

1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service



AMHERST VIRGINIA

Land in farms

Increased 3 percent from 90,296 acres in 1992 to 92,720 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Increased 6 percent from 216 acres in 1992 to 228 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Decreased 13 percent from 170 farms in 1992 to 148 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

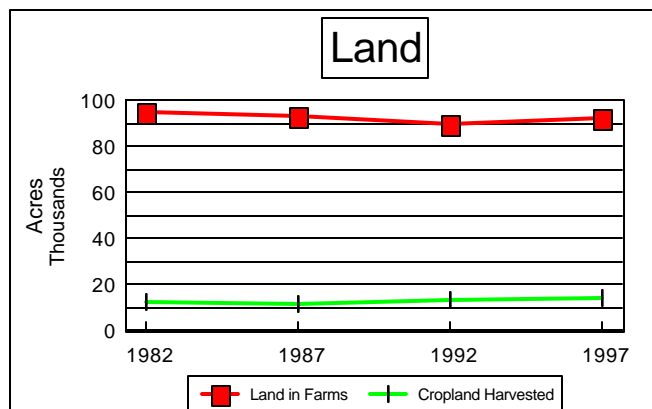
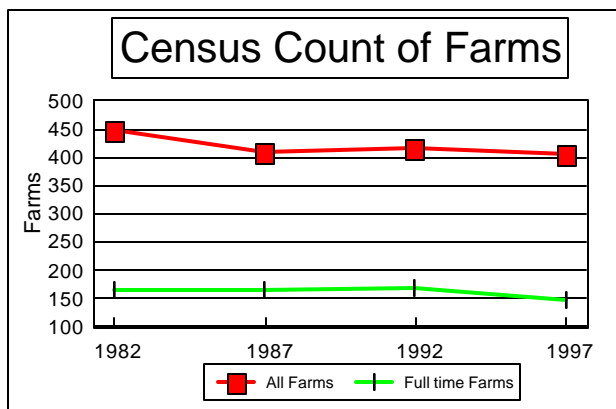
Decreased 4 percent to \$5,105,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 29 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 71 percent of the market value.

Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Decreased 1 percent from \$12,760 in 1992 to \$12,575 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	5,105	80	98	2,755	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	3,604	63	97	2,502	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	1,501	80	98	2,607	3,070
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Cattle and calves	3,388	39	97	1,768	3,063
Fruits, nuts, berries	(D)	7	91	301	2,547
Nursery and greenhouse crops	221	67	97	1,726	2,790
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	172	60	97	2,441	3,043
Dairy products	143	67	72	2,178	2,563
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Cattle and calves sold	9,174	36	97	1,679	3,063
Sheep and lambs sold	324	31	89	1,483	2,765
Rabbits and their pelts sold	(D)	11	40	591	1,593
Hogs and pigs sold	(D)	68	93	2,586	2,976
Horses and ponies sold	33	40	96	2,063	3,015
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Cattle and calves inventory	16,857	36	97	1,704	3,064
Horse and pony inventory	379	45	97	1,945	3,066
Sheep and lamb inventory	378	37	93	1,563	2,864
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	248	63	95	2,200	3,002
Rabbit inventory	(D)	14	75	676	2,456
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Hay crops-acres	13,039	40	97	1,425	3,061
Corn for silage-acres	450	50	86	1,477	2,473
Land in orchards-acres	380	15	96	547	2,693
Corn for grain-acres	137	87	97	2,320	2,691
All nursery-acres	88	48	93	1,262	2,619

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	303	300	1
\$10,000 or more	103	118	-13
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	5,106	5,001	2
Average per farmdollars..	12,576	11,992	5
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	(215)	(28)	-668
Average per farmdollars..	(530)	(66)	-703
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	370	387	-4
Partnership or corporation	34	29	17
Other	2	2	
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	148	170	-13
Other	258	248	4
Operators by sex:			
Male	369	386	-4
Female	37	32	16
Operators by race:			
White	386	404	-4
Black and other races	20	14	43
Average age of operator	58.5	56.8	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.