

1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
North Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service



WATAUGA NORTH CAROLINA

Land in farms

Increased 21 percent from 46,726 acres in 1992 to 56,508 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Increased 22 percent from 69 acres in 1992 to 84 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Decreased 12 percent from 292 farms in 1992 to 256 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

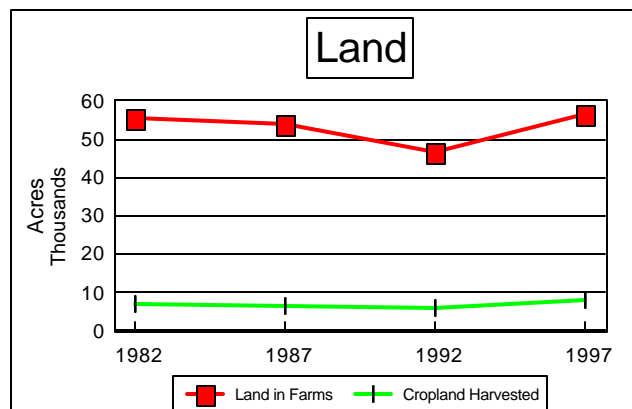
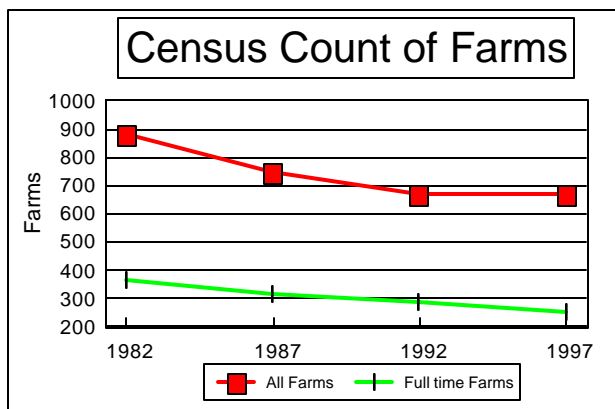
Increased 54 percent to \$11,641,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 59 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 41 percent of the market value.

Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 54 percent from \$11,228 in 1992 to \$17,272 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	11,641	85	100	2,428	3,076
Value of crops including nursery	6,859	76	100	1,964	3,070
Value of livestock and poultry	4,782	77	100	2,380	3,069
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Nursery and greenhouse crops	4,492	21	96	427	2,790
Cattle and calves	4,076	10	99	1,613	3,063
Tobacco	2,037	59	86	244	580
Dairy products	255	53	67	2,002	2,563
Horses and ponies	233	22	96	663	3,015
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Cattle and calves sold	9,145	15	99	1,684	3,063
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	(D)	64	68	721	1,882
Layers, pullets, and pullet chicks sold	146	55	72	1,305	2,203
Sheep and lambs sold	120	23	83	1,946	2,765
Horses and ponies sold	38	46	96	1,931	3,015
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Cattle and calves inventory	11,186	32	99	2,038	3,064
Horse and pony inventory	489	35	100	1,623	3,066
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	280	59	98	2,117	3,002
Sheep and lamb inventory	207	22	90	1,845	2,864
All goat inventory	179	66	98	1,262	2,983
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Hay crops-acres	5,363	40	99	2,224	3,061
All nursery-acres	2,216	5	95	116	2,619
Cut christmas trees harvested-acres	1,500	5	74	14	1,965
Tobacco-acres	657	59	86	242	583
Corn for silage-acres	130	60	88	1,945	2,473

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	431	476	-9
\$10,000 or more	243	197	23
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	6,140	5,447	13
Average per farmdollars..	9,110	8,082	13
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	3,582	2,155	66
Average per farmdollars..	5,315	3,197	66
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	605	619	-2
Partnership or corporation	64	54	19
Other	5	-	
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	256	292	-12
Other	418	381	10
Operators by sex:			
Male	609	621	-2
Female	65	52	25
Operators by race:			
White	669	673	-1
Black and other races	5	-	
Average age of operator	56.4	55.0	3

(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.