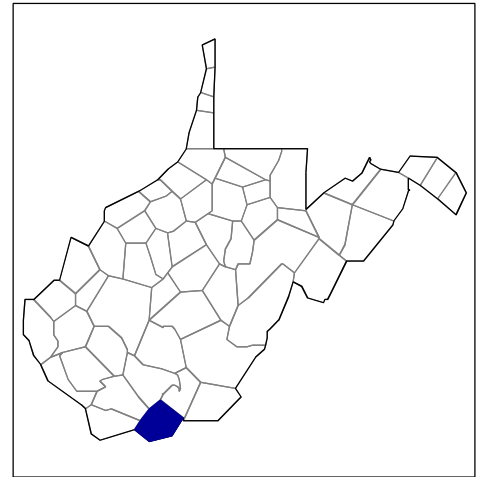


2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile

Mercer, West Virginia



Number of farms

393 farms in 2002, 509 farms in 1997, down 23 percent.

Land in farms

55,623 acres in 2002, 59,952 acres in 1997, down 7 percent.

Average size of farm

142 acres in 2002, 118 acres in 1997, up 20 percent.

Market Value of Production

\$2,760,000 in 2002, \$2,805,000 in 1997, down 2 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$688,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$2,072,000 of the total value in 2002.

Market Value of Production, average per farm

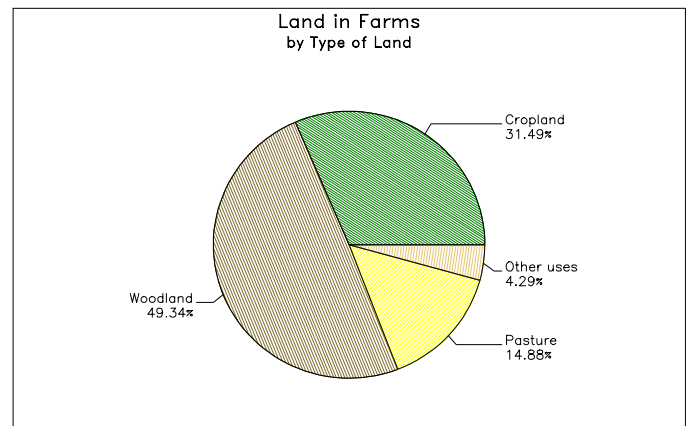
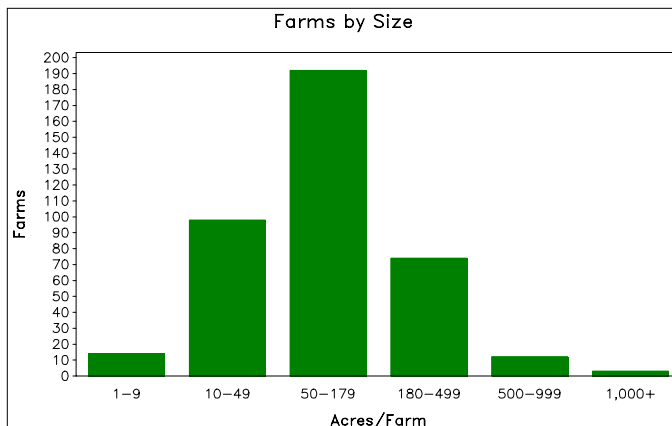
\$7,022 in 2002, \$5,511 in 1997, up 27 percent.

Government Payments

\$5,000 in 2002, \$33,000 in 1997, down 85 percent.

Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$297 in 2002, \$1,302 in 1997, down 77 percent.



**2002 Census of Agriculture
County Profile
United States Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service**

Mercer, West Virginia

Ranked items among the 55 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	2,760	26	55	2,899	3,075
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	688	23	55	2,833	3,070
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	2,072	26	55	2,700	3,070
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	(D)	(D)	43	(D)	2,871
Tobacco	(D)	(D)	20	(D)	560
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	15	35	52	2,404	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	26	16	52	1,844	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	412	15	54	1,506	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	16	18	46	1,036	1,774
Other crops and hay	206	28	53	2,512	3,046
Poultry and eggs	2	45	52	2,539	2,918
Cattle and calves	1,555	25	55	2,323	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	(D)	(D)	39	(D)	2,493
Hogs and pigs	6	36	51	2,475	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	45	11	52	1,346	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	168	6	51	1,279	3,014
Aquaculture	(D)	(D)	30	(D)	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	8	20	52	1,916	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Cattle and calves	6,035	25	55	2,420	3,059
All Goats	683	6	52	763	2,971
Sheep and lambs	548	16	51	1,394	2,867
Horses and ponies	512	26	55	2,128	3,065
Layers 20 weeks old and older	479	35	52	1,932	2,983
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	7,988	33	55	1,969	3,059
Corn for silage	85	26	44	2,004	2,307
Cut Christmas trees	52	19	49	822	1,877
Corn for grain	47	31	47	2,411	2,592
Apples	39	9	52	618	2,173

Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales	
Less than \$1,000	126
\$1,000 to \$2,499	98
\$2,500 to \$4,999	60
\$5,000 to \$9,999	59
\$10,000 to \$19,999	31
\$20,000 to \$24,999	3
\$25,000 to \$39,999	5
\$40,000 to \$49,999	1
\$50,000 to \$99,999	6
\$100,000 to \$249,999	3
\$250,000 to \$499,999	1
\$500,000 or more	-
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	2,611
Average per farm (\$)	6,662
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	-153
Average per farm (\$)	-391

Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Farming	194
Other	199
Principal operators by sex:	
Male	343
Female	50
Average age of principal operator (years)	57.5
All operators ² by race:	
White	491
Black or African American	4
American Indian or Alaska Native	-
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
Asian	-
More than one race	-
All operators ² of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	3

(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.