

2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile

Columbus, North Carolina

Number of farms

828 farms in 2002, 1,015 farms in 1997, down 18 percent.

Land in farms

160,128 acres in 2002, 172,422 acres in 1997, down 7 percent.

Average size of farm

193 acres in 2002, 170 acres in 1997, up 14 percent.

Market Value of Production

\$106,249,000 in 2002, \$140,947,000 in 1997, down 25 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$41,422,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$64,827,000 of the total value in 2002.

Market Value of Production, average per farm

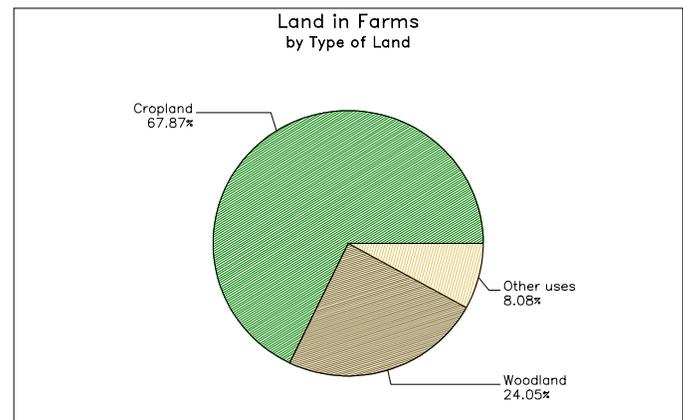
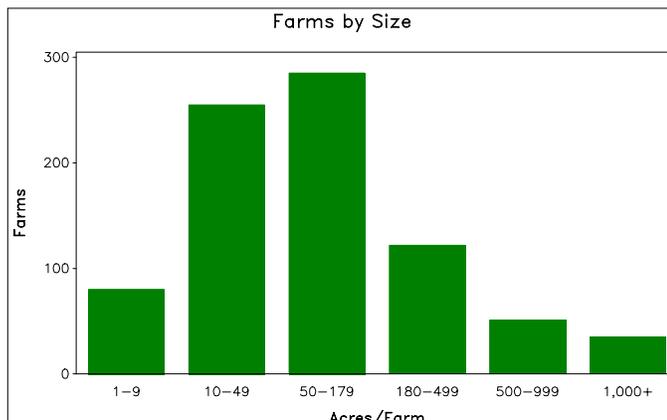
\$128,320 in 2002, \$138,864 in 1997, down 8 percent.

Government Payments

\$1,683,000 in 2002, \$976,000 in 1997, up 72 percent.

Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$6,871 in 2002, \$2,764 in 1997, up 149 percent.



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

Columbus, 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	106,249	17	100	455	3,075
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	41,422	14	100	610	3,070
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	64,827	23	99	398	3,070
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	9,593	14	98	1,009	2,871
Tobacco	20,836	10	86	14	560
Cotton and cottonseed	1,057	35	55	349	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	6,391	11	100	256	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	437	18	99	580	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	2,195	41	96	761	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	41	28	68	698	1,774
Other crops and hay	872	19	100	1,377	3,046
Poultry and eggs	5,898	51	95	577	2,918
Cattle and calves	1,472	44	99	2,356	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	(D)	(D)	64	(D)	2,493
Hogs and pigs	57,171	10	90	33	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	(D)	(D)	98	(D)	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	134	44	91	1,496	3,014
Aquaculture	(D)	(D)	51	(D)	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	(D)	(D)	85	(D)	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	532,020	43	68	372	2,599
Hogs and pigs	255,732	10	91	37	2,926
Cattle and calves	9,860	31	99	2,058	3,059
Colonies of bees	(D)	4	84	(D)	2,392
All Goats	710	37	99	729	2,971
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Soybeans	44,720	9	85	593	2,076
Corn for grain	28,918	5	100	672	2,592
All Wheat for grain	6,397	20	83	820	2,517
Tobacco	5,943	6	86	8	563
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	5,379	49	100	2,260	3,059

Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	165	Farming	498
\$1,000 to \$2,499	108	Other	330
\$2,500 to \$4,999	94		
\$5,000 to \$9,999	98	Principal operators by sex:	
\$10,000 to \$19,999	86	Male	781
\$20,000 to \$24,999	28	Female	47
\$25,000 to \$39,999	34		
\$40,000 to \$49,999	11	Average age of principal operator (years)	53.2
\$50,000 to \$99,999	60		
\$100,000 to \$249,999	62	All operators ² by race:	
\$250,000 to \$499,999	26	White	917
\$500,000 or more	56	Black or African American	98
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	89,643	American Indian or Alaska Native	25
Average per farm (\$)	108,133	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
		Asian	1
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	24,548	More than one race	6
Average per farm (\$)	29,612	All operators ² of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	14

(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.