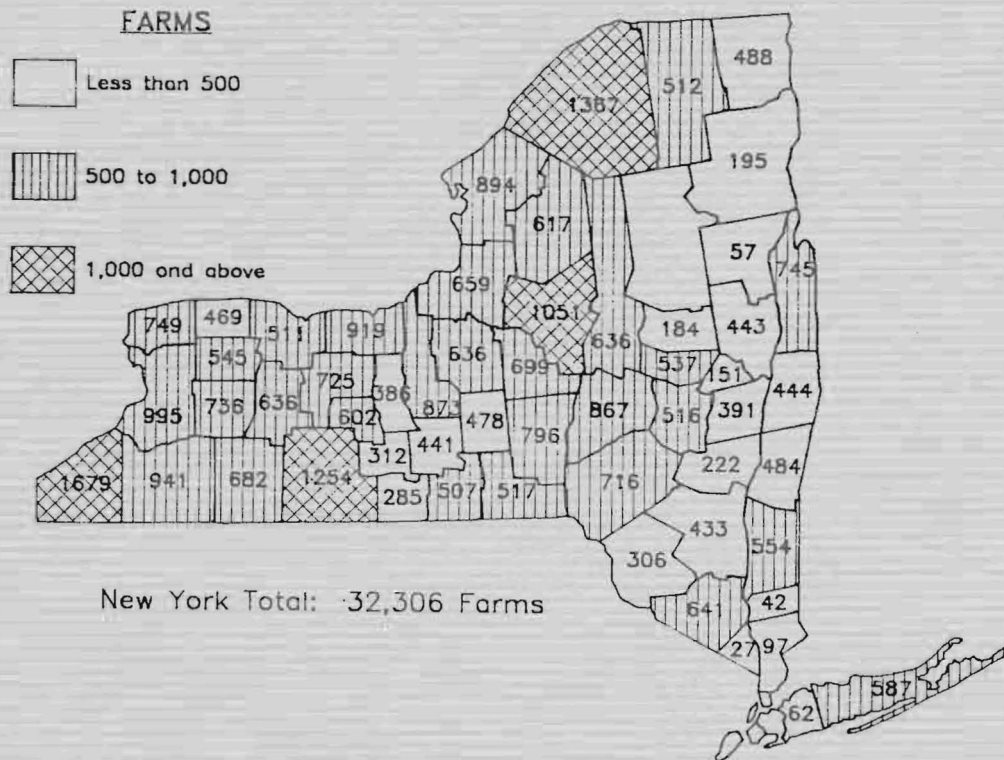


CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

New York State, 1992

Number of Farms, 1992



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CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS **New York State, 1992**

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 agricultural 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 (AC92-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 1987 Census Totals

Both the 1992 and 1987 censuses were conducted at the end of the year by mail survey. In 1993, this was followed by five letters for 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 1987 and 1992. 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 AC92-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 1987 and 1992 is that farm prices were higher in 1992 than in 1987. The index of prices received by farmers in 1987 was 127 compared to 140 for 1992, using 1977 = 100. The New York milk price index was 127 in 1987 and 133 in 1992, using 1977 = 100. Thus, in making comparisons on the value of sales over this period, one should recognize that prices had generally increased by 10 percent and by 5 percent for milk.

Definition of a Farm

The Census defines a farm in both 1987 and 1992 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 1992, 24.5 percent or 7.5 million acres were in farms. This is a decrease of nearly 960,000 acres from 1987 and more than 1.7 million acres since 1982. One hundred years earlier, the census of 1880 reported 22.9 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 fell considerably below 1969 acreage. Total cropland in 1992 was 4.88 million acres of which 72.5 percent was harvested.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total cropland</u> <u>(acres)</u>	<u>Total cropland</u> <u>harvested</u> <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

Of the total land in farms in 1992, over 65 percent is in cropland, an increase from 64 percent in 1987 (Table 1). 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.

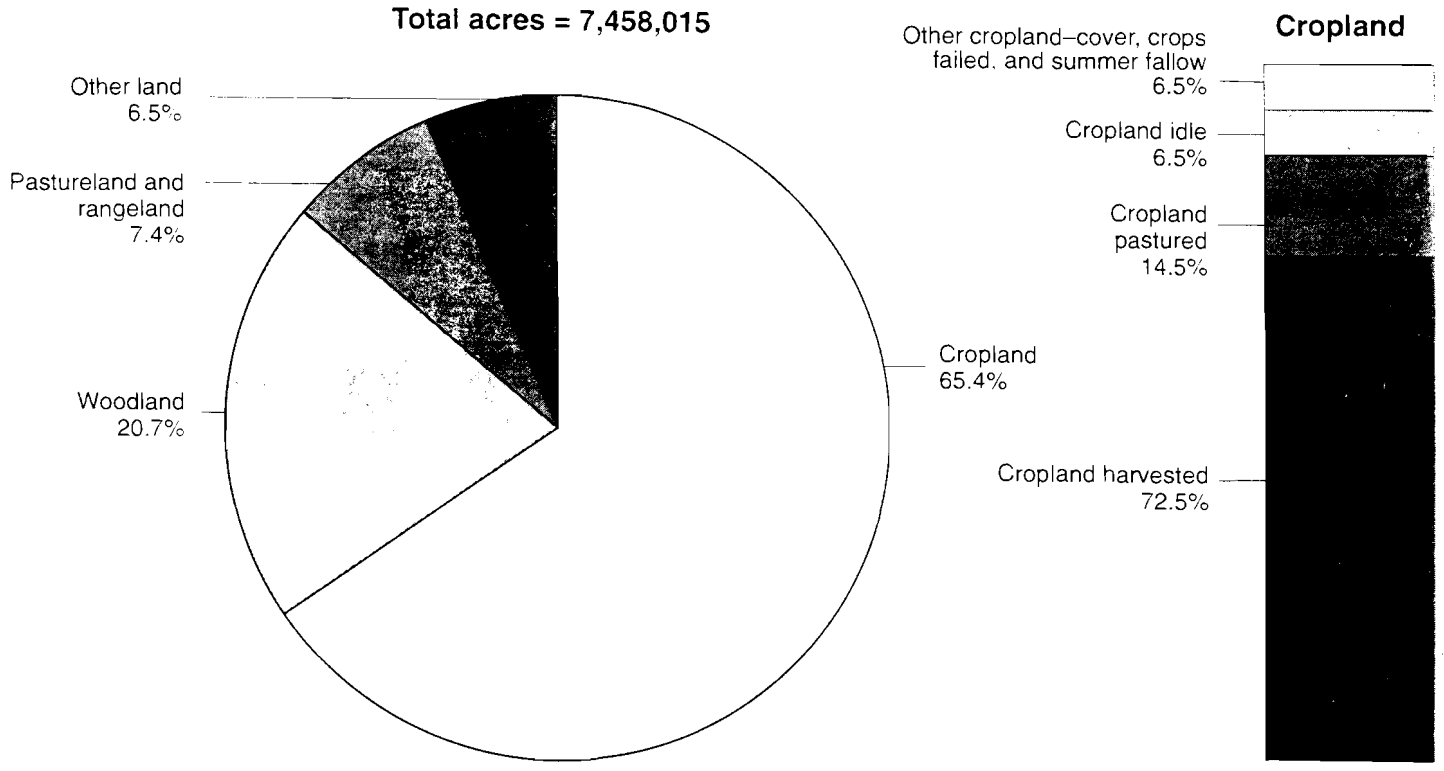
Table 1.

LAND IN FARMS BY MAJOR CATEGORIES
New York, 1992

<u>Description</u>	<u>1992</u> <u>acres</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>of total</u>
Total cropland	4,876,169	65.4
Harvested	3,534,898	47.4
Cropland pasture	709,566	9.5
Idle cropland & government programs	436,986	5.8
All other cropland	194,719	2.6
Total woodland	1,542,993	20.7
Woodland pastured	293,669	3.9
Woodland not pastured	1,249,324	16.8
Other pastureland and rangeland	554,338	7.4
Land in house lots, ponds, roads and wasteland	<u>484,515</u>	<u>6.5</u>
Total land in farms	7,458,015	100.0

CHART 1.

LAND IN FARMS BY MAJOR USES
New York, 1992



The distribution of farm numbers in 1987 and 1992 by size of farm shows decreases in all of the size categories except the two with 1,000 acres or more per farm. The bulk of the state's farmland is in units of 260 acres or more (Table 2). Nearly 70 percent of the farmland is operated by the 9,650 largest units. There are 12,221 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 2.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND TOTAL LAND IN FARMS
BY SIZE CLASS
New York, 1987 and 1992

Acres per farm	<u>Number of farms</u>		Total area, 1992
	1987	1992	
			<u>acres</u>
1 - 9	2,517	2,129	8,393
10 - 49	6,114	5,201	141,463
50 - 69	2,603	2,187	126,702
70 - 99	3,254	2,704	225,927
100 - 139	4,008	3,482	405,658
140 - 179	3,126	2,774	438,330
180 - 219	2,709	2,257	447,514
220 - 259	2,246	1,928	459,622
260 - 499	7,289	6,120	2,162,636
500 - 999	3,112	2,713	1,789,320
1,000 - 1,999	654	680	876,803
2,000 and over	<u>116</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>375,647</u>
Total	37,743	32,306	7,458,015

Full owners continue to be the dominant tenure class of farms (Table 3). 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 3.

FARMS BY TENURE STATUS AND FORM OF ORGANIZATION
New York, 1987 and 1992

Description	<u>Number of Farms</u>		Land in farms, 1992
	1987	1992	
			<u>acres</u>
<u>Tenure status:</u>			
Full owners	23,039	18,924	2,746,164
Part owners	12,532	11,417	4,310,632
Tenants	<u>2,172</u>	<u>1,965</u>	<u>401,219</u>
Total	37,743	32,306	7,458,015
<u>Form of organization:</u>			
Individual or family	32,149	27,346	5,387,802
Partnership	3,835	3,284	1,350,596
Corporations			
Family-held/less than 10 stockholders	1,396	1,351	591,752
Family-held/more than 10 stockholders	16	14	9,902
Other than family- held	133	156	64,541
Other--cooperative, estates, trusts, and institutional	<u>214</u>	<u>155</u>	<u>53,422</u>
Total	37,743	32,306	7,458,015

The predominant form of organization is individual or family operation. Partnerships account for a little over 10 percent of the businesses. The number of incorporated businesses has decreased modestly from 1987 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 0.7 percent of the total farmed.

Table 4.

FARM OPERATORS BY AGE GROUP
AND DAYS OF WORK OFF-FARM
New York, 1987 and 1992

Description	1987	1992
	<u>Number of Operators</u>	
<u>Operators by age group:</u>		
Under 25 years	370	331
25 - 34	4,100	2,736
34 - 44	8,413	6,997
45 - 54	8,862	7,912
55 - 64	8,860	7,341
65 and over	7,138	6,989
Average age	51.4	52.5
<u>Days of work off-farm:</u>		
0	18,079	15,838
1 - 99	2,943	2,388
100 - 199	3,147	2,729
200 and over	11,506	9,355
Not reporting	2,068	1,996

The average age of farm operators increased from 51.4 to 52.5 years between 1987 and 1992 (Table 4). The number of operators in all categories decreased. The pattern of number of days of work off the farm did not change in any important way between census years. Over 18,000 reported either no days worked off the farm or less than 100. At the other end of the spectrum, there are 9,355 with full-time jobs off the farm and another 2,729 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 5). Of the 32,306 farms enumerated, 33 percent had sales of \$5,000 or less in 1992. 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 5.

NUMBER OF FARMS BY VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD
New York, 1987 and 1992

Value of agricultural products sold	<u>Number of farms</u>		Total value of sales, 1992
	1987	1992	
			<u>millions</u>
Less than \$2,500	9,168	7,324	\$ 6.4
\$2,500 - 4,999	4,061	3,389	12.0
5,000 - 9,999	3,892	3,536	25.1
10,000 - 19,999	3,429	3,224	45.1
20,000 - 39,999	3,064	2,648	74.6
40,000 - 49,999	1,270	885	39.6
50,000 - 99,999	5,560	3,973	292.5
100,000 - 249,999	5,554	5,053	787.6
250,000 - 499,999	1,262	1,535	511.3
500,000 - 999,999	333	518	349.0
\$1,000,000 and over	150	221	478.7
Total	37,743	32,306	\$2,622.0

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 1992, there were 6,760 farms with sales between \$5,000 and \$20,000 or 20.9 percent of the total. The larger part-time businesses, sales of \$20,000-49,999, included 3,533 farms or 10.9 percent of the total. This group of part-time farms (\$5,000-50,000) sold about \$184 million of products or seven percent of the total.

The farms with sales of \$50,000 or more include 11,300 businesses or 35 percent of the total. Most of these get their primary source of family income from farming. The largest decline in numbers between 1987 and 1992 was from the group with sales from \$50,000-99,999. Those with sales of \$100,000-249,999 decreased by nine percent in five years. The three larger sales classes all increased reflecting national trends. Ninety-two 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 6. 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 declined by 10 percent, an important change for that sector.

Table 6.

TOTAL SALES BY TYPE OF PRODUCT
New York, 1987 and 1992

Description	<u>Value of sales</u>		Percent of total, 1992
	1987	1992	
	<u>millions</u>		
<u>Livestock:</u>			
Dairy products	\$1,343.7	\$1,428.8	54.5
Cattle and calves	210.4	218.7	8.3
Poultry and poultry products	90.3	80.9	3.1
Sheep, lambs & wool	3.7	3.5	0.1
Hogs and pigs	15.6	13.7	0.5
Other livestock	<u>76.8</u>	<u>67.1</u>	<u>2.6</u>
Total livestock	\$1,740.5	\$1,812.7	69.1
<u>Crops:</u>			
Fruit, nuts & berries	\$144.2	\$179.3	6.8
Vegetables & melons	158.5	180.9	6.9
Nursery & greenhouse products	168.2	218.2	8.3
Corn for grain	86.1	78.8	3.0
Hay, silage, seeds	63.1	69.3	2.6
Wheat	9.6	16.2	0.6
Oats	6.2	4.8	0.2
Other grains	15.4	17.1	0.7
Miscellaneous crops	<u>50.1</u>	<u>44.7</u>	<u>1.7</u>
Total crops	\$701.4	\$809.3	30.9
Total agricultural sales	\$2,441.9	\$2,622.0	100.0

Crop sales increased as a share of the total with the major change associated with nursery and greenhouse products. Sales were up 29.7 percent in five years reflecting important growth in this industry. Vegetables and melons were up by 14 percent; corn for grain was the commodity with a substantial drop in value, partly reflecting an important reduction in price as well as volume.

All farms are classified by type according to a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) used for all census tabulations (Table 7). The most important group in terms of sales as well as numbers is dairy, 60 percent of all sales. The next three groups, horticultural specialties, 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, horticultural specialties and vegetables and melons are \$100,000 or more. Fruit and tree nuts at \$73,000 includes a number of part-time operations.

Table 7.

FARMS BY TYPE: STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION
New York, 1992

Type of farm	Number of farms	Market value of total sales
		<u>millions</u>
Dairy	9,698	\$1,585
Horticultural specialties	1,697	217
Vegetables and melons	1,503	182
Fruit and tree nuts	2,397	175
Livestock: beef, sheep, hogs	6,738	109
Field crops except cash grains	4,920	91
Poultry and eggs	294	82
Animal specialties	1,940	64
Cash grains	1,559	80
General: crops	1,282	25
General: livestock	278	11
	32,306	\$2,622

There are large numbers of part-time and residential farms especially in the groups designated as "Livestock: beef, sheep, hogs" and "Field crops except cash grains." The only other SIC group where the bulk of the farms are relatively large commercial enterprises is poultry and eggs; average sales per farm is \$279,000.

Government Payments and Other Farm-Related Income

Direct government payments to farmers have decreased in 1992 compared to 1987. Deficiency payments were received as part of participation in wheat and feed grains programs. New York farmers received a total of \$28.7 million dollars from these sources (Table 8). 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 8.

GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS
AND OTHER FARM-RELATED INCOME
New York, 1992

Distribution of such income	Number of farms	Total value of such income millions
<u>Government payments:</u>		
\$0 - 999	1,820	\$0.9
1,000 - 4,999	2,751	6.9
5,000 - 9,999	934	6.4
10,000 - 24,999	604	8.8
25,000 - 49,999	110	3.7
\$50,000 and over	<u>29</u>	<u>1.9</u>
Total	6,248	\$28.7
<u>Other farm-related income:*</u>		
\$0 - 999	3,383	\$ 1.3
1,000 - 4,999	3,524	7.9
5,000 - 9,999	928	6.3
10,000 - 24,999	798	12.1
25,000 - 49,999	138	4.5
\$50,000 and over	<u>64</u>	<u>6.0</u>
Total	8,835	\$38.1

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

More than 6,000 farmers received some direct payments in New York. Over half, however, received payments of \$5,000 or less. There were only 139 farms who 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 78 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 items.

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 \$20,000, 54 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 9). In fact, there is a much wider distribution of gains and losses than might have been expected.

Table 9.

NET CASH RETURN FROM AGRICULTURAL SALES
New York, 1992

Size of net cash return or loss	Number of farms	Percent of all farms
<u>Gains of:</u>		
\$50,000 and over	3,409	10.5
25,000 - 49,999	3,312	10.2
10,000 - 24,999	3,487	10.8
5,000 - 9,999	2,112	6.5
1,000 - 4,999	2,986	9.2
\$0 - 999	<u>1,467</u>	<u>4.5</u>
Subtotal	16,773	51.7
<u>Losses of:</u>		
\$0 - -999	1,757	5.4
-1,000 - -4,999	6,483	20.1
-5,000 - -9,999	3,841	11.9
-10,000 - -24,999	2,691	8.3
-25,000 - -49,999	544	1.7
-\$50,000 and over	<u>224</u>	<u>0.7</u>
Total	<u>32,313</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Average net return per farm	\$14,123	
Average net return, farms w/gains	34,667	
Average net return, farms w/losses	-8,050	

There were 16,773 farms reporting gains, 51.9 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 decreased by a little more than 9 percent between 1987 and 1992 to about 3.5 million acres. Part of this reduction can be attributed to the federal Acreage Reduction Program requirement associated with producing wheat and feed grains. The primary uses of cropland were as follows:

	<u>Percent</u>	
	<u>1987</u>	<u>1992</u>
Hay and grass silage	57	57
Corn for grain	15	15
Corn for silage	13	15
Oats	4	3
Wheat	2	3
Vegetables & potatoes	5	4
Fruit & berries	3	3
All other	<u>1</u>	<u><1</u>
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 245,000 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 70 percent of all farms reported some acreage harvested. Of those with some hay harvested, 43 percent had 50 acres or less. Those with 50 acres or more included a large share of the commercial farms and accounted for 89 percent of the total acreage in these crops.

Table 10.

ALL HAY AND GRASS SILAGE:
FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES
New York, 1987 and 1992

Acres harvested	Number of farms in 1992	Total acres	
		1987	1992
1 - 14	2,774	29,757	23,193
15 - 24	2,366	56,676	44,494
25 - 49	4,421	185,167	154,143
50 - 99	5,451	450,797	374,680
100 - 249	5,866	1,010,415	873,049
250 - 499	1,324	411,843	424,397
500 - 999	162	92,723	100,675
1,000 and over	<u>12</u>	<u>21,741</u>	<u>19,015</u>
Total	22,376	2,259,119	2,013,646

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 and in 1992 about 519,000 acres were harvested.

<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

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 11.

CORN FOR GRAIN OR SEED:
FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES
New York, 1987 and 1992

Acres harvested	Number of farms in 1992	Total acres	
		1987	1992
1 - 14	1,260	20,285	8,946
15 - 24	595	24,371	11,157
25 - 49	1,169	62,560	40,798
50 - 99	1,249	114,207	84,255
100 - 249	975	178,827	144,724
250 - 499	319	107,215	107,177
500 - 999	124	68,383	79,043
1,000 and over	33	22,967	42,739
Total	5,724	598,815	518,839

Corn for grain was harvested on 18 percent of the farms in the state. About 53 percent of the farms had enterprises of 50 acres or less. These accounted for 12 percent of the acreage. The important reductions in acreage from 1987 occurred on farms with less than 250 acres of corn as suggested in Table 11. The increase in acreage for enterprises of 500 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 most dairy farms. Corn for silage was harvested on nearly 10,000 farms. The bulk of the acreage was in enterprises of 25 to 250 acres (Table 12). The total acres of corn for silage increased by almost 4 percent between 1987 and 1992. There were decreases in farms harvesting less than 100 acres, and increases in farms harvesting more than 100 acres.

Table 12.

CORN FOR SILAGE: FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES
New York, 1987 and 1992

Acres harvested	Number of farms in 1992	Total acres	
		1987	1992
1 - 14	1,811	21,736	15,192
15 - 24	1,544	41,724	29,103
25 - 49	2,830	120,363	97,484
50 - 99	2,288	163,289	149,743
100 - 249	1,159	130,379	159,688
250 - 499	187	35,624	60,182
500 - and over	<u>43</u>	<u>12,343</u>	<u>32,653</u>
Total	9,862	525,458	544,045

Oats

Oats continues as 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.

<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
1940	626,234
1950	563,728
1959	576,260
1969	361,600
1978	272,507
1982	249,804
1987	162,733
1992	109,686

The drop in acreage and in numbers of producers from 1987 is important. Acreage decreased by one-third. The number of producers dropped from 6,364 in 1982 to 4,059 in 1992. There were decreases in acreage in each of the different size of enterprise classes (Table 13) except farms with over 250 acres harvested.

Table 13.

OATS FOR GRAIN: FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES
New York, 1987 and 1992

Acres harvested	Number of farms in 1992	Total acres	
		1987	1992
1 - 14	1,738	23,521	14,410
15 - 24	879	25,748	16,174
25 - 49	864	45,290	28,597
50 - 99	422	38,759	26,487
100 - 249	139	24,733	17,860
250 - and over	<u>17</u>	<u>4,682</u>	<u>6,158</u>
Total	4,059	162,733	109,686

Other Small Grains

Wheat production increased between 1987 and 1992 from 86,345 to 117,908 acres. 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.

Numbers of farms reporting other field crops and the number of acres produced in 1987 and 1992 are listed below:

<u>Crops</u>	<u>Farms Reporting</u>		<u>Total Acres</u>	
	<u>1987</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1992</u>
Dry edible beans	505	430	36,895	36,531
Soybeans	382	627	25,059	48,107
Barley	788	409	19,113	9,791
Rye	283	483	6,145	9,842
Buckwheat	224	98	5,607	2,520
Sorghum, forage	364	290	4,909	4,873
Sunflowers	25	28	1,360	462

Vegetables

Commercial vegetables 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 587 farms producing 28,861 acres in 1992. This is a decline from 1987 when 602 farms produced potatoes on 35,682 acres. Most decreases occurred in Suffolk County where the acreage harvested fell from 10,358 to 7,032 acres. In contrast, Wayne County increased its acreage by more than 300 acres.

Table 14.

ALL VEGETABLES: FARMS AND HARVESTED ACRES
New York, 1987 and 1992

Acres harvested	Number of farms in 1992	Total acres	
		1987	1992
0.1 - 0.9	206	63	95
1.0 - 4.9	788	1,955	1,911
5.0 - 14.9	711	5,804	5,887
15.0 - 24.9	260	4,959	4,834
25.0 - 49.9	281	10,375	9,610
50.0 - 99.9	224	18,264	15,472
100.0 - 249.9	175	29,321	27,501
250.0 - 499.9	67	22,168	22,940
500.0 and over	<u>46</u>	<u>57,146</u>	<u>51,592</u>
Total	2,758	150,054	139,841

The acreage of commercial vegetable production (excluding potatoes) and its distribution by size of enterprise is presented in Table 14. Of the nearly 140,000 acres, nearly 91 percent are on the 793 farms with 25 acres of vegetables or more. Over 36 percent of the total acreage is produced by the 46 farms with 500 acres or more of commercial vegetable production.

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 1992 and the acreages in the 1987 census.

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	
	<u>1987</u>	<u>1992</u>
Sweet corn	50,440	52,187
Snap beans	31,963	23,933
Cabbage	15,004	13,842
Onions	11,635	12,066
Peas	9,586	9,956
Pumpkins	3,108	4,574
Tomatoes	3,824	3,110
Cucumbers	2,944	3,099
Squash	2,073	2,586
Beets	3,625	1,856
Spinach	1,865	1,648
Lettuce	3,347	1,537
Sweet peppers	1,306	1,129
Carrots	1,002	1,089
Cauliflower	1,551	1,046
Broccoli	1,262	646

Sweet corn continues as the most important of these vegetable crops in terms of acreage. Onions was one of the major vegetables to increase in acreage over 1987. Snap beans declined as did cabbage. The area devoted to peas increased by 370 acres. Tomatoes, beets, and lettuce lost position. Pumpkins are now a much more important crop, increasing by nearly 1,500 acres. Squash was also a big gainer.

Fruit and Berries

The acreage in commercial fruit production decreased by nearly 9.3 percent between 1987 and 1992. Most of the decrease was in apples and grapes, the two principal crops. There were 2,938 farms reporting some acreage of fruit (Table 15). Of these, 978 had orchards or vineyards of 25 acres or more which accounted for 86 percent of the total acres. Those with 100 acres or more made up 56 percent of the total.

Table 15.

LAND IN ORCHARDS AND VINES: FARMS AND ACREAGE
New York, 1987 and 1992

Acres harvested	Number of farms in 1992	Total acres	
		1987	1992
0.1 - 4.9	881	2,146	1,881
5.0 - 14.9	749	7,573	6,466
15.0 - 24.9	330	6,674	6,129
25.0 - 49.9	413	14,925	14,274
50.0 - 99.9	281	21,329	19,494
100.0 - 499.9	268	55,367	50,480
500 acres & over	16	16,418	12,433
Total	2,938	124,432	112,905

The primary fruit crops in 1992 compared to 1987 were:

<u>Crop</u>	Total Acres	
	<u>1987</u>	<u>1992</u>
Apples	73,195	67,313
Grapes	36,916	34,250
Cherries, tart	5,443	4,083
Cherries, sweet	1,461	1,122
Pears	3,634	2,882
Peaches	2,596	2,266
Berries, all brambles	3,479	3,264
Strawberries	2,369	1,991
Plums and prunes	1,038	584

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 root stock is used to replace older trees.

Nursery and Greenhouse

Nursery and greenhouse operations have increased in numbers and importance between 1987 and 1992. Total acreage devoted to these intensive operations increased from 14,242 in 1982 to 16,066 in 1987 and 18,791 in 1992. Included in these totals are the lands used to produce sod and turf grass. Total sales increased from \$168.2 million in 1987 to \$218.2 million in 1992, an increase of 30 percent.

There were 2,069 farms reporting nursery and greenhouse operations in 1992 compared with 1,795 in 1987. Over the five years, the area under glass or other protection increased from 24.0 million square feet to 25.0 million, a 4 percent increase. The counties with the largest areas of greenhouse space are Suffolk (37 percent of the total), Erie (8 percent of the total) and Orange (4 percent of the total). The leading counties in terms of land area devoted to these crops are also Suffolk, Erie and Orange.

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 1992, there were 10,696 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 1,481 farms with less than 20 cows counted for 14 percent of the farms and one percent of all the dairy cows (Table 16).

Table 16.

NUMBER OF FARMS BY SIZE OF DAIRY MILKING HERD
New York, 1987 and 1992

Number of milk cows	Number of farms in 1992	Number of milk cows	
		1987	1992
1 - 9	1,068	4,487	3,062
10 - 19	413	7,023	5,869
20 - 49	3,340	171,333	121,073
50 - 99	4,073	343,965	272,573
100 - 199	1,389	190,489	178,890
200 - 499	360	76,888	99,191
500 and over	<u>53</u>	<u>20,276</u>	<u>40,628</u>
Total	10,696	814,461	721,286

The size class with the most farms and the most cows was 50-99 milking animals. Most of the decreases in cows between 1987 and 1992 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 of slaughter weights.

Table 17.

BEEF CATTLE: FARMS AND NUMBERS
New York, 1987 and 1992

Number of beef cows	Number of farms in 1992	Total number of beef cows	
		1987	1992
1 - 9	3,517	17,688	14,114
10 - 19	1,295	18,643	17,041
20 - 49	874	20,538	24,148
50 - 99	145	7,720	9,250
100 - 199	36	2,949	4,548
200 and over	<u>13</u>	<u>4,089</u>	<u>3,870</u>
Total	5,880	71,627	72,971

The number of farms reporting beef cows in 1992 was 5,880, down quite sharply from 1987 when there was 6,798. Much of this decline in numbers is associated with farms reporting 1-9 cows, 3,517 in 1992 compared to 4,477 in 1987. In most of the other size categories, there was substantial stability (Table 17). The number of farms with 100 cows or more remains small, 49 such operations accounting for about 12 percent of all the cattle.

Laying Hens and Pullets

Egg production is the most important reason for keeping poultry in New York. This industry decreased by about 19 percent between 1987 and 1992 as numbers of layers decreased from 4.7 million to 3.8 million. There were 35 farms in 1992 with 20,000 hens or pullets of laying age or more. These 35 farms accounted for 94 percent of the state's laying flock (Table 18).

Table 18.

HENS AND PULLETS OF LAYING AGE
New York, 1987 and 1992

Hens and pullets of laying age	Number of farms in 1992	Total number of hens and pullets	
		1987	1992
1 - 99	1,863	62,843	41,659
100 - 399	112	35,517	17,689
400 - 3,199	33	74,922	41,953
3,200 - 19,999	15	387,285	137,667
20,000 - 49,999	17	810,776	506,434
50,000 - 99,999	9	844,657	600,730
100,000 and over	9	2,472,275	2,432,969
Total	2,058	4,688,275	3,779,101

There were decreases in numbers of farms with laying hens in each of the size categories in comparison with 1987. 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 142 farms reporting broilers and other meat-type chickens sold in 1992 compared with 206 in 1987. Production was also down by 39 percent in 1992 with 1.0 million birds sold compared with 1.7 million in 1987. Most of this production was concentrated on the three farms with 100,000 birds or more.

The number of farms selling turkeys decreased from 241 in 1987 to 171 in 1992. 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 21 percent from 2,644 in 1987 to 2,094 in 1992. Most of this decrease was in farms with 1-24 pigs (Table 19). The number of hogs and pigs declined by 9 percent. Most of this occurred by reductions of numbers in the smaller enterprises. There were 94 farms with 200 hogs or more. They accounted for 66 percent of total numbers.

Table 19.

HOGS AND PIGS: FARMS AND INVENTORY NUMBERS
New York, 1987 and 1992.

Number of hogs and pigs	Number of farms in 1992	Total number of hogs and pigs	
		1987	1992
1 - 24	1,699	12,510	9,785
25 - 49	129	6,922	4,323
50 - 99	96	8,180	6,305
100 - 199	76	12,191	10,421
200 - 499	58	23,091	16,589
500 and over	<u>36</u>	<u>36,666</u>	<u>42,859</u>
Total	2,094	99,560	90,282

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms reporting sheep and lambs decreased from 1,943 in 1987 to 1,705 in 1992. The total number of sheep and lambs increased by 0.3 percent to 76,682 (Table 20). Numbers decreased in all the different sizes of enterprises except for those with flocks of 100 - 1,000. Over half of the sheep are in enterprises with 25 to 300 head. There were 46 farms with 300 or more sheep accounting for 35 percent of total numbers.

Table 20.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: FARMS AND INVENTORY NUMBERS
New York, 1987 and 1992

Number of sheep and lambs	Number of farms in 1992	Total number of sheep and lambs	
		1987	1992
1 - 24	1,040	11,473	9,731
25 - 99	499	25,798	22,172
100 - 299	120	17,793	18,274
300 - 999	41	13,671	19,151
1,000 and over	<u>5</u>	<u>7,712</u>	<u>7,354</u>
Total	1,705	76,447	76,682

Other Livestock

In 1992, there were 6,458 farms reporting 43,278 horses in contrast to 8,306 farms in 1987 with 53,435 horses, a decrease of 19 percent in numbers. There were 761 farms reporting colonies of bees in 1992 down from 1,110 in 1987. Total numbers of colonies was 54,625, a 13 percent decrease from 1987 which was 62,978 colonies.

There were 1,064 farms reporting goats in 1992 compared with 1,288 in 1987. Numbers were up to 11,296 in 1992 compared to 9,352 in 1987.

Twenty-two farms reported 18,449 mink in 1992 compared to 30 farms with 38,161 mink in 1987, a small but declining industry. There were 530 farms reporting 15,203 rabbits in 1992 down from 635 farms reporting 13,887 rabbits in 1987.

STATE MAPS

Twenty-five 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 1,600, 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 395,000 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). St. Lawrence County also has the largest number of acres of harvested cropland at 164,000 followed by Steuben County at 154,000 and Cayuga County at 137,000. Total cropland acres measures the amount of land normally used for crop production (Figure 4). St. Lawrence and Steuben Counties, at 225,000 acres, have the largest number of acres followed by Jefferson, Cayuga and Livingston 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 Rockland, Suffolk, Oswego, Niagara, Monroe, Seneca, Genesee, and Orleans 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 130 million dollars had the greatest output, followed by Wyoming, St. Lawrence, and Cayuga Counties. Seventeen counties recorded a value of agricultural products sold in excess of 60 million dollars in 1992.

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, Chautauqua, Oneida, Wyoming, and Jefferson Counties.

Field Crops

Corn for grain acreage had steadily increased in recent years. The 1992 Census showed a significant reduction 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, Genesee, and Seneca Counties.

Corn silage acreage has remained relatively stable in recent years, with an increase in 1992. Corn silage acreage is more widely distributed over the State than is corn for grain (Figure 10). Wyoming, St. Lawrence, Washington, Madison, and Jefferson 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.

Oats for grain is the fourth most important crop in terms of acreage and is concentrated in Western New York and the Finger Lakes region (Figure 12). Steuben County has the largest oat acreage followed by Cayuga, Onondaga, and Madison 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, Wyoming, Wayne, and Livingston Counties accounting for approximately 45 percent of the State's potato acreage (Figure 14). Suffolk County is the largest potato county with over 7,000 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 90 million dollars or approximately 40 percent of the State total. Other counties with large sales were Erie, Orange, Wayne, and Oneida.

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). St. Lawrence and Wyoming Counties have the largest cow inventories followed by Jefferson, Madison, Oneida, Lewis, 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 Yates, Livingston, Cortland, and Dutchess Counties (Figure 22).

Economic Characteristics

Farm production expenditures totaled approximately 2.1 billion dollars in 1992 (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 456 million dollars in 1992 (Figure 24). Net cash return was calculated by the Census simply by subtracting cash expenses from cash receipts. Suffolk, St. Lawrence, and Wyoming Counties recorded the largest net return from agricultural sales.

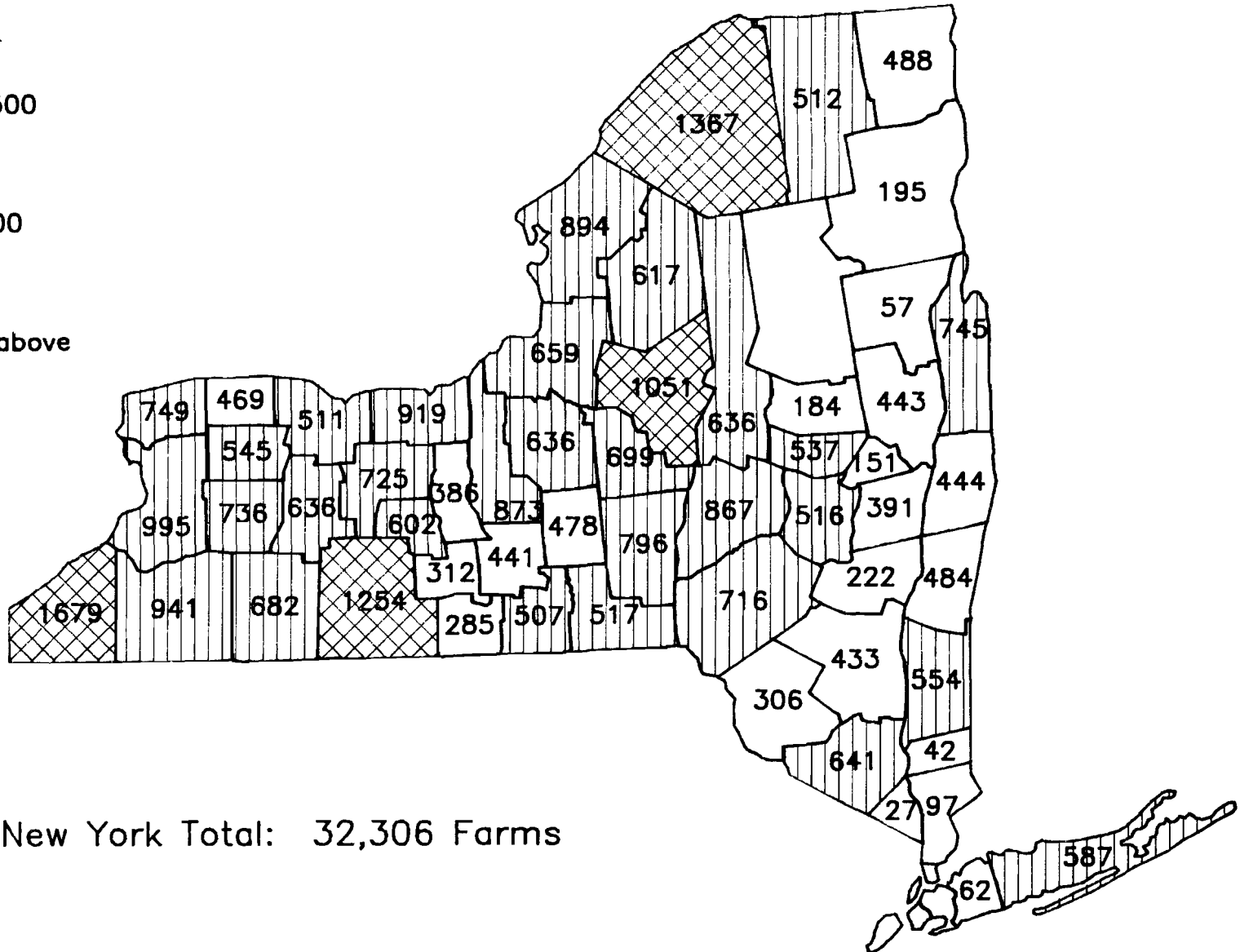
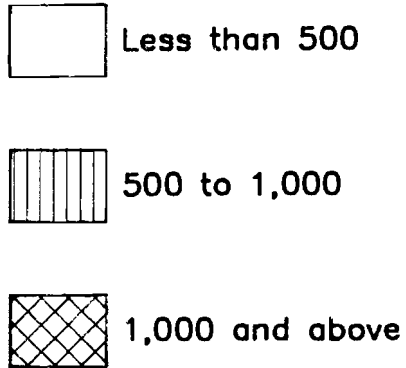
Net cash return per farm averaged \$14,123 in 1992 (Figure 25). Suffolk County averaged \$51,000 net cash return per farm, the highest in the State.

New York State Counties



Figure 1. Number of Farms, 1992.

FARMS



New York Total: 32,306 Farms

Figure 2. Land in Farms, Thousand Acres, 1992.

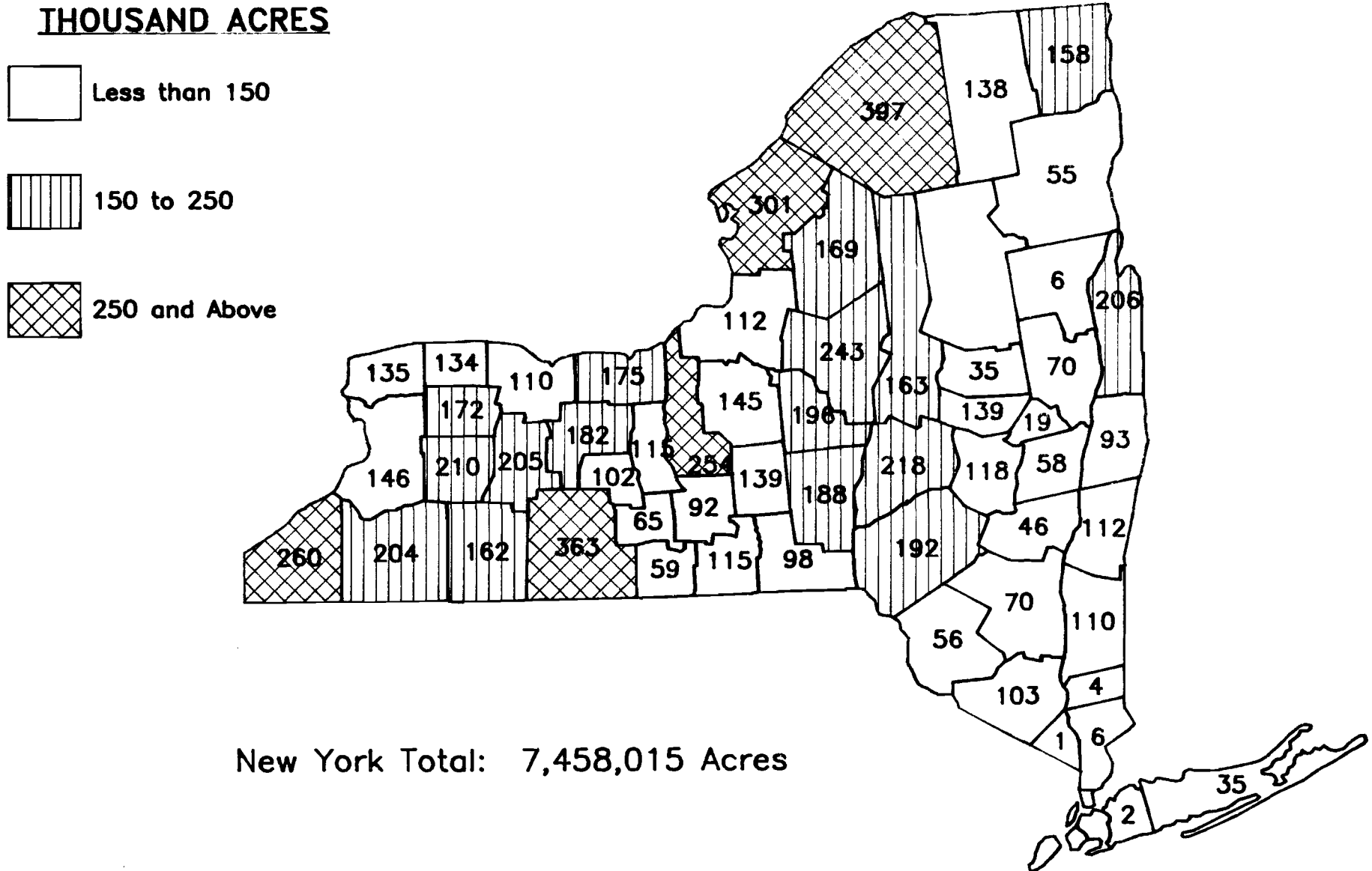


Figure 3. Harvested Cropland, Thousand Acres, 1992.

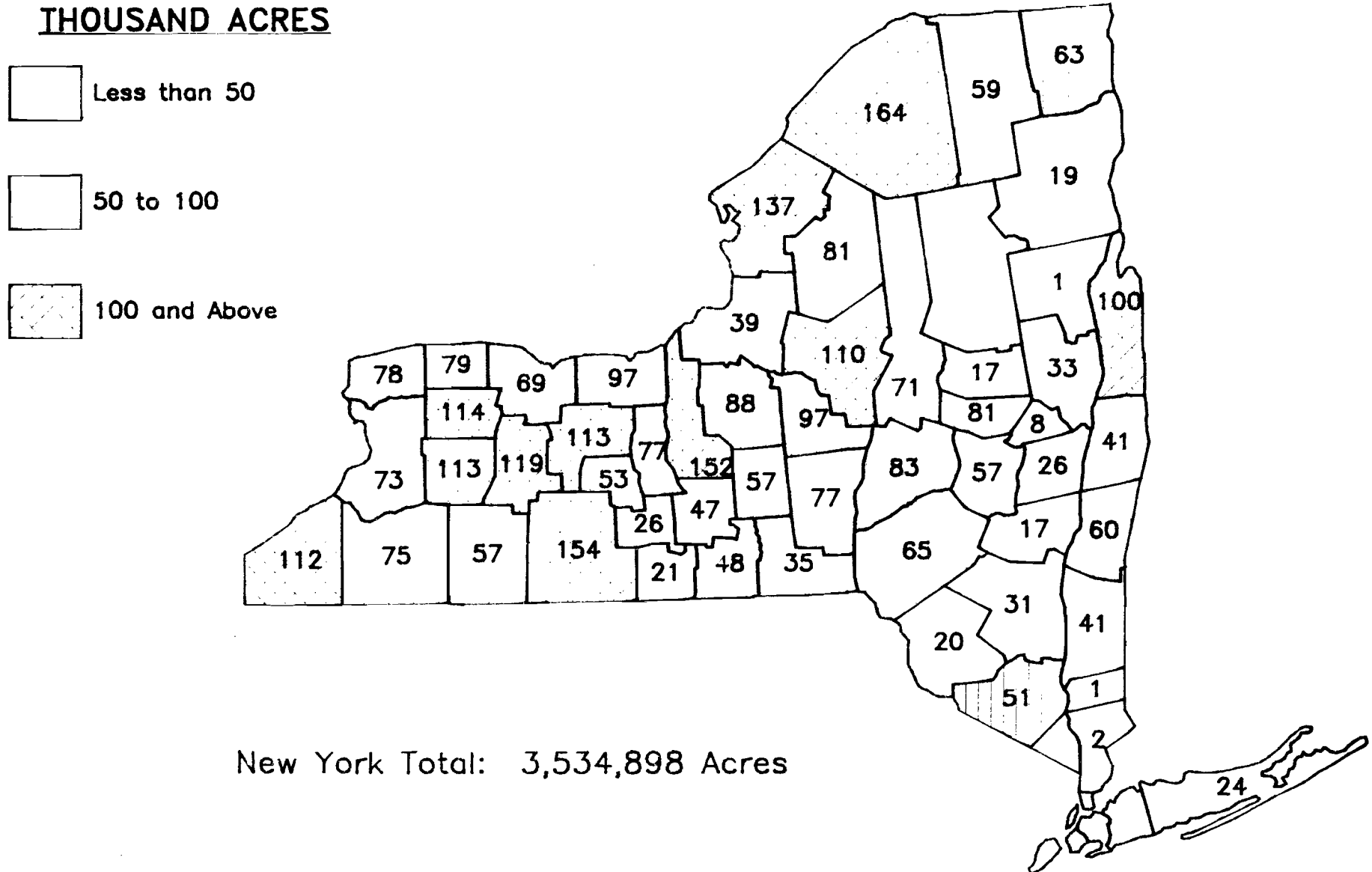


Figure 4. Total Cropland, Thousand Acres, 1992.

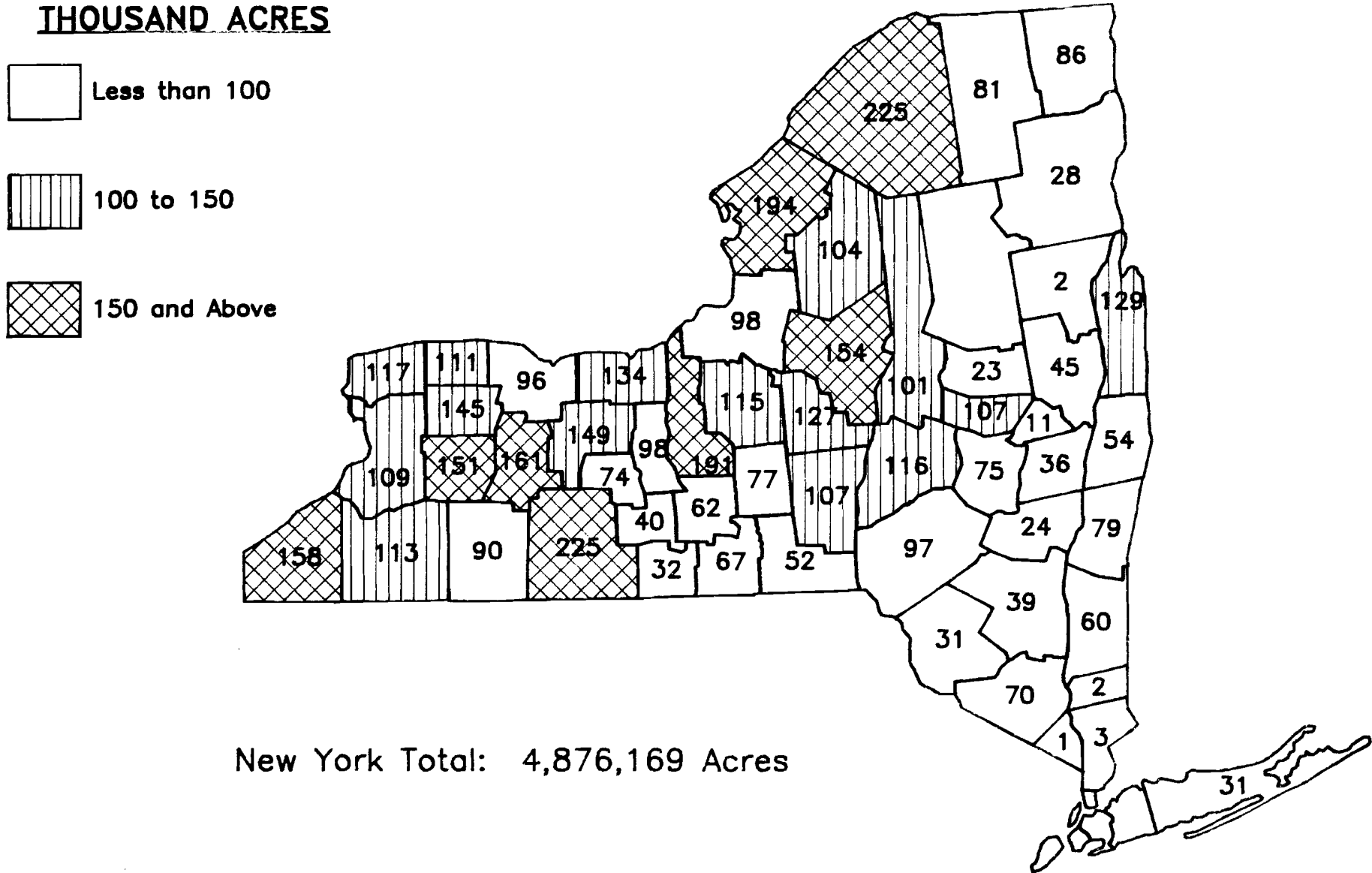


Figure 5. Total Cropland as a Percent of Land in Farms, 1992.

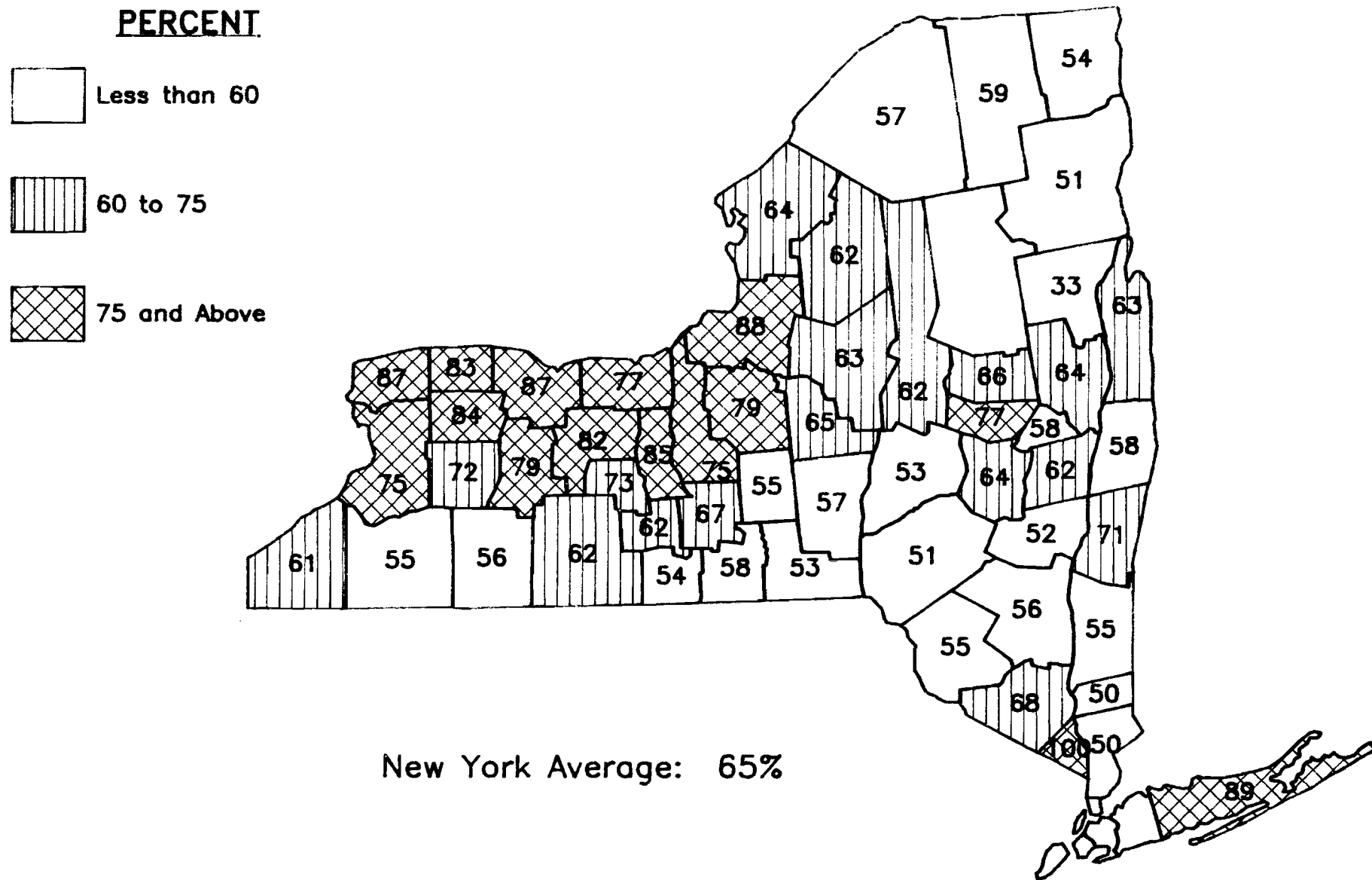


Figure 6. Value of Agricultural Products Sold, \$Millions, 1992.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

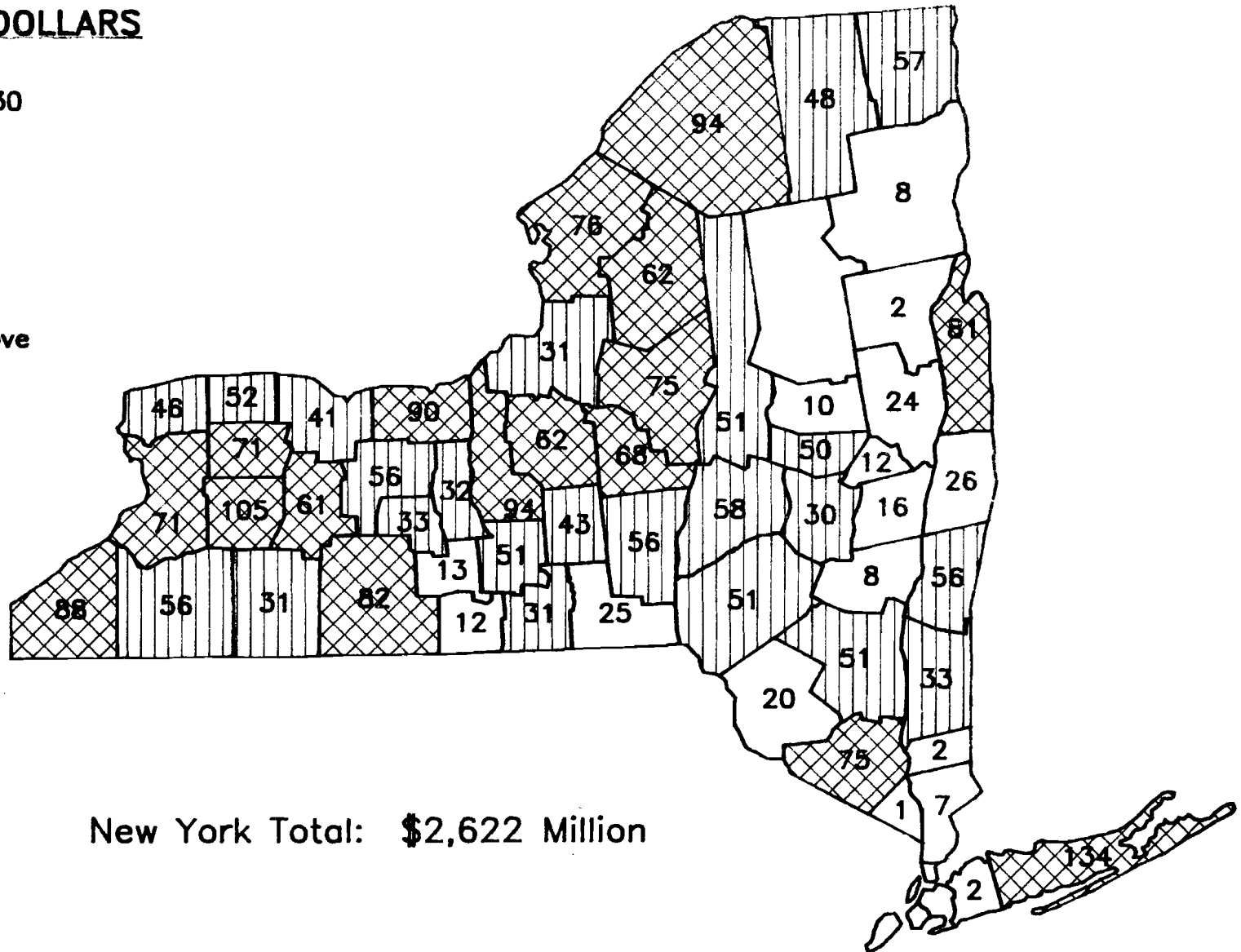
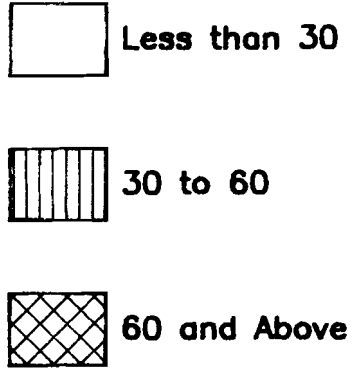


Figure 7. Percent of Farms with Sales Less Than \$50,000, 1992.

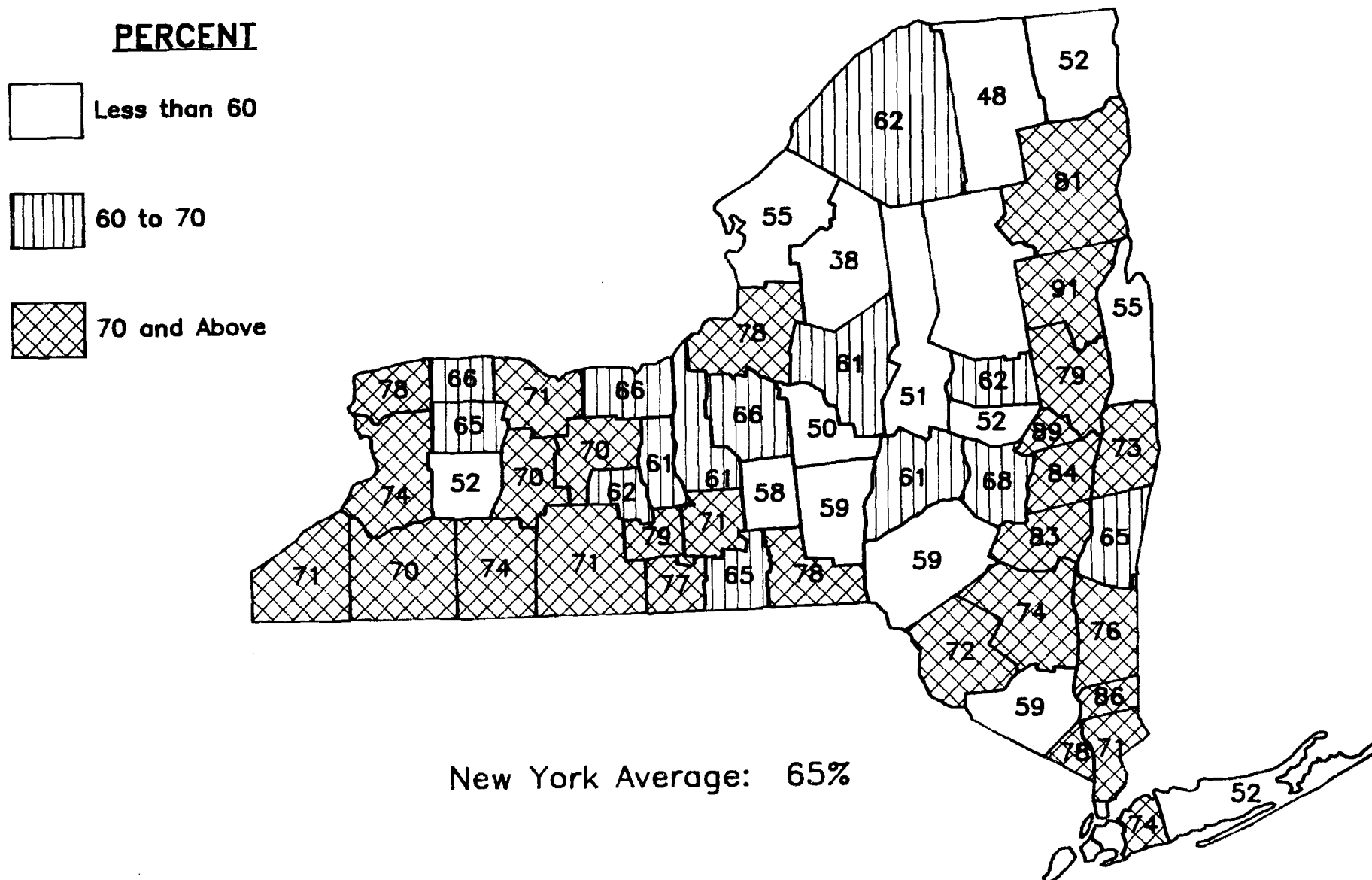


Figure 8. Number of Farms with \$100,000 or More of Sales, 1992.

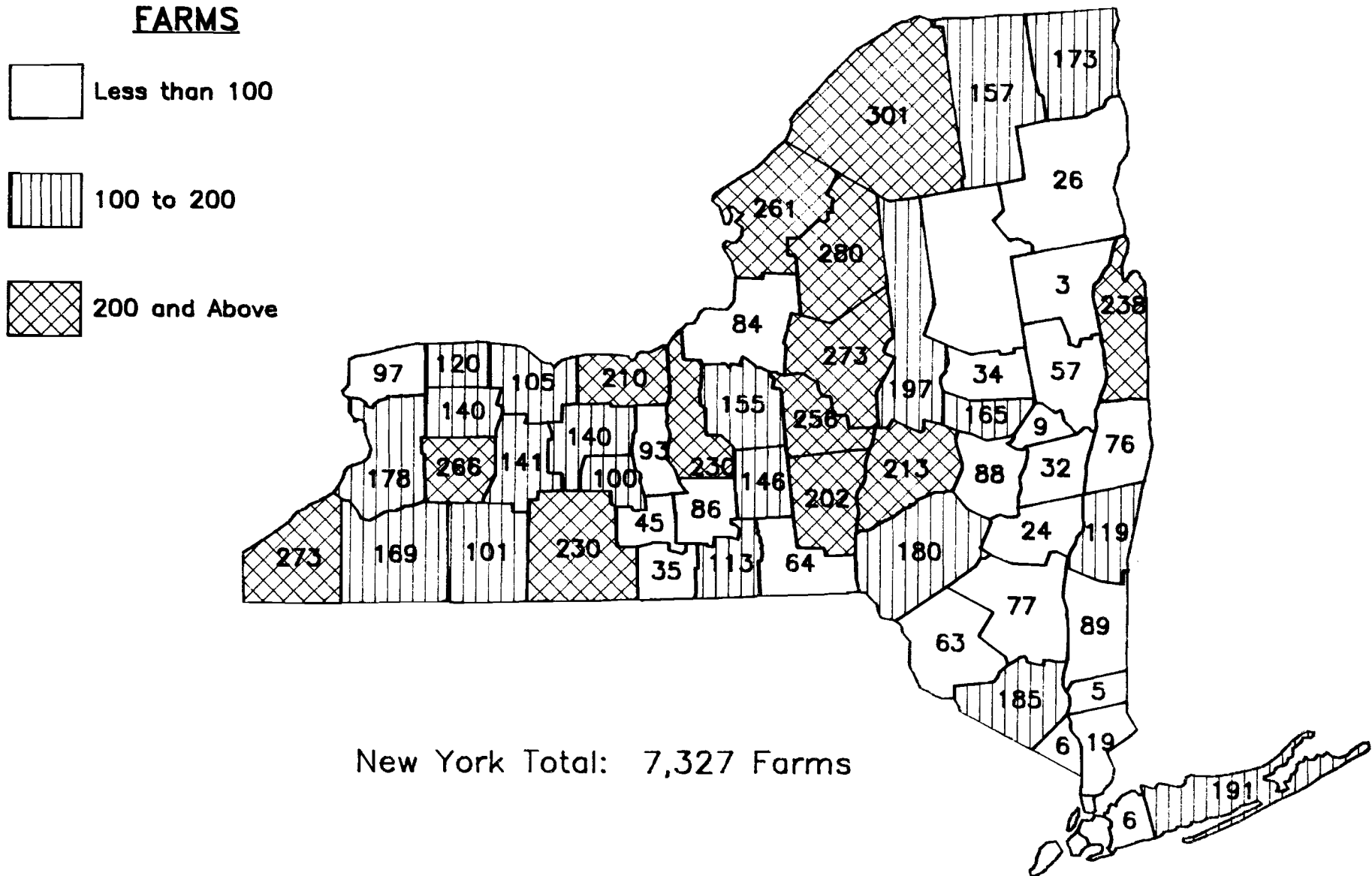


Figure 9. Corn Grain Acreage, Thousands, 1992.

THOUSAND ACRES

Less than 5

5 to 20

20 and Above

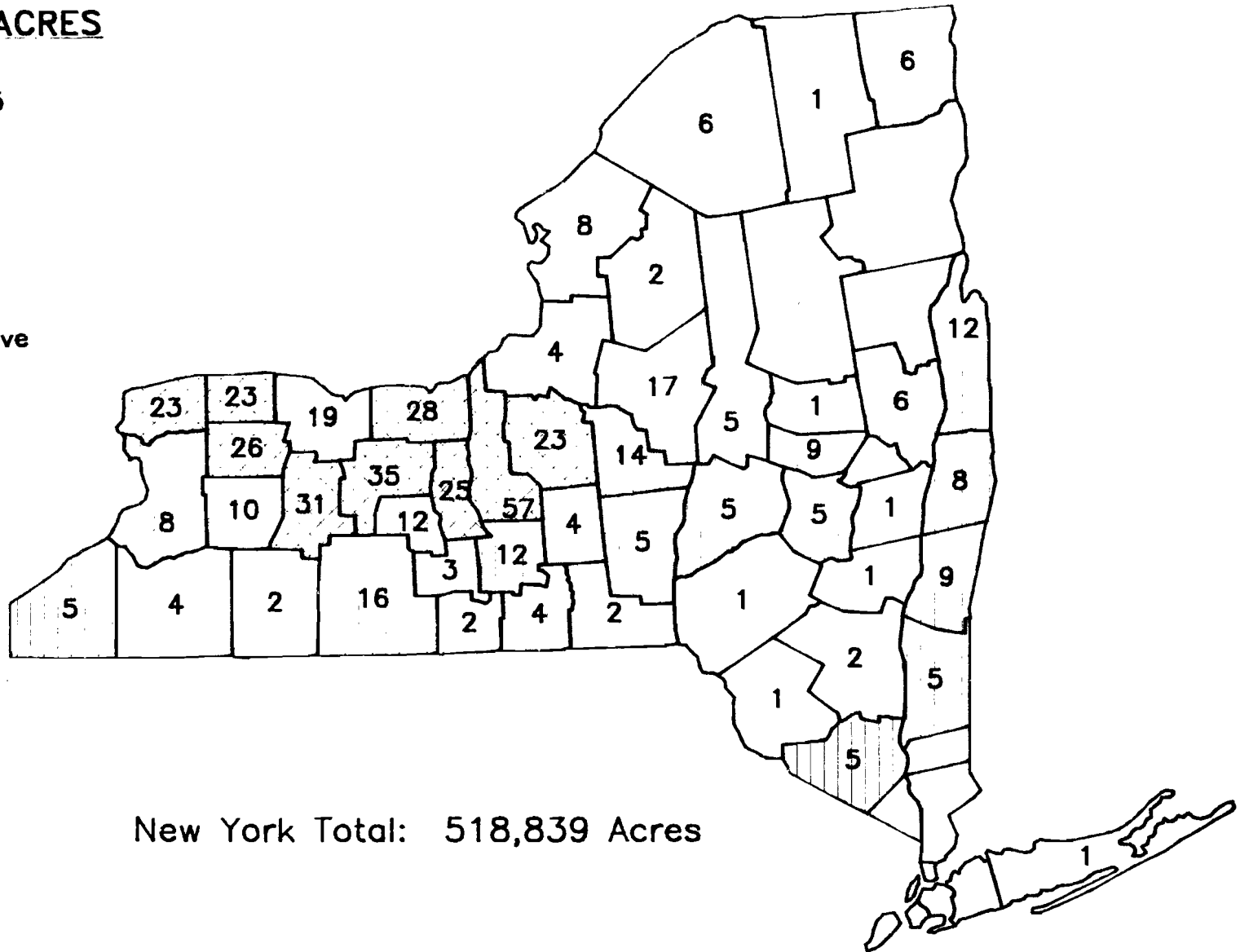


Figure 10. Corn Silage Acreage, Thousands, 1992.

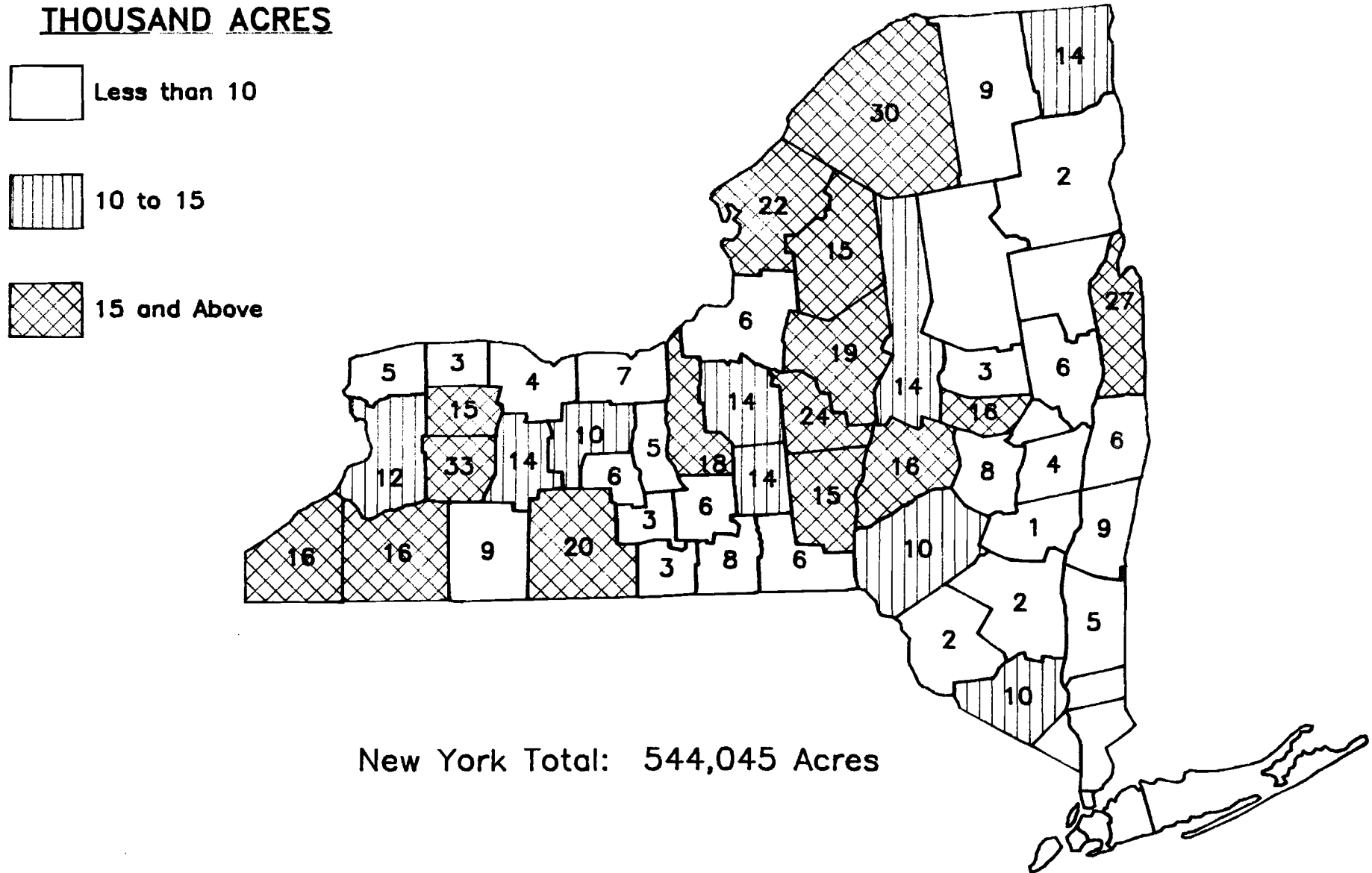


Figure 11. Hay Crops Acreage, Thousands, 1992.

THOUSAND ACRES

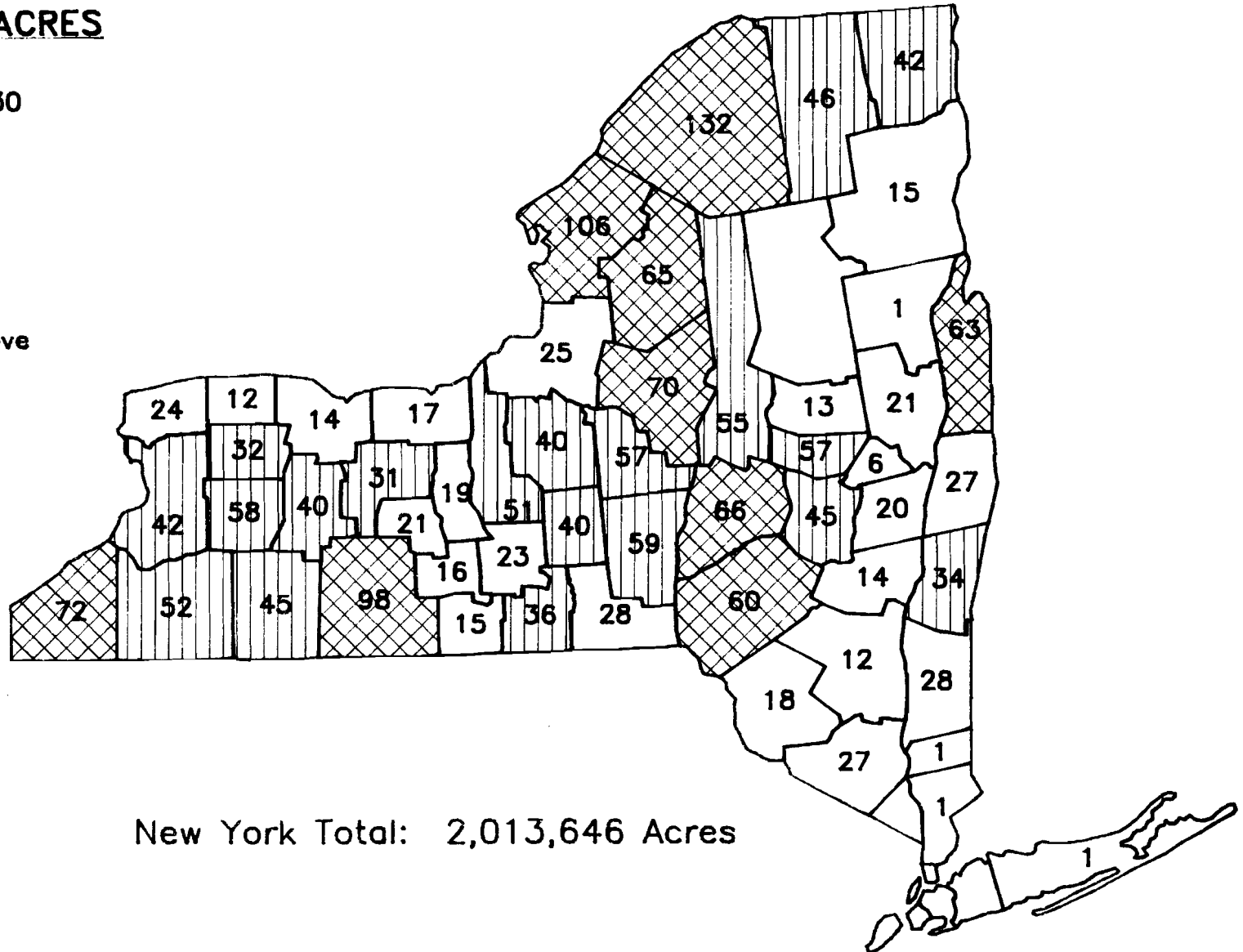
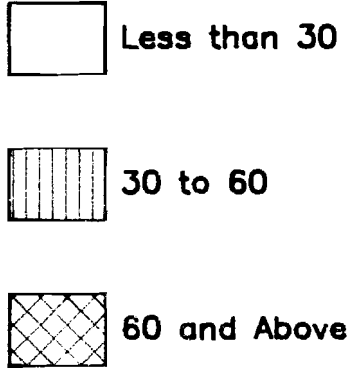


Figure 12. Oats for Grain Acreage, Thousands, 1992.

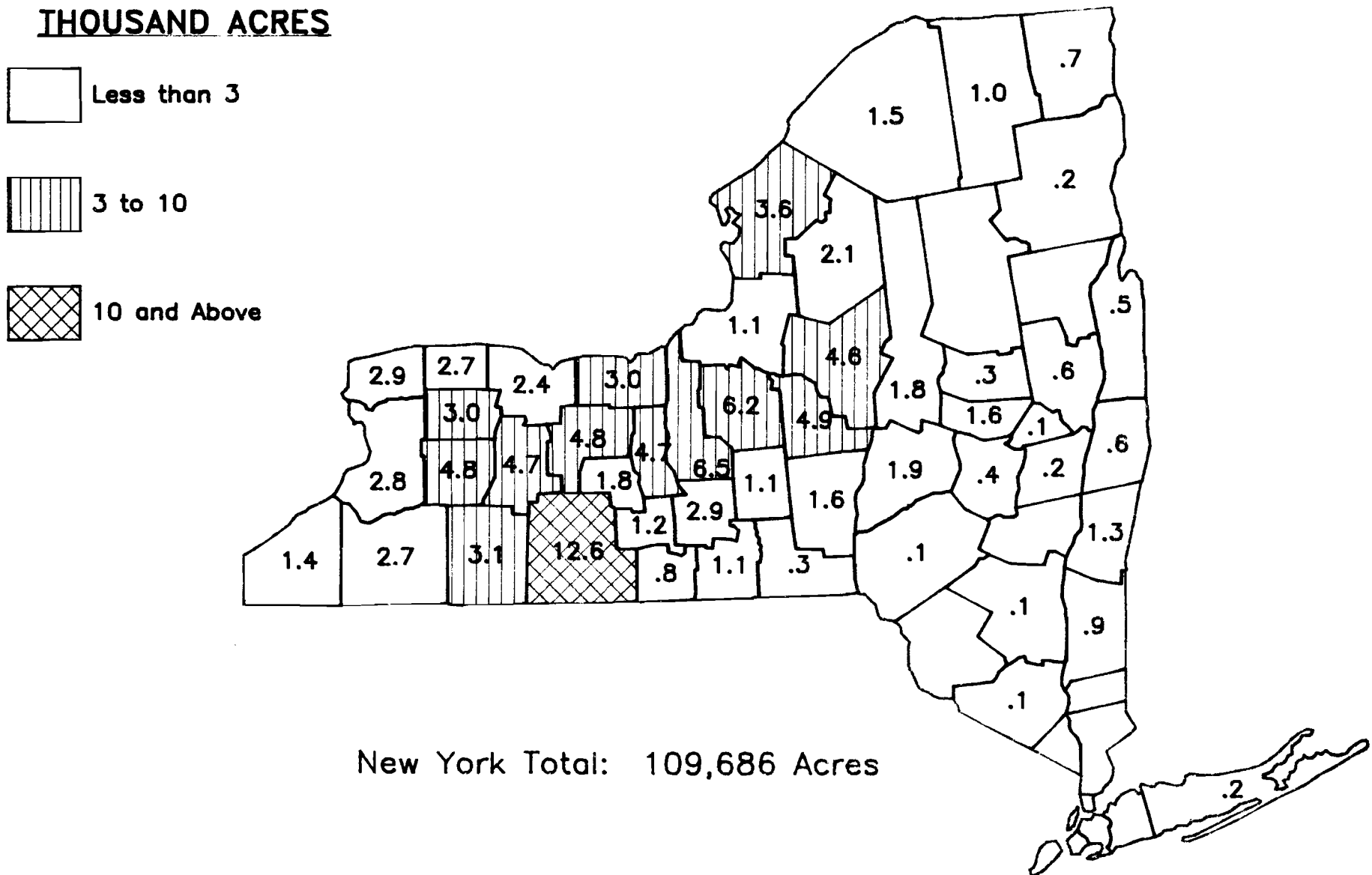


Figure 13. Vegetables, Sweet Corn, and Melons Acreage Harvested for Sale, Thousands, 1992.

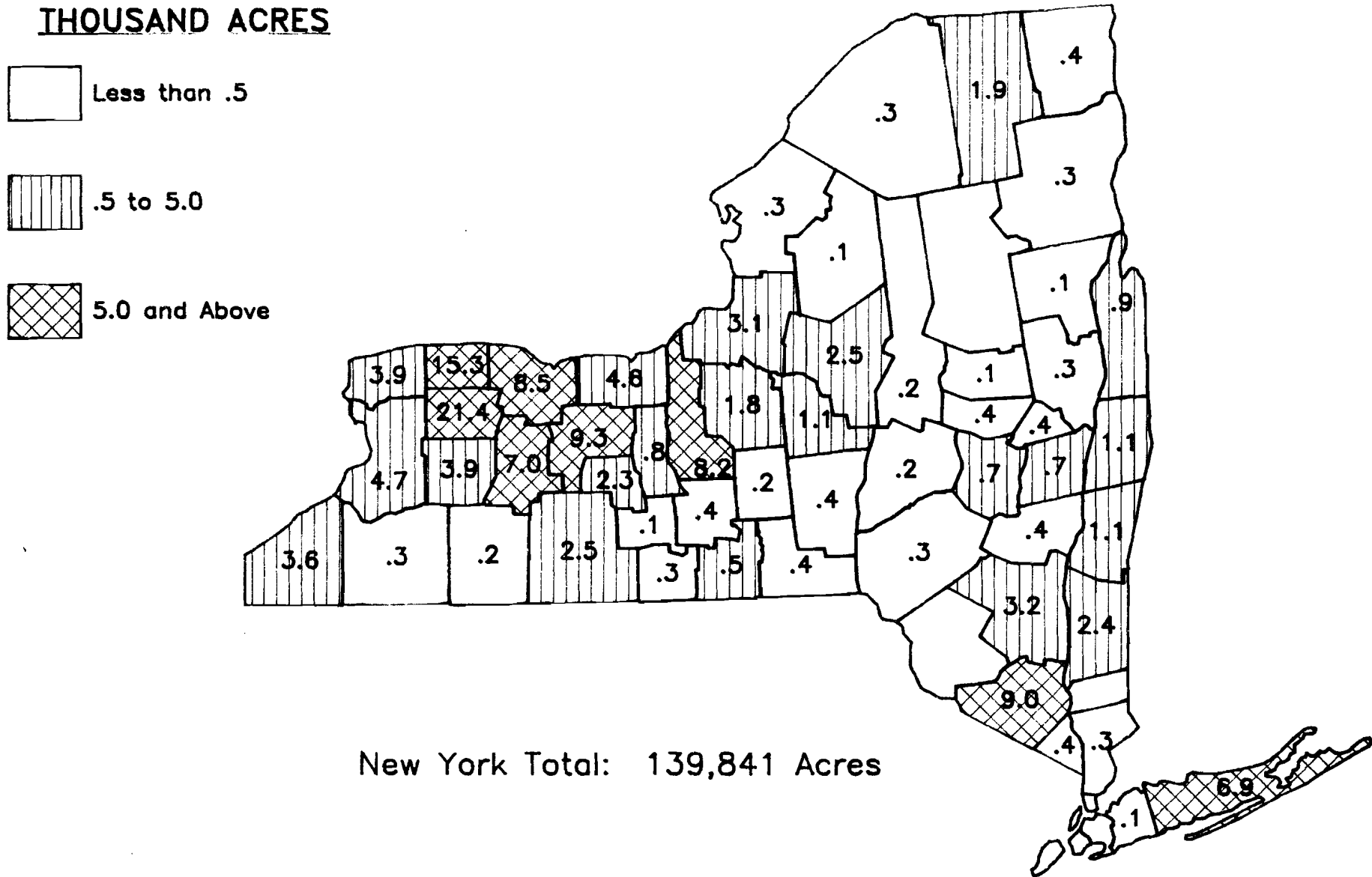


Figure 14. Potato Acreage, Thousands, 1992.

THOUSAND ACRES

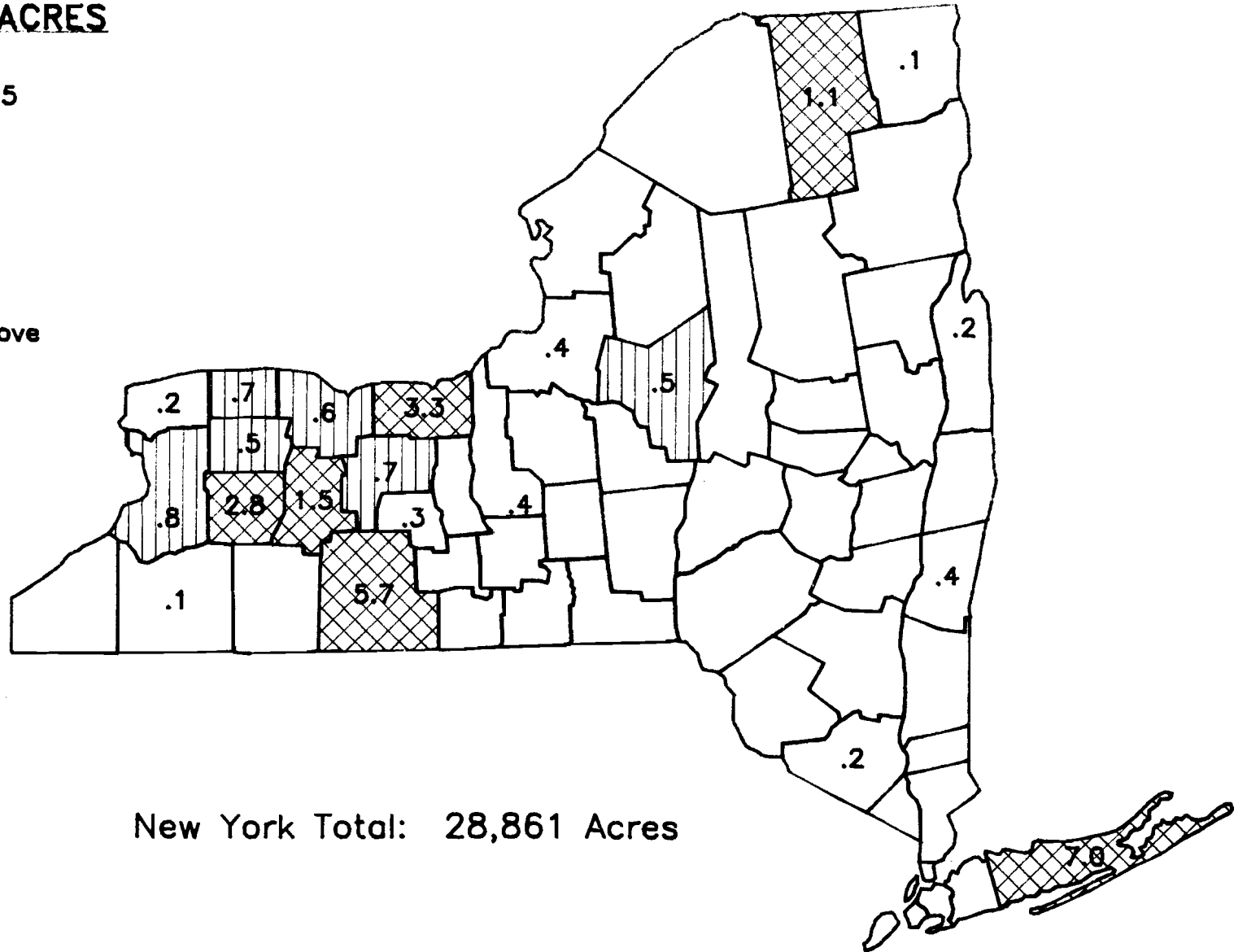
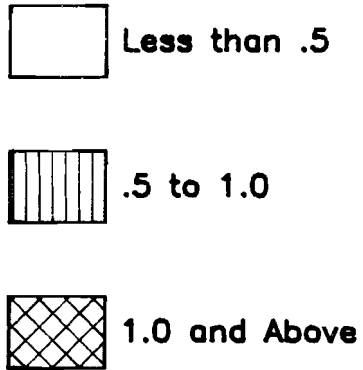


Figure 15. Orchards and Vineyards Acreage, Thousands, 1992.

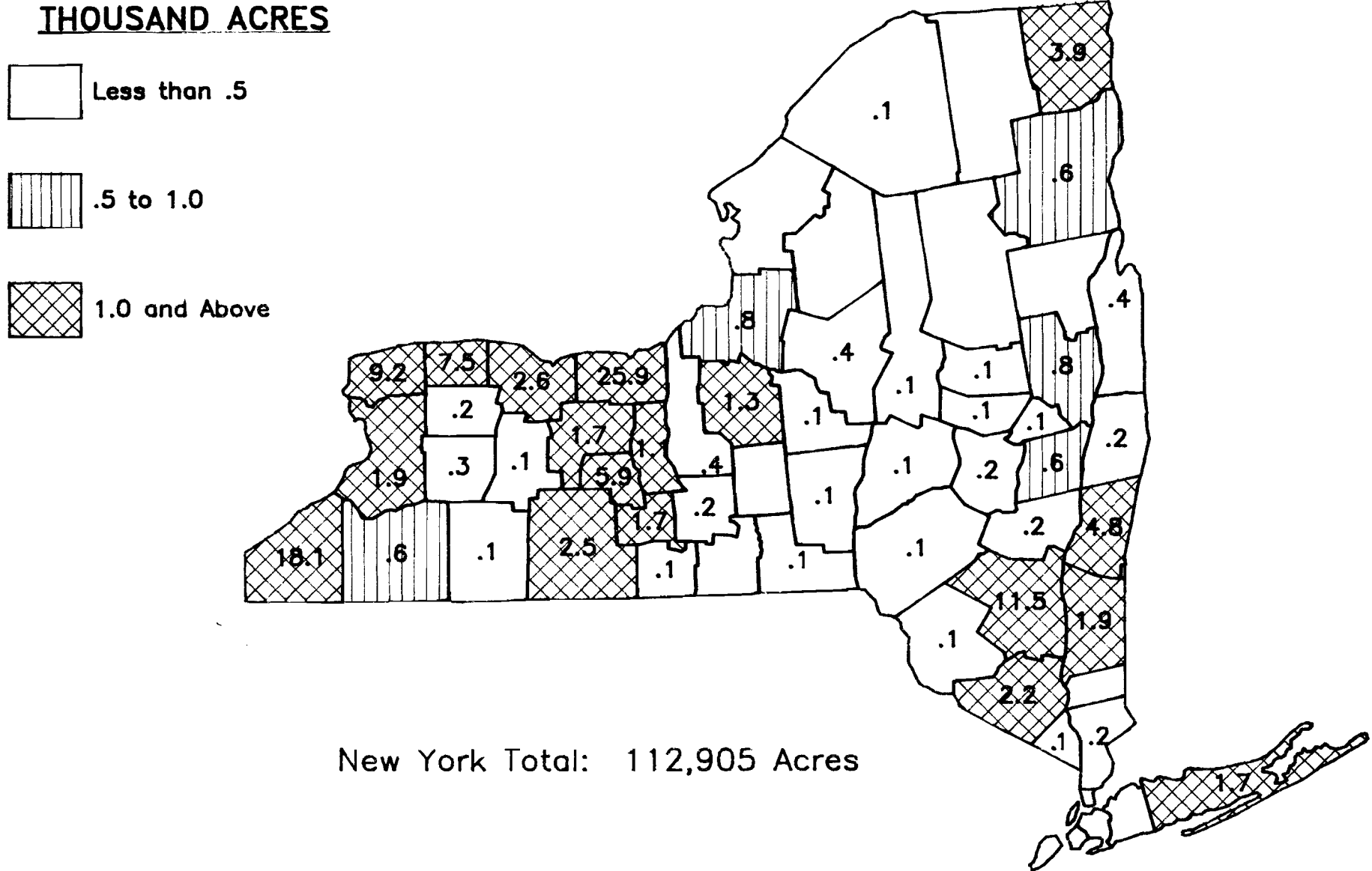


Figure 16. Apple Acreage, Thousands, 1992.

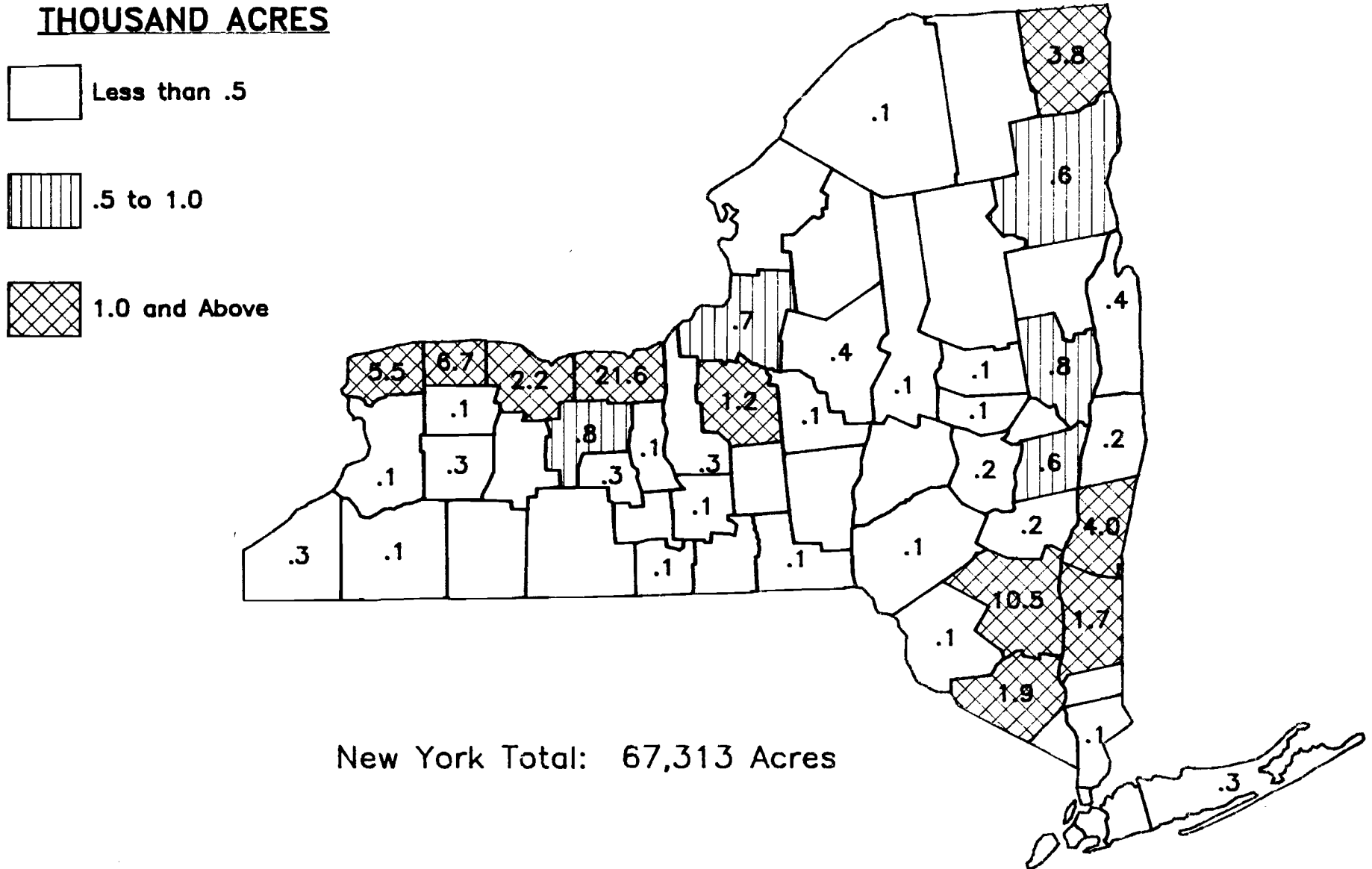
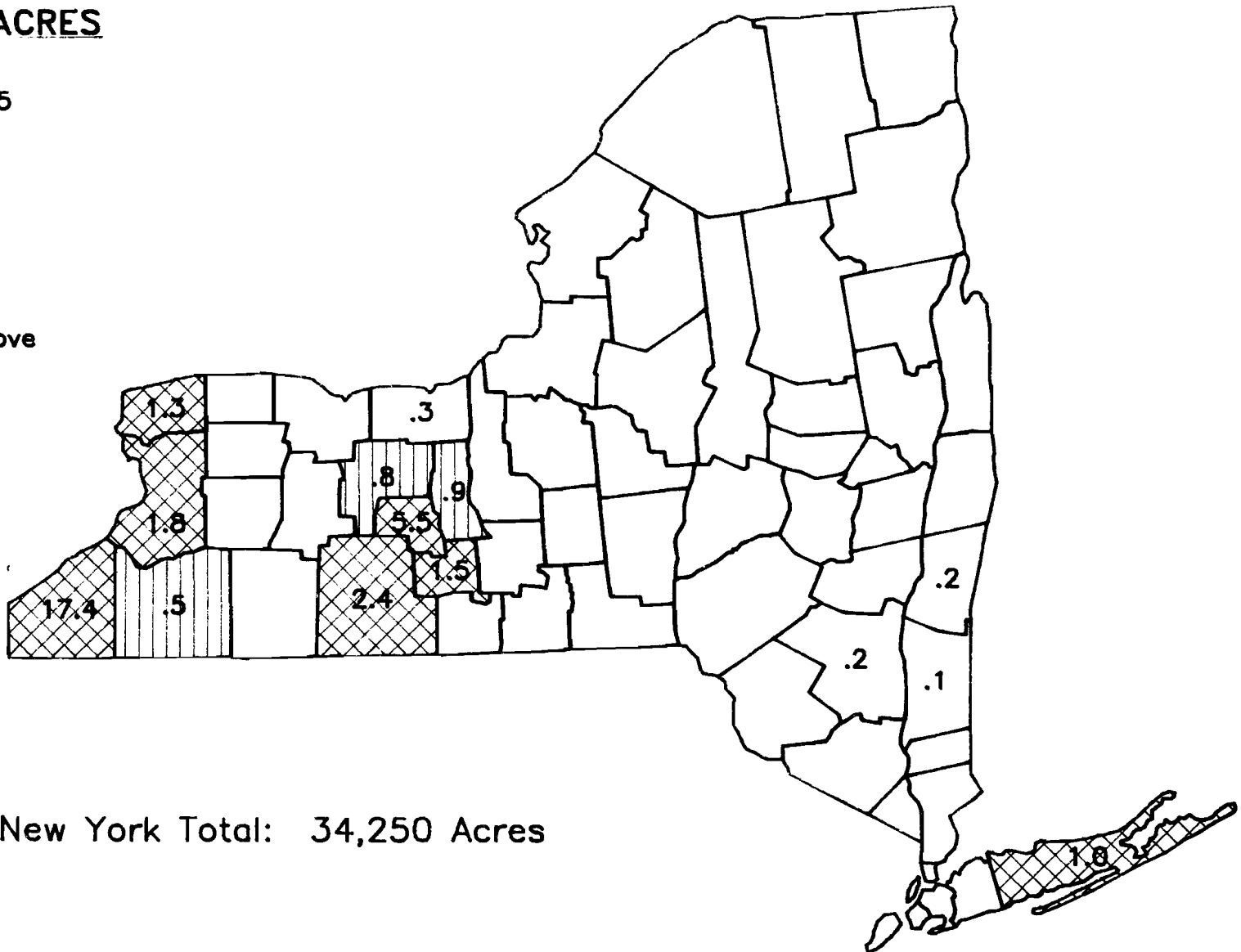
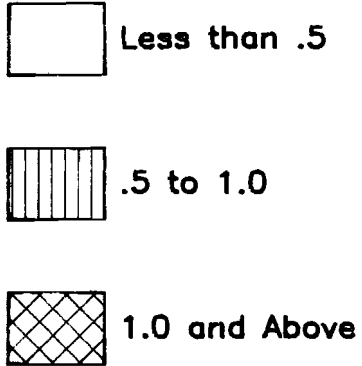


Figure 17. Grape Acreage, Thousands, 1992.

THOUSAND ACRES



New York Total: 34,250 Acres

Figure 18. Nursery and Greenhouse Product Sales, \$Millions, 1992.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

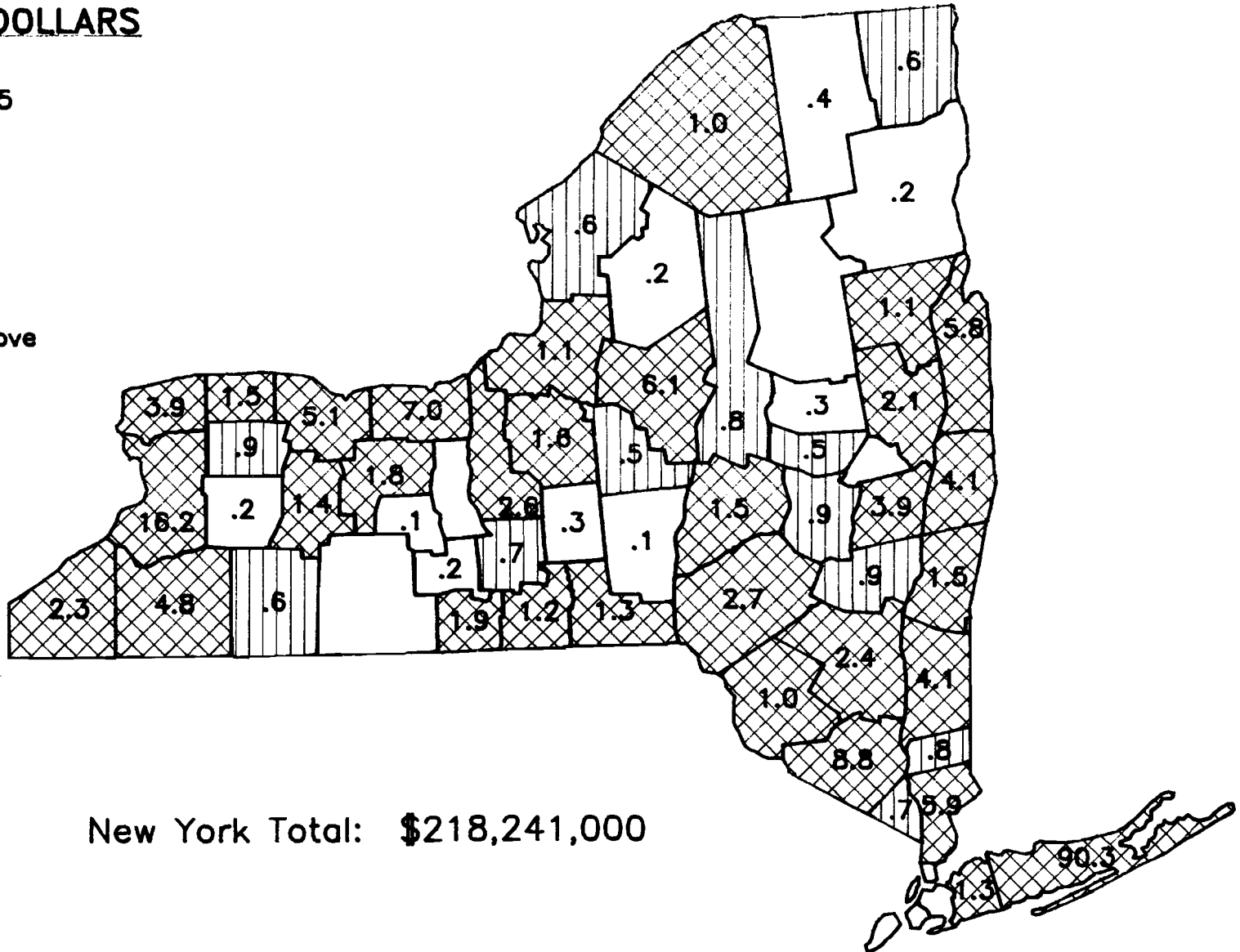
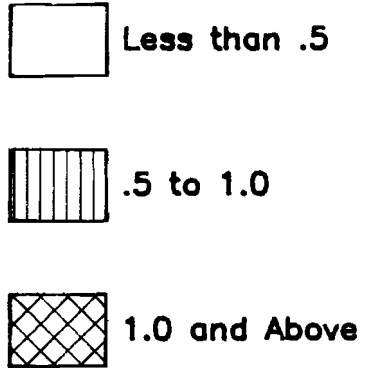


Figure 19. Number of Milk Cows, Thousands, 1992.

THOUSAND MILK COWS

Less than 10

10 to 25

25 and Above

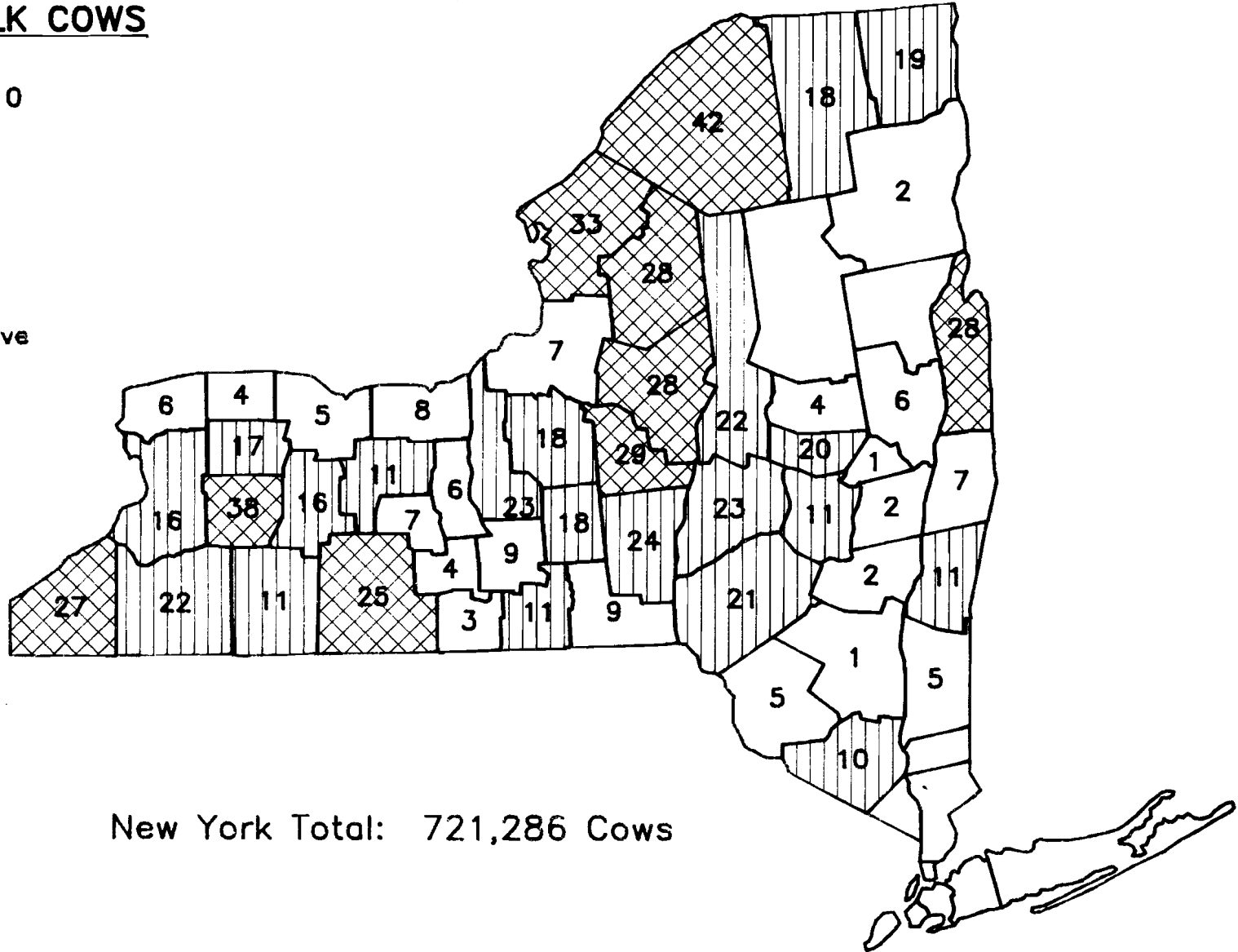


Figure 20. Number of Beef Cows, Thousands, 1992.

THOUSAND BEEF COWS

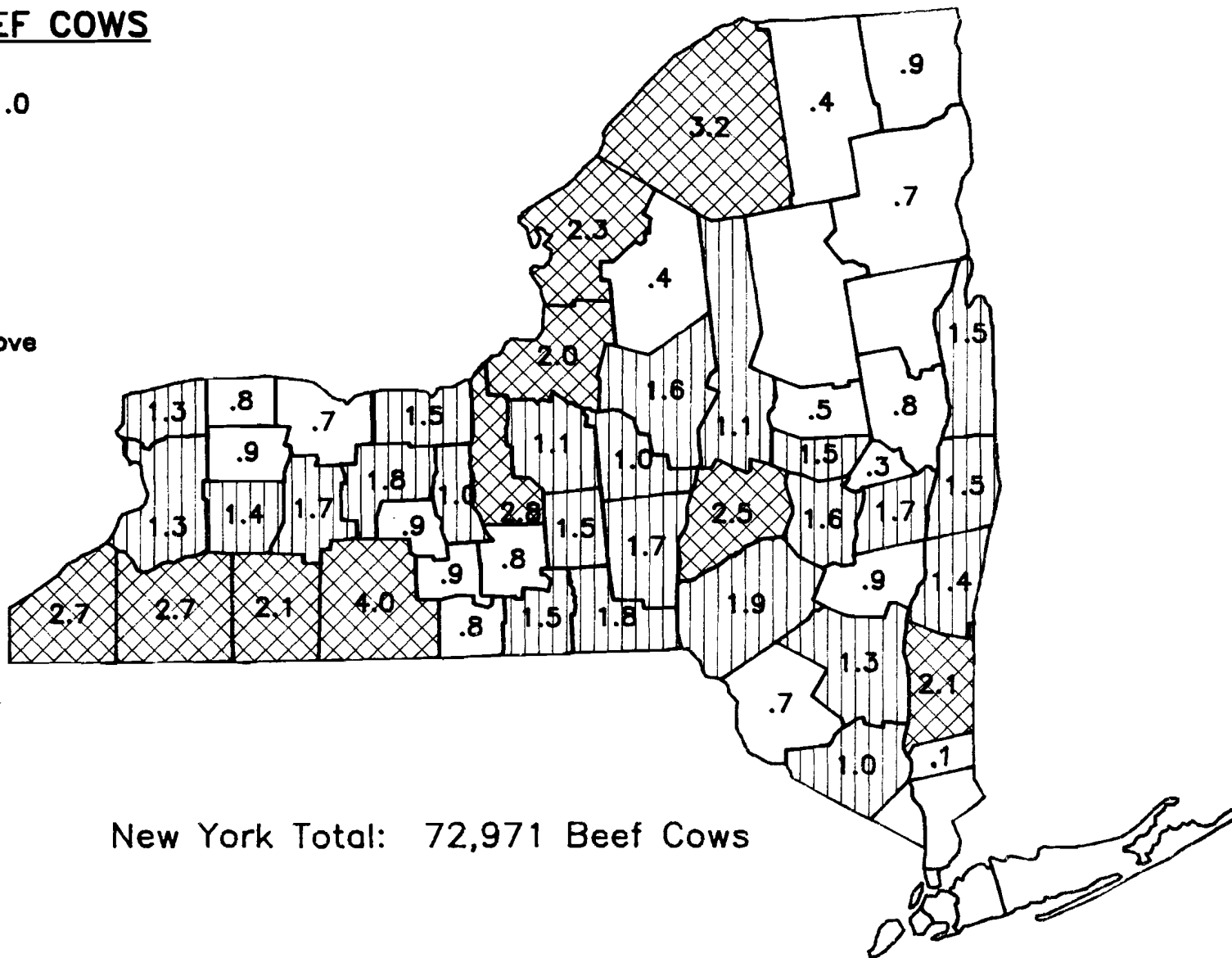
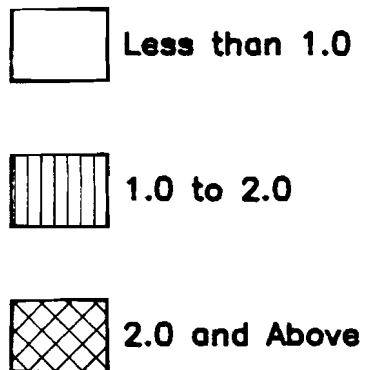


Figure 21. Hog and Pig Inventory, Thousands, 1992.

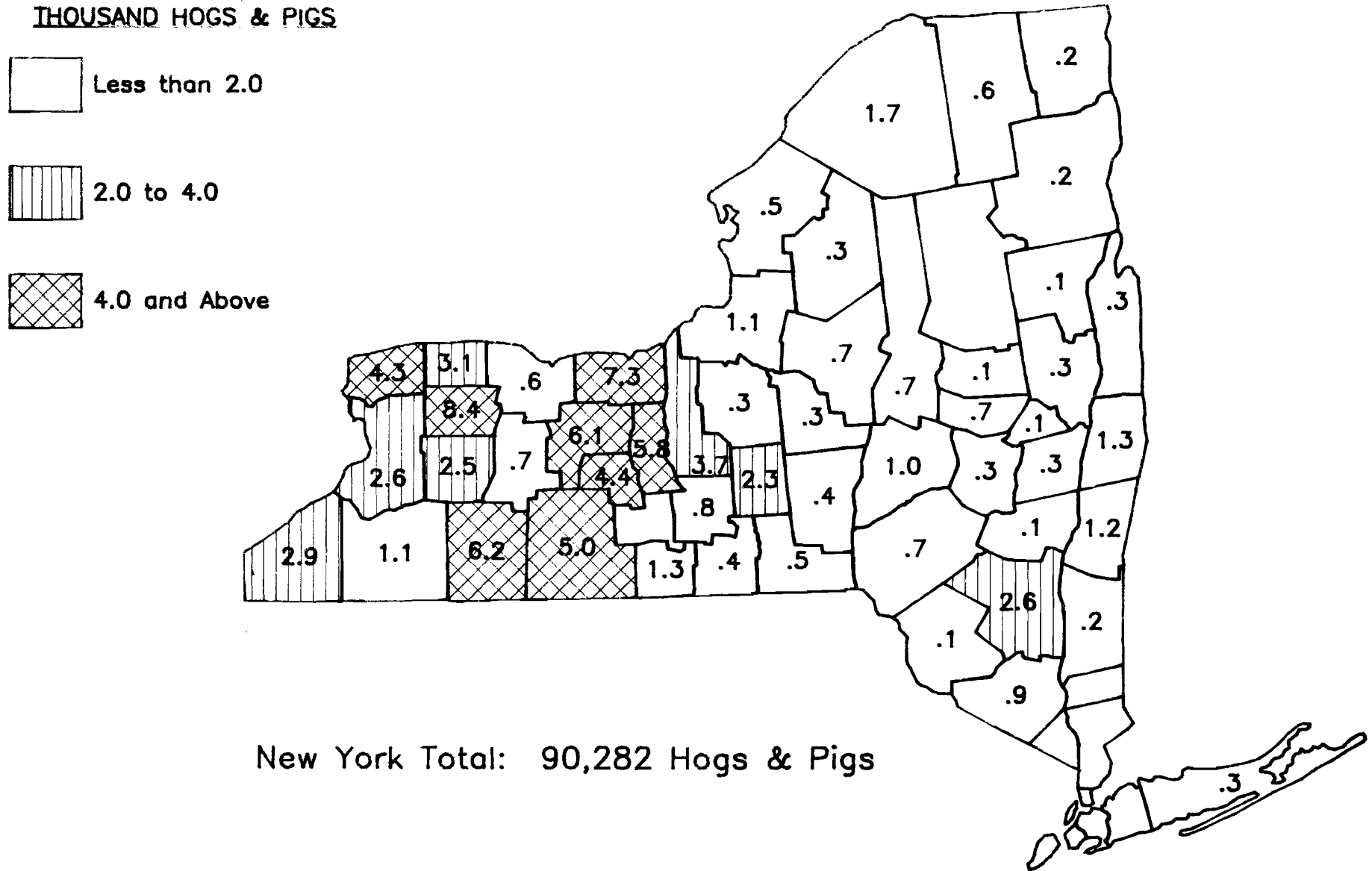
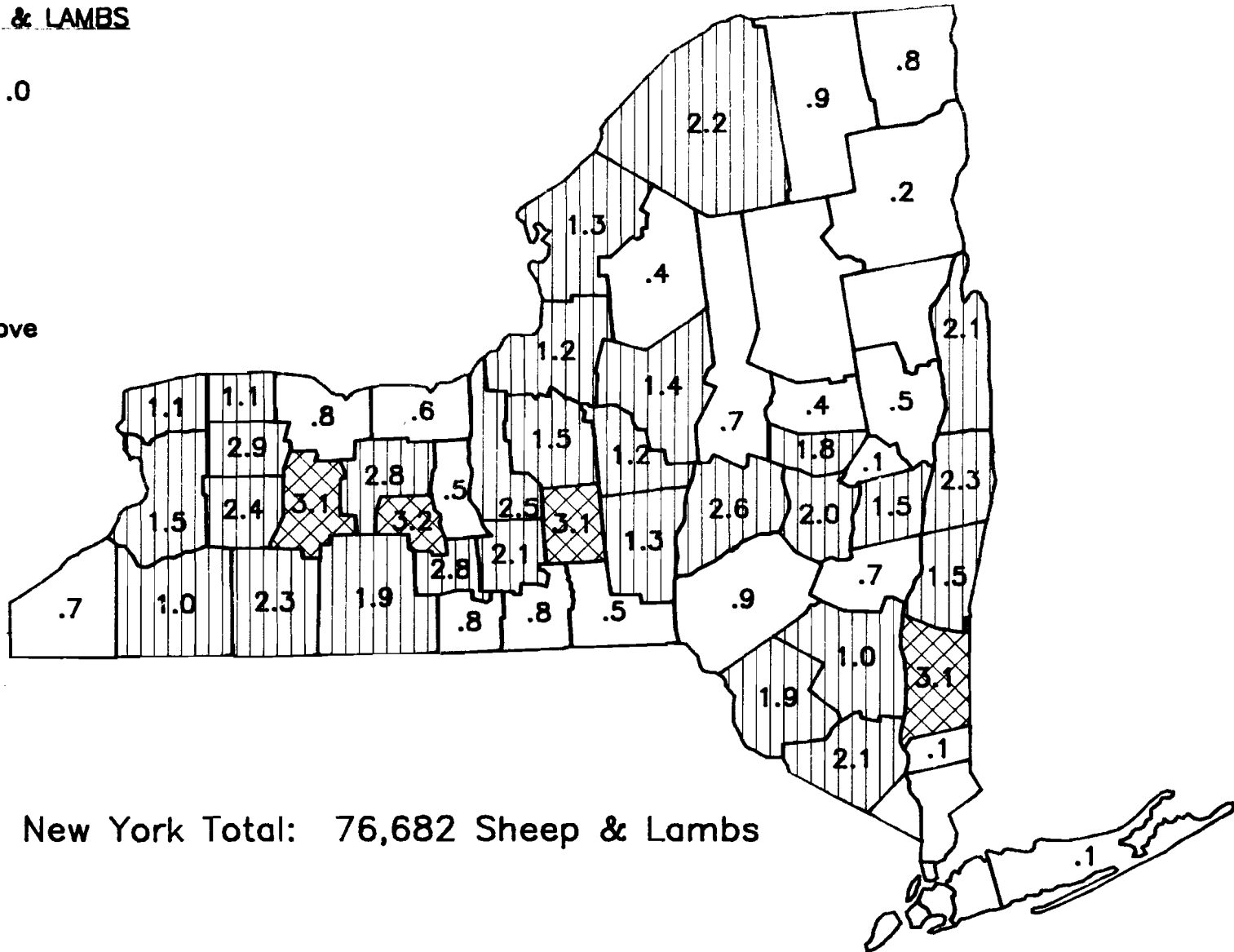
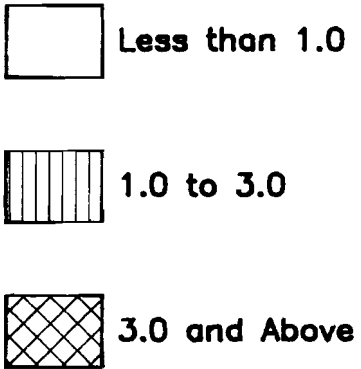


Figure 22. Sheep and Lamb Inventory, Thousands, 1992.

THOUSAND SHEEP & LAMBS



New York Total: 76,682 Sheep & Lambs

Figure 23. Total Farm Production Expenditures, \$Millions, 1992.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

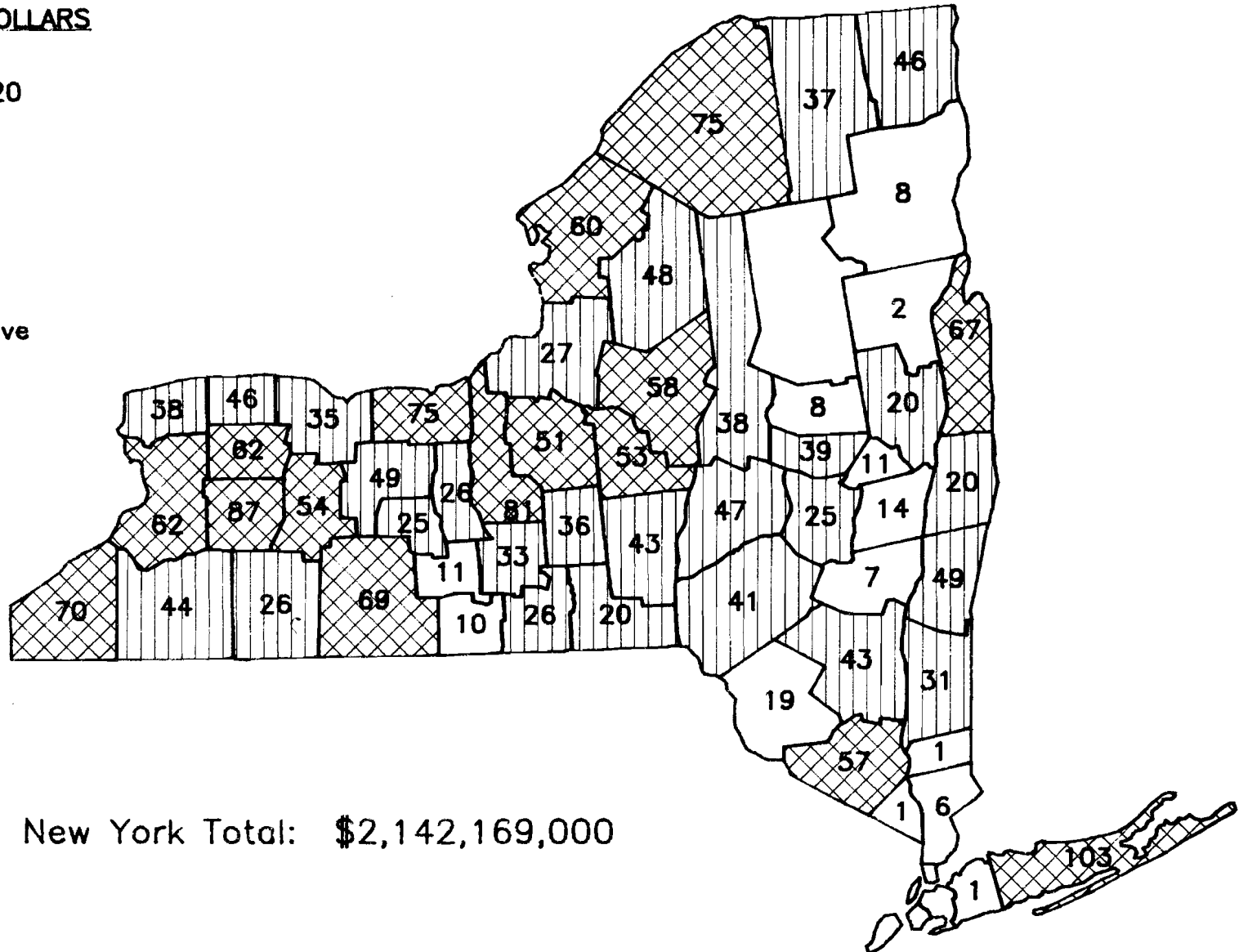
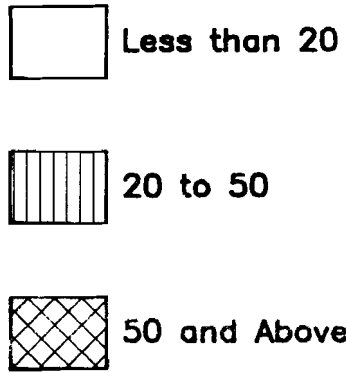


Figure 24. Total Net Cash Return from Agricultural Sales, \$Millions, 1992.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

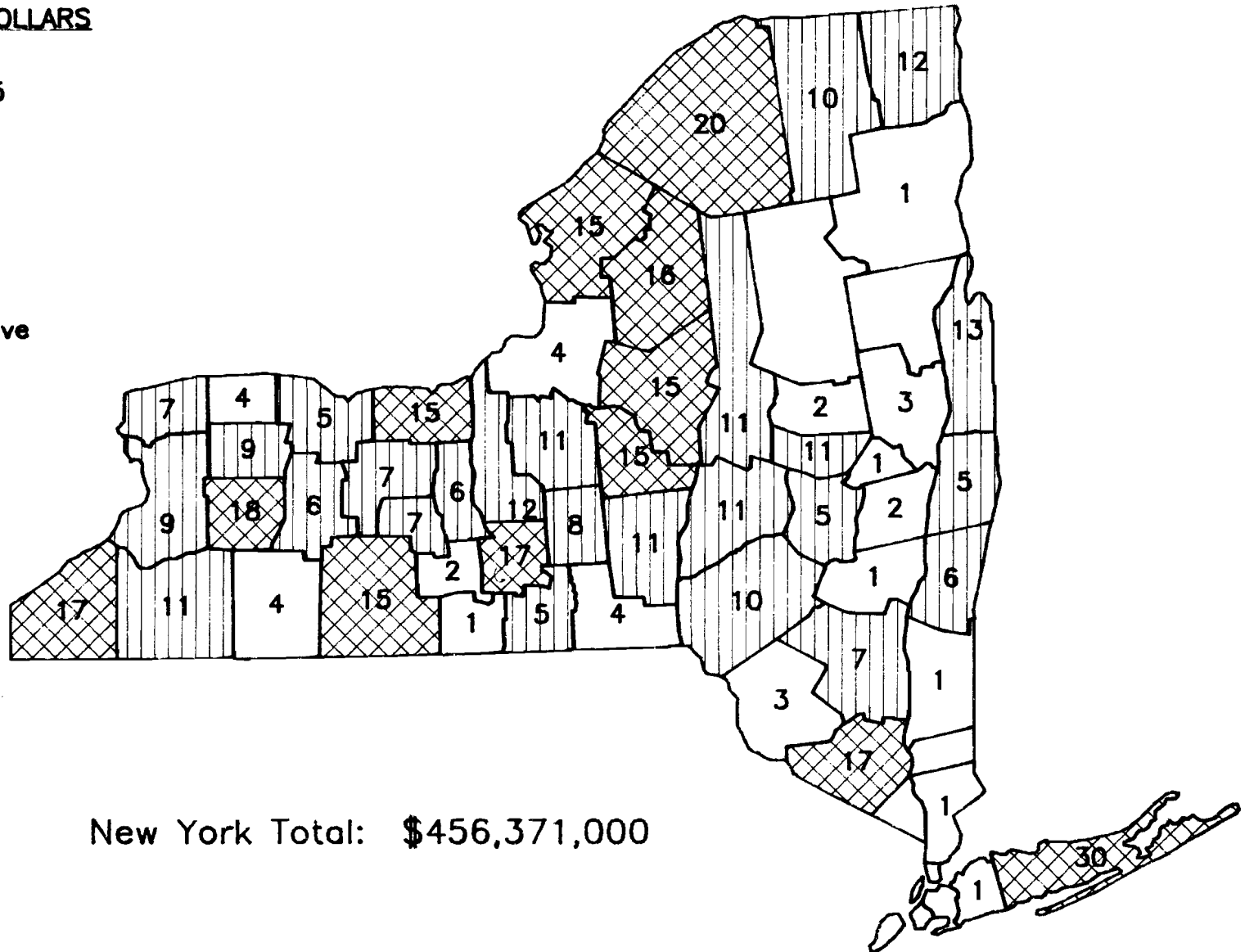
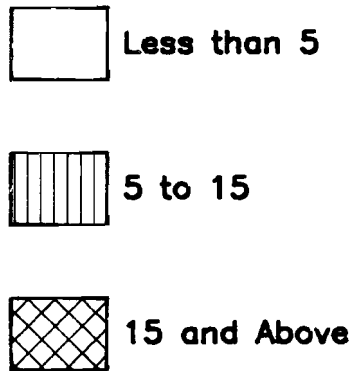
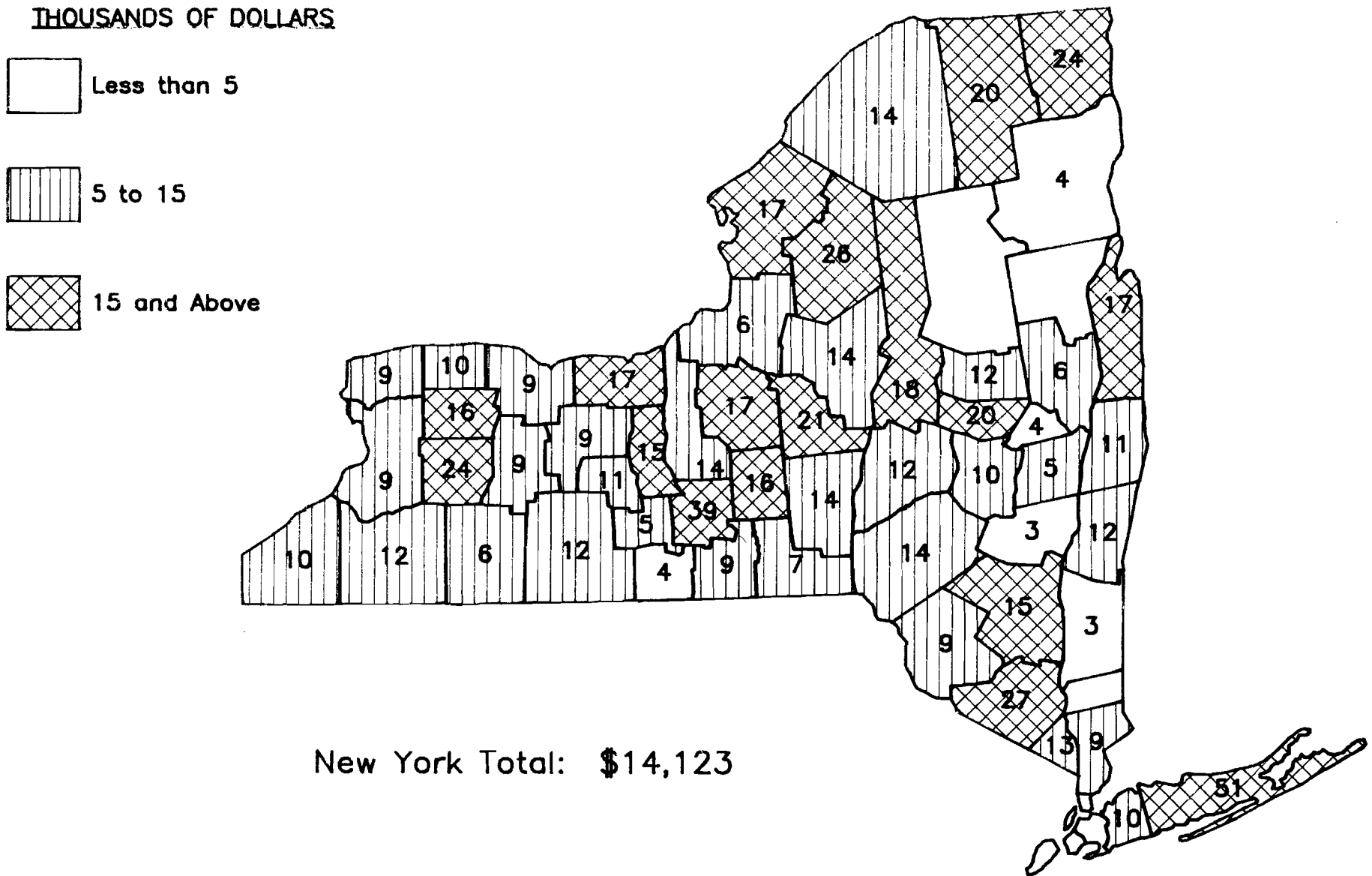


Figure 25. Net Cash Return from Agricultural Sales per Farm,
\$Thousands, 1992.



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