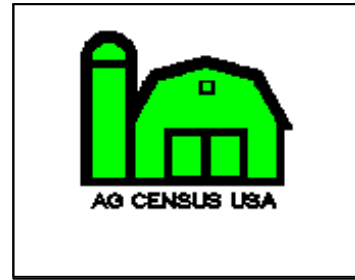


1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
North Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service



RUTHERFORD NORTH CAROLINA

Land in farms

Increased 11 percent from 55,309 acres in 1992 to 61,147 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Increased 2 percent from 119 acres in 1992 to 121 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Increased 8 percent from 163 farms in 1992 to 176 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

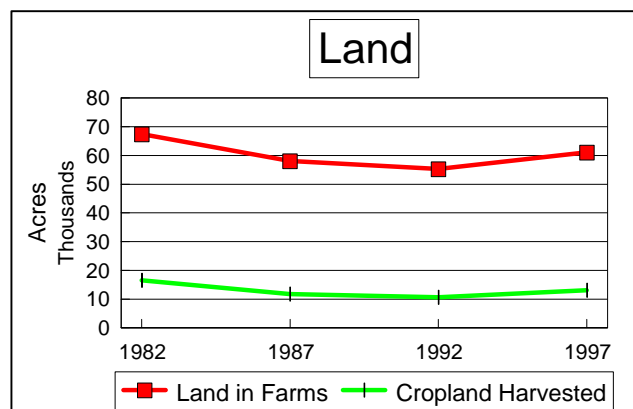
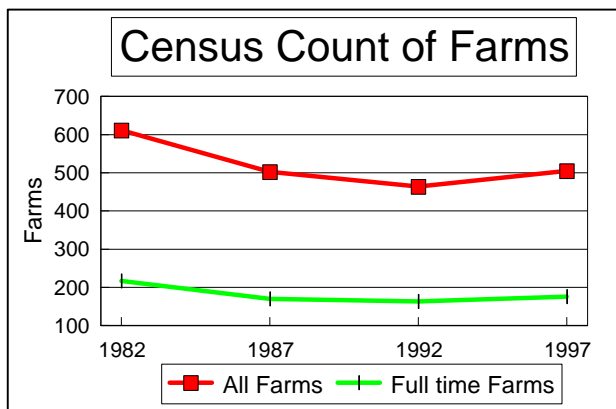
Increased 13 percent to \$5,438,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 24 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 76 percent of the market value.

Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 4 percent from \$10,402 in 1992 to \$10,768 in 1997.



1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture, North Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service

RUTHERFORD NORTH CAROLINA

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	5,438	91	100	2,741	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	4,147	78	100	2,442	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	1,291	96	100	2,649	3,070
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Cattle and calves	1,965	33	99	2,178	3,063
Poultry & poultry products	1,266	63	97	912	2,901
Dairy products	718	41	67	1,573	2,563
Nursery and greenhouse crops	441	76	96	1,388	2,790
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	233	49	97	2,246	3,043
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	659,168	53	68	494	1,882
Cattle and calves sold	5,666	32	99	2,065	3,063
Sheep and lambs sold	255	11	83	1,602	2,765
All goats sold	196	18	94	489	2,686
Hogs and pigs sold	(D)	79	95	2,516	2,976
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Broiler inventory	71,033	55	81	527	2,620
Cattle and calves inventory	12,802	28	99	1,924	3,064
Horse and pony inventory	586	24	100	1,377	3,066
Sheep and lamb inventory	373	12	90	1,566	2,864
All goat inventory	329	41	98	744	2,983
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Hay crops-acres	10,419	27	99	1,673	3,061
Soybeans for beans-acres	705	77	88	1,651	2,144
Corn for grain-acres	633	78	100	1,991	2,691
Corn for silage-acres	456	38	88	1,471	2,473
Cotton-acres	341	49	60	575	713

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	405	389	4
\$10,000 or more	100	75	33
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	5,165	4,809	7
Average per farmdollars..	10,228	10,364	-1
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	(475)	(632)	25
Average per farmdollars..	(940)	(1,362)	31
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	471	427	10
Partnership or corporation	34	36	-6
Other	-	1	-100
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	176	163	8
Other	329	301	9
Operators by sex:			
Male	473	444	7
Female	32	20	60
Operators by race:			
White	500	458	9
Black and other races	5	6	-17
Average age of operator	58.5	57.4	2

(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.