NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION | N.C. A&T STATE UNIVERSITY | NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Mecklenburg County

LOCAL FARMS AND FOOD PROFILE

DATA FROM 2017 & 2012 USDA CENSUS

11,674 ACRES OF FARMS

DOWN 24% FROM 2012

DOWN 17% FROM 2012

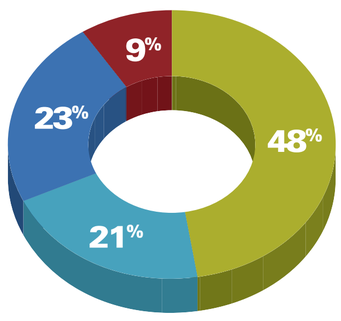
54 ACRES AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM

121 ANIMAL FARMS

DOWN 2% FROM 2012

216 FARMS

DOWN 9% FROM 2012



FARMLAND COMPONENTS

- CROPLAND
- WOODLAND
- PASTURELAND
- OTHER

$1,856,000 VALUE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS

UP 6% FROM 2012

TOTAL AG PRODUCTS SOLD

* Insufficient Data

24 SOD, GREENHOUSE, NURSERY, FLORICULTURE FARMS

DOWN 23% FROM 2012

VALUE OF SOD, GREENHOUSE, NURSERY, FLORICULTURE PRODUCTS

* Insufficient Data

128 TOTAL CROP FARMS, INCLUDING NURSERY & GREENHOUSE

UP 5% FROM 2012

VALUE OF CROP INCLUDING NURSERY & GREENHOUSE

* Insufficient Data

DOWN 39% FROM 2012

23 FARMS THAT SELL DIRECT TO CONSUMER

$254,000 DIRECT TO CONSUMER SALES

UP 167% FROM 2012

UP 60% FROM 2012

16 GRAIN, OILSEED, BEAN, PEA FARMS

$1,397,000 VALUE OF GRAIN, OILSEED, BEAN, PEA PRODUCTS

DOWN 5% FROM 2012

1 FARMS WITH INTERMEDIATED SALES

* Insufficient Data

VALUE OF INTERMEDIATED SALES

* 2012 data not collected by US AG Census

UP 58% FROM 2012

19 FRUIT, NUT & BERRY FARMS

39 VEGETABLE, MELON, & POTATO FARMS

UP 56% FROM 2012

$150,000 VALUE OF FRUIT, NUT & BERRY

UP 114% FROM 2012

$350,000 VALUE OF VEGETABLE, MELON & POTATO

UP 20% FROM 2012

AGRITOURISM REVENUE

* Insufficient Data

DOWN 63% FROM 2012

3 AGRITOURISM FARMS

130 FEMALE PRODUCERS

223 MALE PRODUCERS

112 NEW & BEGINNING FARMERS

42 PRODUCERS WITH MILITARY SERVICE

61.3 PRINCIPAL PRODUCER AVERAGE AGE

PIEDMONT GROWN

NC FarmLink

CEFS CENTER for ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING SYSTEMS NCSU | NCA&T | NCDA&CS www.cefs.ncsu.edu

NC Local Food

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NC State and N.C. A&T State universities, U.S. Department of Agriculture and local governments cooperating. This material was produced with funding from the NC Cooperative Extension Local Food Program.

Agriculture as Economic Development

North Carolina's agricultural industry, including food, fiber and forestry, contributes $91.9 billion to the state's economy, accounts for more than 17 percent of the state's income, and employs 17 percent of the workforce. *

North Carolina is one of the most diversified agriculture states in the nation. The state's 46,418 farmers grow over 80 different commodities, utilizing 8.4 million of the state's 31 million acres to furnish consumers a dependable and affordable supply of food and fiber. The state ranks eighth nationally in Total Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold. Net income per farm in the state is over $86,645.

This Local Food and Farms infographic is designed for economic developers, planners, local food advocates, and community members to understand the impact of their county and region to the overall NC agricultural economic impact. The economic indicators provided here can help local governments as they design ways to support agricultural businesses as key components of vibrant and resilient, local and rural economies. Each region in North Carolina presents a unique set of opportunities for sustainable economic growth and entrepreneurship.

Consider one example: When school systems purchase food from local farmers, students benefit from access to healthy fresh produce, farmers benefit from sales into local schools, and the community benefits because these local sales are spent at other local businesses. This type of local business opportunity keeps farms in production, maintaining North Carolina's agricultural asset base both in terms of land and farming know-how. And it keeps dollars spent on food circulating among other local businesses.

As decision makers consider policies, programs and practices to support the agriculture sector there are numerous examples and supporting reports providing guidance:

NCSU / Center for Environmental Farming Systems / NC State Extension Local Food
Local Government Guide to Developing Local Food Economies
https://cefs.ncsu.edu/food-system-initiatives/local-food-economies/local-government-guide-to-food-economies/

Food System Initiatives (includes NC case studies)
https://cefs.ncsu.edu/food-system-initiatives/local-food-economies/

The NC 10% Campaign Initiative
https://www.nc10percent.com/

NC Local Food
https://localfood.ces.ncsu.edu/
https://localfood.ces.ncsu.edu/food-system-supply-chain/

USDA
The Economics of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments, and Choices
https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Toolkit%20Designed%20FINAL%203-22-16.pdf

For up to date information on this project go to
go.ncsu.edu/agcensus

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https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_US_State_Level/st99_2_0004_0004.pdf