

2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile

Mercer, Pennsylvania

Number of farms

1,239 farms in 2002, 1,392 farms in 1997, down 11 percent.

Land in farms

164,306 acres in 2002, 185,139 acres in 1997, down 11 percent.

Average size of farm

133 acres in 2002, 133 acres in 1997, unchanged.

Market Value of Production

\$43,737,000 in 2002, \$47,759,000 in 1997, down 8 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$13,972,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$29,765,000 of the total value in 2002.

Market Value of Production, average per farm

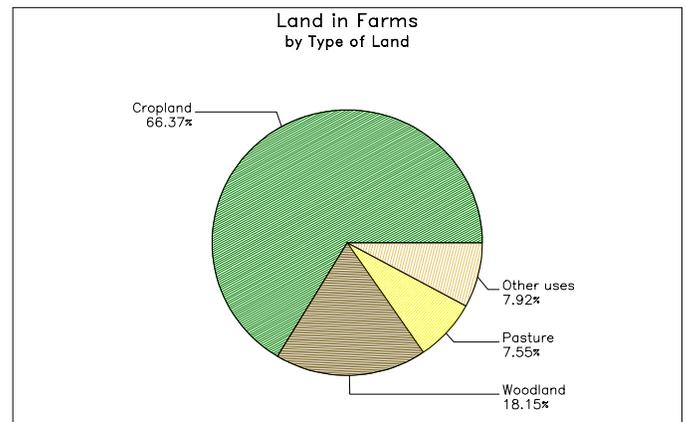
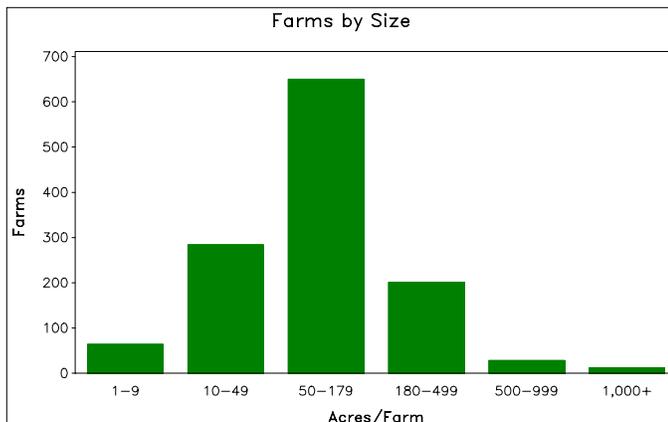
\$35,300 in 2002, \$34,310 in 1997, up 3 percent.

Government Payments

\$1,753,000 in 2002, \$710,000 in 1997, up 147 percent.

Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$5,765 in 2002, \$2,261 in 1997, up 155 percent.



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

Mercer, 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 | 43,737 | 30 | 67 | 1,323 | 3,075 |
| Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse | 13,972 | 24 | 67 | 1,437 | 3,070 |
| Value of livestock, poultry, and their products | 29,765 | 27 | 66 | 943 | 3,070 |
| VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000) | | | | | |
| Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas | 5,237 | 13 | 65 | 1,218 | 2,871 |
| Tobacco | - | - | 19 | - | 560 |
| Cotton and cottonseed | - | - | - | - | 656 |
| Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes | 1,614 | 27 | 67 | 603 | 2,747 |
| Fruits, tree nuts, and berries | 313 | 35 | 66 | 707 | 2,638 |
| Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod | 4,720 | 21 | 66 | 476 | 2,708 |
| Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops | 17 | 60 | 66 | 1,010 | 1,774 |
| Other crops and hay | 2,071 | 16 | 66 | 614 | 3,046 |
| Poultry and eggs | (D) | (D) | 66 | (D) | 2,918 |
| Cattle and calves | 6,358 | 19 | 66 | 1,330 | 3,053 |
| Milk and other dairy products from cows | 21,307 | 19 | 65 | 209 | 2,493 |
| Hogs and pigs | 799 | 26 | 66 | 924 | 2,919 |
| Sheep, goats, and their products | 86 | 31 | 66 | 902 | 2,997 |
| Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys | 431 | 13 | 65 | 479 | 3,014 |
| Aquaculture | (D) | (D) | 60 | (D) | 1,520 |
| Other animals and other animal products | (D) | (D) | 66 | (D) | 2,727 |
| TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number) | | | | | |
| Cattle and calves | 31,112 | 18 | 66 | 1,030 | 3,059 |
| Layers 20 weeks old and older | 19,448 | 28 | 67 | 674 | 2,983 |
| Hogs and pigs | 4,877 | 26 | 65 | 897 | 2,926 |
| Horses and ponies | 3,039 | 7 | 66 | 202 | 3,065 |
| Broilers and other meat-type chickens | 2,473 | 21 | 64 | 726 | 2,599 |
| TOP CROP ITEMS (acres) | | | | | |
| Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop | 38,331 | 19 | 66 | 516 | 3,059 |
| Corn for grain | 24,602 | 8 | 66 | 735 | 2,592 |
| Soybeans | 9,504 | 15 | 58 | 1,047 | 2,076 |
| Corn for silage | 6,856 | 22 | 65 | 263 | 2,307 |
| Oats | 5,667 | 4 | 64 | 64 | 2,215 |

Other County Highlights

| Economic Characteristics | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| Farms by value of sales | |
| Less than \$1,000 | 315 |
| \$1,000 to \$2,499 | 154 |
| \$2,500 to \$4,999 | 152 |
| \$5,000 to \$9,999 | 140 |
| \$10,000 to \$19,999 | 140 |
| \$20,000 to \$24,999 | 38 |
| \$25,000 to \$39,999 | 60 |
| \$40,000 to \$49,999 | 40 |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 83 |
| \$100,000 to \$249,999 | 78 |
| \$250,000 to \$499,999 | 29 |
| \$500,000 or more | 10 |
| Total farm production expenses (\$1,000) | 44,962 |
| Average per farm (\$) | 36,172 |
| Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000) | 4,540 |
| Average per farm (\$) | 3,653 |

| Operator Characteristics | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| Principal operators by primary occupation: | |
| Farming | 687 |
| Other | 552 |
| Principal operators by sex: | |
| Male | 1,122 |
| Female | 117 |
| Average age of principal operator (years) | 53.8 |
| All operators ² by race: | |
| White | 1,844 |
| Black or African American | - |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | - |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | - |
| Asian | 1 |
| More than one race | 2 |
| All operators ² of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin | 12 |

(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.