

1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
North Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service



GASTON NORTH CAROLINA

Land in farms

Increased slightly from 34,717 acres in 1992 to 34,860 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Decreased 11 percent from 118 acres in 1992 to 105 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Increased 13 percent from 119 farms in 1992 to 135 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

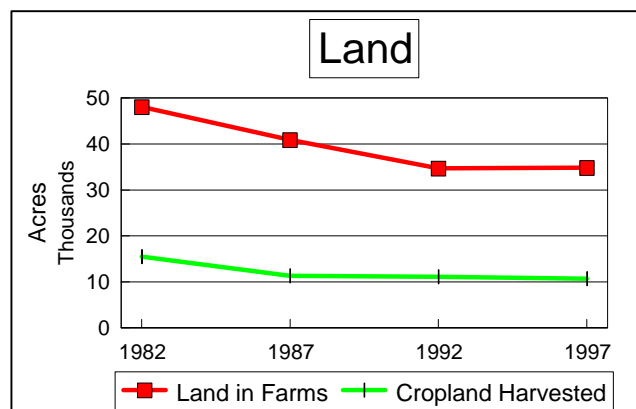
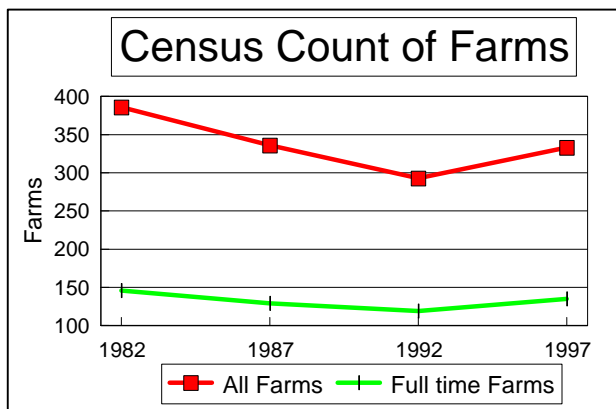
Increased 32 percent to \$9,947,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 33 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 67 percent of the market value.

Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 17 percent from \$25,633 in 1992 to \$29,872 in 1997.



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Ranked Items Within State and U.S., 1997

Item	Quantity	State		U.S.	
		Rank	Universe*	Rank	Universe*
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	9,947	88	100	2,500	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	6,624	71	100	2,175	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	3,324	90	100	2,320	3,070
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Dairy products	3,863	18	67	747	2,563
Nursery and greenhouse crops	2,567	29	96	612	2,790
Poultry & poultry products	1,573	59	97	858	2,901
Cattle and calves	979	51	99	2,554	3,063
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	246	47	97	2,207	3,043
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	1,405,000	50	68	424	1,882
Cattle and calves sold	3,039	50	99	2,478	3,063
Hogs and pigs sold	390	73	95	2,159	2,976
All goats sold	117	38	94	812	2,686
Horses and ponies sold	55	36	96	1,543	3,015
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Broiler inventory	274,007	48	81	411	2,620
Cattle and calves inventory	8,118	46	99	2,321	3,064
Horse and pony inventory	483	36	100	1,642	3,066
Hogs and pigs inventory	273	73	97	2,120	3,005
All goat inventory	245	55	98	980	2,983
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Hay crops-acres	6,798	36	99	2,056	3,061
Soybeans for beans-acres	1,585	71	88	1,472	2,144
Corn for silage-acres	778	29	88	1,192	2,473
Corn for grain-acres	763	77	100	1,936	2,691
Wheat-acres	582	73	86	1,859	2,612

Some counties do not have five commodities in a group.

Other County Summary Highlights

Item	1997	1992	Percent Change
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$10,000	261	223	17
\$10,000 or more	72	70	3
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	6,759	6,086	11
Average per farmdollars..	20,358	20,771	-2
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	1,831	1,245	47
Average per farmdollars..	5,497	4,250	29
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	296	265	12
Partnership or corporation	36	28	29
Other	1	-	
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	135	119	13
Other	198	174	14
Operators by sex:			
Male	306	278	10
Female	27	15	80
Operators by race:			
White	332	290	14
Black and other races	1	3	-67
Average age of operator	57.6	58.0	-1

(D) Cannot be disclosed. See "Census of Agriculture Volume 1 Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

* Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.