

KENTUCKY PRESS RELEASE



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2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE SHOWS CHANGES IN KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE

The 2002 Census of Agriculture counted 86,541 farms in Kentucky. Census figures show that these farms sold \$3.1 billion dollars worth of agricultural products, an average of \$35,591 per farm. The official definition of a farm or ranch includes all places where \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

The census number of farms declined 5% from the 1997 census, while land in farms decreased 1%. The census also showed that 67% of all Kentucky farms sold less than \$10,000 worth of agricultural products compared to 59% in 1997. This trend shows the movement of medium sized farms to mostly the smaller size category. Farms with sales over \$100,000 accounted for 6% of all farms and represented 73% of total farm sales of agricultural products.

More Census figures include:

- ◆ The number of tobacco farms at 29,237 declined 38% from 1997. Tobacco acres harvested fell 56% from 1997 due to large quota cuts incurred during the period.
- ◆ Fayette County was the State's leader in equine sales with nearly \$157 million dollars in sales. Fayette County also had more sales in this category during 2002 than any State in the United States.
- ◆ The efforts of many Kentucky farm organizations to help farms diversify from tobacco have been successful over the past 5 years. Two examples showing the success of these efforts are the rise of meat goats and vegetables. The number of farms with meat goats increased 74% since 1997, and the meat goat inventory reported at 61,618 head was up from 13,037 head in 1997. Meat goat sales were reported at 42,923 head, up from 5,260 in 1997. Nationally, Kentucky meat goat inventory ranked 5th among the States and sales ranked 3rd. The number of farms harvesting vegetables and melons for sale increased 31% from 1997, and the number of harvested acres increased 53% during the five year period.
- ◆ Total cattle inventory was reported at 2.4 million head, down 3% from 1997. Beef cow inventory was reported at 1.1 million head. Kentucky continues to have the largest beef cow inventory east of the Mississippi River.
- ◆ The number of farms producing broilers more than doubled from 1997, and the number of broilers sold in 2002 was nearly 2.5 times the number sold in 1997.
- ◆ Farms producing corn and soybeans in 2002 showed a decline in numbers from 1997. Corn acres reported on the census were down 8%, while soybean acres increased 5% from 1997.
- ◆ Twenty-five percent of agricultural producers were women in 2002, and the number of women who were principal operators decreased 4% from 1997.
- ◆ The average operator age was 55 years old, up one year from 1997.

All Farms	2002	1997	All Farms	2002	1997
Farms number	86,541	91,198	Cattle and calves inventory farms	47,447	53,500
Land in farms acres	13,843,706	13,940,180	. . . . . number	2,395,476	2,476,949
Avg. size of farm acres	160	153	Hogs and pigs inventory farms	1,254	2,129
Farms by size:			. . . . . number	385,811	584,632
1 to 9 acres	5,342	8,261	Meat goats inventory farms	2,979	1,712
10 to 49 acres	24,758	24,285	. . . . . number	61,618	13,037
50 to 179 acres	36,628	37,646	Meat goat sales farms	1,407	516
180 to 499 acres	14,950	16,110	. . . . . number	42,923	5,260
500 to 999 acres	3,175	3,374	Broilers and other meat-type		
1,000 to 1,999 acres	1,214	1,131	chickens sold farms	669	314
2,000 acres or more	474	391	. . . . . number	271,176,998	111,920,659
Harvested cropland acres	4,978,994	4,853,500	Total operators	123,214	(NA)
Corn for grain or seed farms	7,446	11,655	Total women operators	30,194	(NA)
. acres	1,043,990	1,135,936	Principal operator by days work off farm 1/:		
. bushels	108,721,040	115,775,864	None	37,365	31,250
Soybeans for beans farms	5,645	7,127	Any	49,176	54,653
. acres	1,343,039	1,278,829	200 days or more	36,532	39,937
. bushels	43,939,662	43,487,052	Principal operator by primary occupation:		
Tobacco farms	29,237	46,850	Farming	46,939	36,050
. acres	110,734	250,885	Other	39,602	55,148
. pounds	219,978,920	497,856,262	Average age of principal operator years	55.2	53.7

1/Data for 1997 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

All reports from the 2002 Census of Agriculture will be available free through the NASS web site at www.usda.gov/nass/. They can also be accessed through the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service web site at www.nass.usda.gov/ky by clicking on "Agricultural Census". For additional information regarding the Census, call the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service at (800) 928-5277.