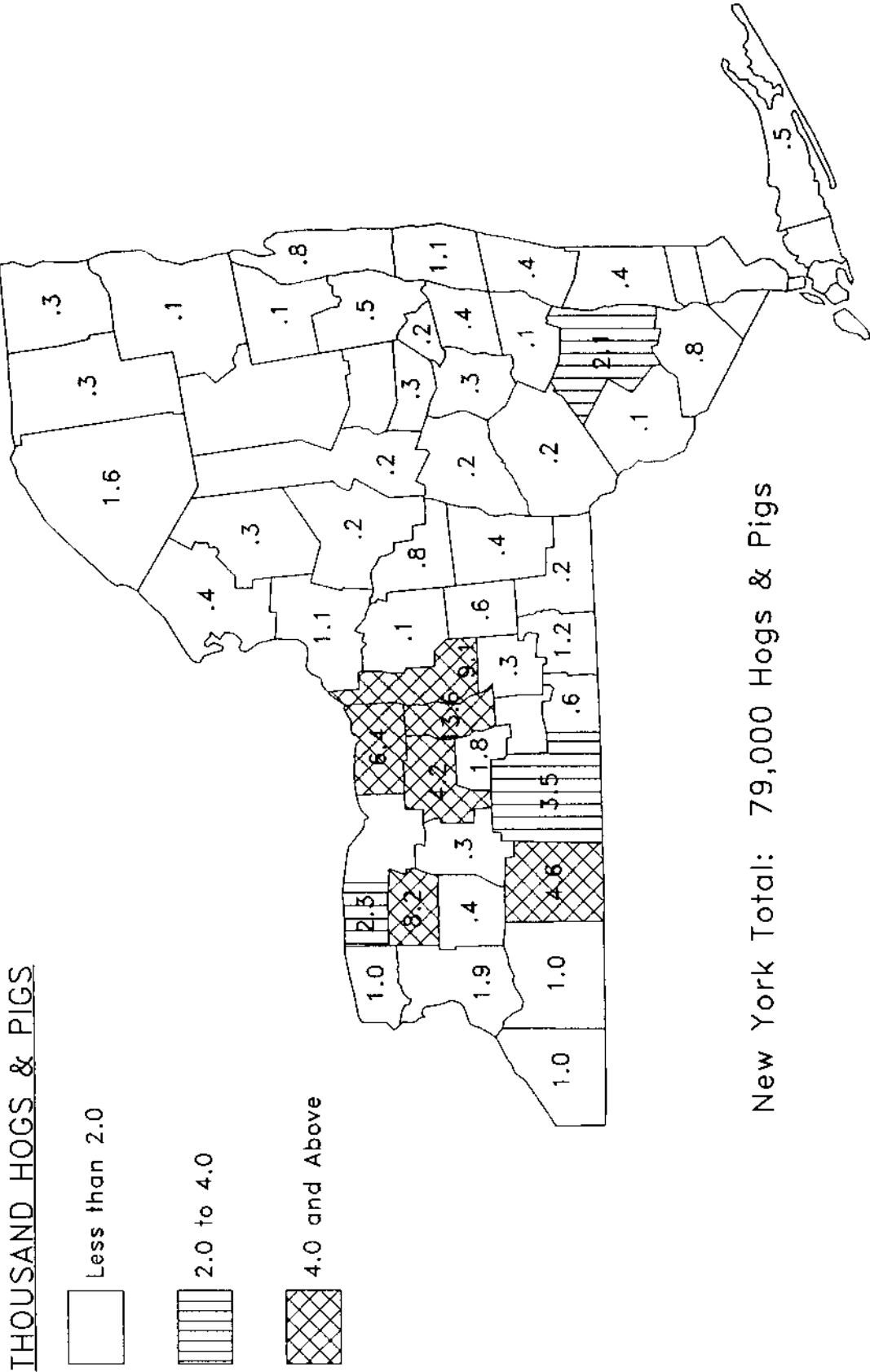










Figure 26. Number of Dairy Farms, 1997.

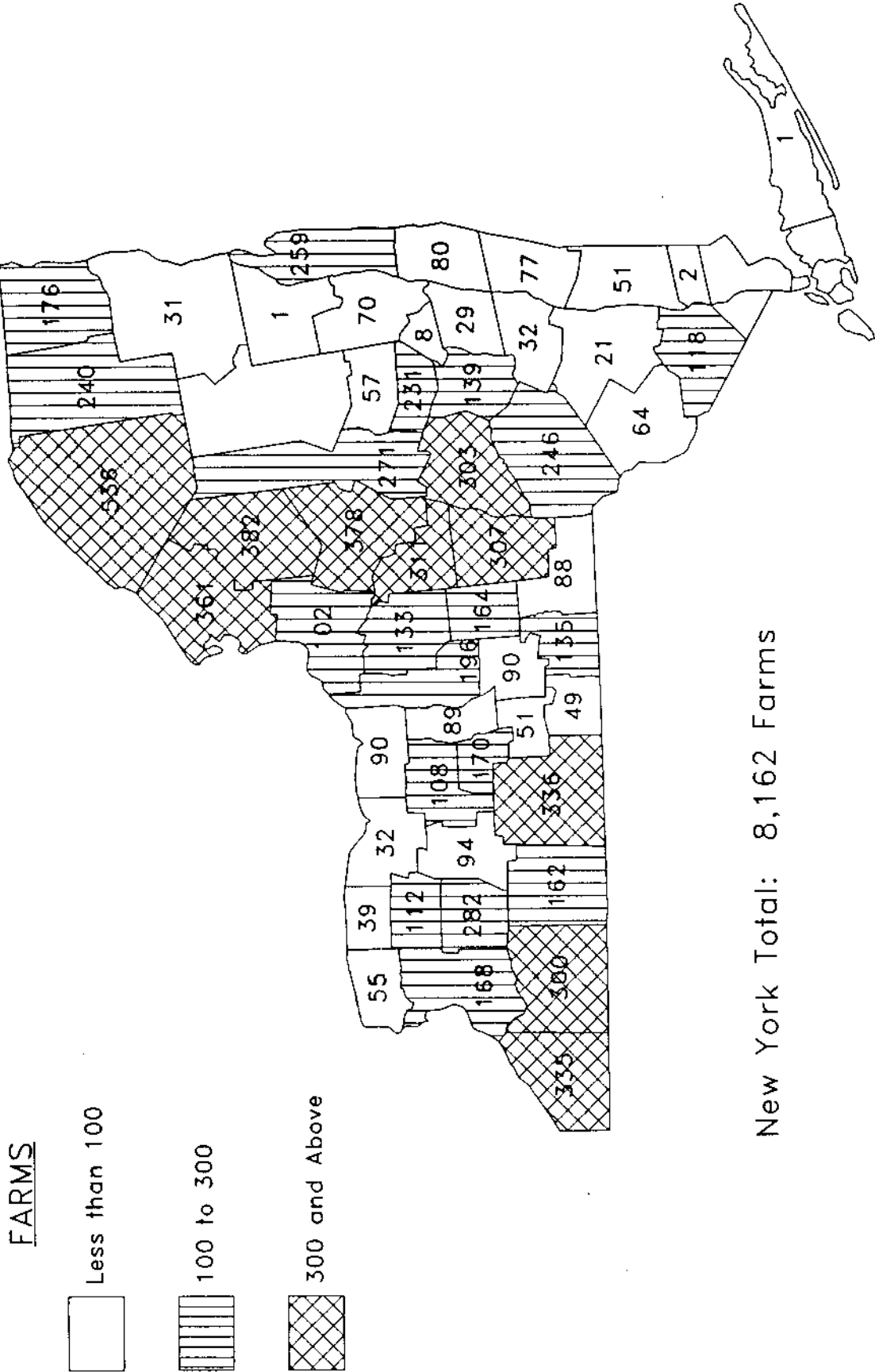


Figure 27. Dairy Product Sales, \$Millions, 1997.

