

2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile

Berks, Pennsylvania

Number of farms

1,791 farms in 2002, 2,073 farms in 1997, down 14 percent.

Land in farms

215,679 acres in 2002, 239,810 acres in 1997, down 10 percent.

Average size of farm

120 acres in 2002, 116 acres in 1997, up 3 percent.

Market Value of Production

\$286,978,000 in 2002, \$261,106,000 in 1997, up 10 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$119,961,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$167,017,000 of the total value in 2002.

Market Value of Production, average per farm

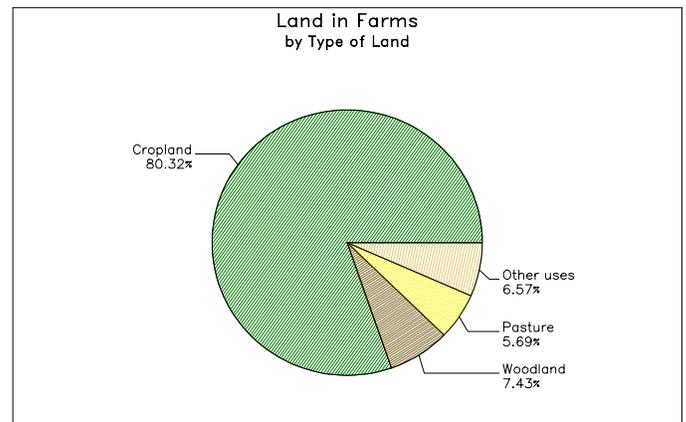
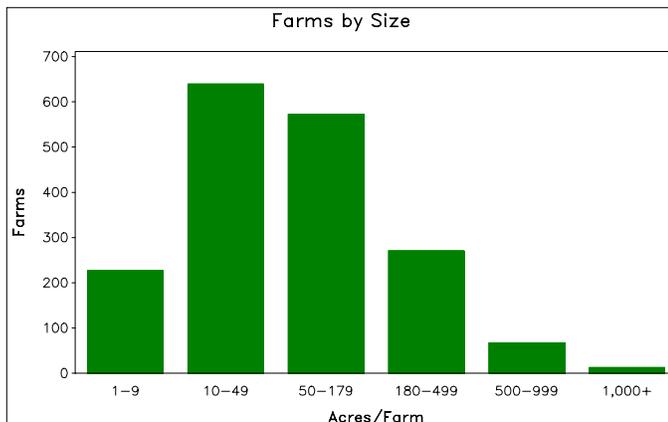
\$160,233 in 2002, \$125,955 in 1997, up 27 percent.

Government Payments

\$3,805,000 in 2002, \$1,048,000 in 1997, up 263 percent.

Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$9,304 in 2002, \$3,224 in 1997, up 189 percent.



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

Berks, Pennsylvania

Ranked items among the 67 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	286,978	3	67	80	3,075
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	119,961	2	67	90	3,070
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	167,017	4	66	87	3,070
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	10,203	3	65	994	2,871
Tobacco	-	-	19	-	560
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	2,312	20	67	495	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	4,436	5	66	155	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	96,809	2	66	26	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	1,277	6	66	45	1,774
Other crops and hay	4,924	1	66	252	3,046
Poultry and eggs	70,845	2	66	82	2,918
Cattle and calves	18,252	6	66	568	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	59,970	3	65	56	2,493
Hogs and pigs	13,460	5	66	226	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	166	13	66	524	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	477	10	65	412	3,014
Aquaculture	244	15	60	398	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	3,604	2	66	28	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Layers 20 weeks old and older	2,574,506	2	67	23	2,983
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	1,230,768	5	64	255	2,599
Ducks	(D)	1	65	(D)	2,630
Hogs and pigs	61,517	5	65	244	2,926
Cattle and calves	60,198	4	66	414	3,059
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	50,400	10	66	291	3,059
Corn for grain	36,348	3	66	605	2,592
Corn for silage	27,113	3	65	23	2,307
Soybeans	24,615	3	58	775	2,076
All Wheat for grain	9,718	4	60	656	2,517

Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	402	Farming	1,137
\$1,000 to \$2,499	181	Other	654
\$2,500 to \$4,999	170	Principal operators by sex:	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	140	Male	1,632
\$10,000 to \$19,999	169	Female	159
\$20,000 to \$24,999	37	Average age of principal operator (years)	52.7
\$25,000 to \$39,999	75	All operators ² by race:	
\$40,000 to \$49,999	25	White	2,732
\$50,000 to \$99,999	153	Black or African American	-
\$100,000 to \$249,999	240	American Indian or Alaska Native	3
\$250,000 to \$499,999	114	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
\$500,000 or more	85	Asian	1
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	216,821	More than one race	-
Average per farm (\$)	121,468	All operators ² of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	12
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	79,483		
Average per farm (\$)	44,528		

(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.