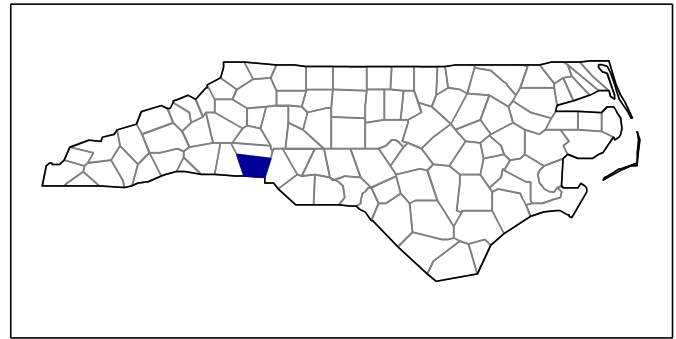




2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile



Gaston, North Carolina

Number of farms

450 farms in 2002, 420 farms in 1997, up 7 percent.

Land in farms

41,827 acres in 2002, 37,124 acres in 1997, up 13 percent.

Average size of farm

93 acres in 2002, 88 acres in 1997, up 6 percent.

Market Value of Production

\$11,943,000 in 2002, \$10,541,000 in 1997, up 13 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$2,843,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$9,099,000 of the total value in 2002.

Market Value of Production, average per farm

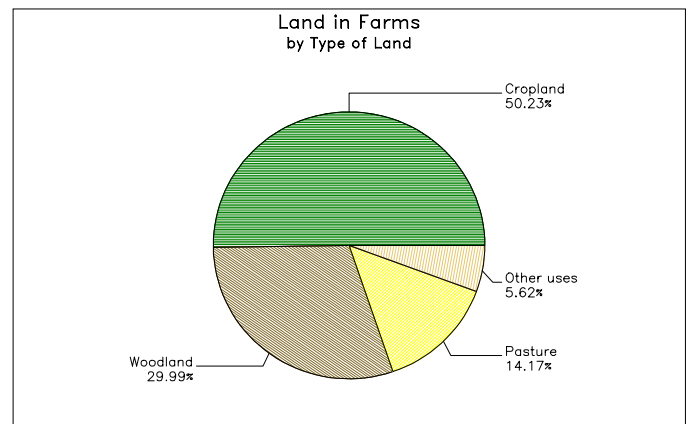
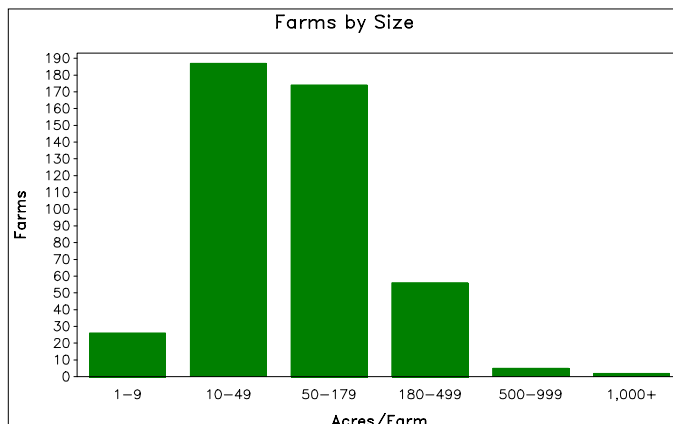
\$26,539 in 2002, \$25,098 in 1997, up 6 percent.

Government Payments

\$365,000 in 2002, \$165,000 in 1997, up 121 percent.

Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$3,148 in 2002, \$1,682 in 1997, up 87 percent.



**2002 Census of Agriculture
County Profile
United States Department of Agriculture, North Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service**

Gaston, North Carolina

Ranked items among the 100 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	11,943	84	100	2,415	3,075
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	2,843	91	100	2,359	3,070
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	9,099	64	99	1,945	3,070
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	115	83	98	2,349	2,871
Tobacco	-	-	86	-	560
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	55	-	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	84	89	100	1,801	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	(D)	(D)	99	(D)	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	2,084	44	96	783	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	(D)	(D)	68	(D)	1,774
Other crops and hay	442	44	100	2,004	3,046
Poultry and eggs	4,062	55	95	660	2,918
Cattle and calves	1,203	48	99	2,473	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	3,517	16	64	765	2,493
Hogs and pigs	8	77	90	2,372	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	(D)	(D)	98	(D)	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	252	23	91	899	3,014
Aquaculture	(D)	(D)	51	(D)	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	10	32	85	1,825	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	477,000	44	68	386	2,599
Cattle and calves	7,769	42	99	2,262	3,059
Horses and ponies	913	29	99	1,412	3,065
All Goats	357	56	99	1,318	2,971
Quail ³	(D)	(D)	44	(D)	1,412
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	10,469	29	100	1,723	3,059
Corn for silage	1,094	22	65	1,066	2,307
Soybeans	540	75	85	1,640	2,076
Barley	521	12	47	401	1,246
Sorghum for silage	415	3	50	232	1,387

Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	145	Farming	230
\$1,000 to \$2,499	91	Other	220
\$2,500 to \$4,999	74		
\$5,000 to \$9,999	46	Principal operators by sex:	
\$10,000 to \$19,999	38	Male	408
\$20,000 to \$24,999	13	Female	42
\$25,000 to \$39,999	11		
\$40,000 to \$49,999	2	Average age of principal operator (years)	57.4
\$50,000 to \$99,999	5		
\$100,000 to \$249,999	6	All operators ² by race:	
\$250,000 to \$499,999	14	White	603
\$500,000 or more	5	Black or African American	2
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	10,469	American Indian or Alaska Native	-
Average per farm (\$)	23,213	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	2,910	Asian	-
Average per farm (\$)	6,453	More than one race	-
		All operators ² of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	5

(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.

³ Items with a rank that cannot be disclosed are separated by a blank line, position in table does not indicate rank.