

2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile

Berkshire, Massachusetts

Number of farms

401 farms in 2002, 501 farms in 1997, down 20 percent.

Land in farms

68,630 acres in 2002, 67,983 acres in 1997, up 1 percent.

Average size of farm

171 acres in 2002, 136 acres in 1997, up 26 percent.

Market Value of Production

\$21,725,000 in 2002, \$21,420,000 in 1997, up 1 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$9,707,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$12,018,000 of the total value in 2002.

Market Value of Production, average per farm

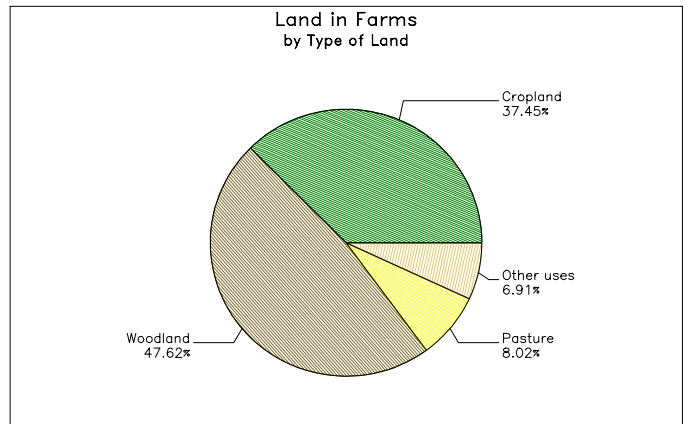
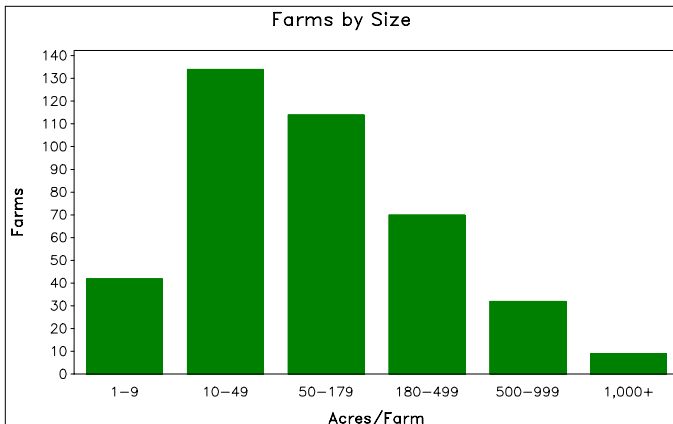
\$54,178 in 2002, \$42,755 in 1997, up 27 percent.

Government Payments

\$330,000 in 2002, \$100,000 in 1997, up 230 percent.

Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$13,213 in 2002, \$3,033 in 1997, up 336 percent.



**2002 Census of Agriculture
County Profile
United States Department of Agriculture, New England Agricultural Statistics Service**

Berkshire, Massachusetts

Ranked items among the 14 state counties and 3,078 U.S. counties, 2002

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe ¹	U.S. Rank	Universe ¹
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	21,725	9	14	2,022	3,075
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	9,707	10	14	1,675	3,070
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	12,018	3	13	1,730	3,070
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	(D)	(D)	9	(D)	2,871
Tobacco	-	-	3	-	560
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	(D)	(D)	14	(D)	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	(D)	(D)	14	(D)	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	6,104	9	14	402	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	140	4	11	343	1,774
Other crops and hay	1,466	3	13	890	3,046
Poultry and eggs	529	3	12	1,045	2,918
Cattle and calves	1,337	3	12	2,414	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	9,391	3	10	395	2,493
Hogs and pigs	16	9	12	2,144	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	176	3	12	489	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	378	4	13	563	3,014
Aquaculture	-	-	11	-	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	191	6	11	618	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Layers 20 weeks old and older	25,690	2	13	622	2,983
Cattle and calves	8,629	3	13	2,175	3,059
Mink	(D)	1	1	(D)	117
Horses and ponies	1,095	7	14	1,156	3,065
Sheep and lambs	1,016	3	12	962	2,867
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	14,390	2	13	1,407	3,059
Corn for silage	2,765	3	11	604	2,307
All Vegetables harvested	683	8	14	551	2,710
Corn for grain	581	2	8	1,939	2,592
Sweet corn	423	7	13	224	2,279

Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales	
Less than \$1,000	120
\$1,000 to \$2,499	69
\$2,500 to \$4,999	26
\$5,000 to \$9,999	38
\$10,000 to \$19,999	52
\$20,000 to \$24,999	11
\$25,000 to \$39,999	18
\$40,000 to \$49,999	10
\$50,000 to \$99,999	10
\$100,000 to \$249,999	23
\$250,000 to \$499,999	16
\$500,000 or more	8
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	23,248
Average per farm (\$)	57,974
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	1,267
Average per farm (\$)	3,158

Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Farming	233
Other	168
Principal operators by sex:	
Male	320
Female	81
Average age of principal operator (years)	56.3
All operators ² by race:	
White	628
Black or African American	-
American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
Asian	-
More than one race	1
All operators ² of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	1

(D) Cannot be disclosed. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

¹ Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.

² Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.