

1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service



MERCER WEST VIRGINIA

Land in farms

Decreased 5 percent from 56,555 acres in 1992 to 53,450 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Increased 15 percent from 114 acres in 1992 to 131 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Decreased 12 percent from 182 farms in 1992 to 161 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

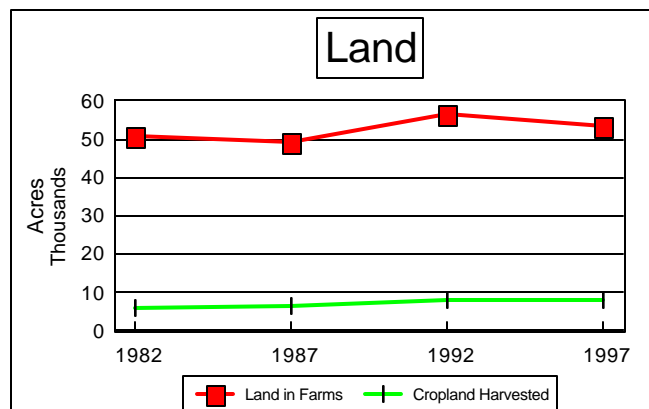
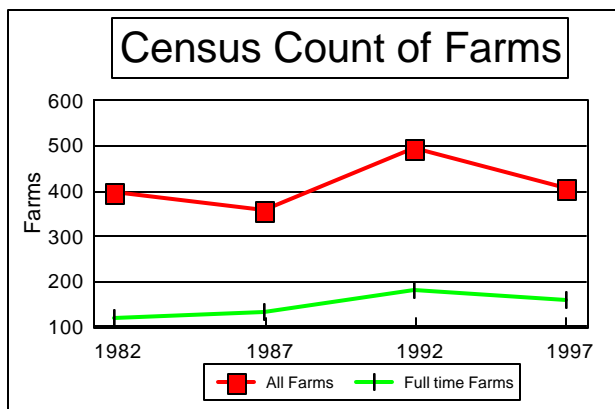
Decreased 10 percent to \$2,539,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 28 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 72 percent of the market value.

Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 9 percent from \$5,670 in 1992 to \$6,207 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	2,539	27	55	2,916	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	1,829	27	55	2,757	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	710	24	54	2,807	3,070
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Cattle and calves	1,359	28	55	2,392	3,063
Nursery and greenhouse crops	360	15	52	1,481	2,790
Horses and ponies	340	1	51	451	3,015
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	290	13	54	2,089	3,043
Aquaculture	90	4	22	411	1,505
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Cattle and calves sold	3,216	29	55	2,452	3,063
Sheep and lambs sold	184	26	50	1,756	2,765
Hogs and pigs sold	134	26	51	2,504	2,976
Horses and ponies sold	71	9	51	1,288	3,015
All goats sold	(D)	25	47	1,695	2,686
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Cattle and calves inventory	6,040	29	55	2,480	3,064
Horse and pony inventory	488	10	54	1,626	3,066
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	266	38	52	2,148	3,002
Sheep and lamb inventory	217	29	50	1,824	2,864
All goat inventory	150	22	52	1,417	2,983
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Hay crops-acres	7,450	32	54	1,973	3,061
All nursery-acres	226	9	50	862	2,619
Corn for grain-acres	110	27	51	2,351	2,691
Corn for silage-acres	94	33	48	2,045	2,473
Oats-acres	31	19	34	1,979	2,332

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	358	433	-17
\$10,000 or more	51	62	-18
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	2,151	2,144	0
Average per farmdollars..	5,235	4,322	21
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	(268)	404	-166
Average per farmdollars..	(652)	815	-180
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	398	478	-17
Partnership or corporation	10	17	-41
Other	1	-	
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	161	182	-12
Other	248	313	-21
Operators by sex:			
Male	356	444	-20
Female	53	51	4
Operators by race:			
White	404	492	-18
Black and other races	5	3	67
Average age of operator	58.9	56.9	4

(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.