



ALLEGANY COUNTY 2002 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Allegany County lies in the western portion of Maryland. Its 426 square miles (272,460 acres) is mountainous and picturesque with elevations ranging from less than 600 to nearly 3,000 feet. Farms dot its mountains and narrow valleys. The ruggedness of the terrain dictates a pastoral agriculture and livestock production, principally beef cattle, is the major farm enterprise. The county is quite variable in temperature, rainfall and snow cover among areas within the county and from year to year within areas. Soil type and capability are also variable.

Surface mining of coal and manufacturing are prominent industries but the latter is declining. Conversion of marginal wood and brush lands to agriculture directly by farmers and indirectly through the strip mining of coal is increasing both the actual agricultural acreage and the potential agricultural acreage of the county. This and other factors place the county in a favorable position for expanding livestock production, and the area awaits only economic incentive to do so.

Non-agriculturally, Allegany County's greatest resource is its natural beauty and historical association. The North Branch of the Potomac river forms its southern and eastern boundaries with neighboring West Virginia and the famous Mason-Dixon line its northern boundary with Pennsylvania. On the west, the county is bounded by Garrett, Maryland's western most county and formerly a part of Allegany County. The population of Allegany County was 74,930 in 2000.

ALLEGANY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Acreage Harvested</i>	<i>Average Yield</i>	<i>Total Production</i>
Corn for Grain	2000	Bu.	200	103.0	20,600
	2001		300	103.3	31,000
	2002		300	83.3	25,000
Corn for Silage	2000	Tons.	300	14.0	4,200
	2001		300	16.7	5,000
	2002		300	16.7	5,000
Soybeans	2000	Bu.	*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*
	2002		*	*	*
Wheat	2000	Bu.	*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*
	2002		*	*	*
Hay	2000	Tons.	9,500	2.5	23,500
	2001		9,500	2.0	19,000
	2002		9,200	1.2	11,300
Barley	2000	Bu.	*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*
	2002		*	*	*

<i>Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 2002</i>				<i>Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹</i>	
Corn	20	Oats	³	Cattle	13
Wheat	³	Barley	³	Hogs	20
Hay	8	Soybeans	³	Sheep	18
				Milk Production	13 ⁵

ALLEGANY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<i>Farm Number & Size</i> ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		200	219	239
Average Size	<i>(acres)</i>	204	173	175
Land in Farms	<i>(acres)</i>	48,941	37,802	41,928
<i>Livestock (Number on Farms)</i> ¹				
Cattle Inventory		5,158	5,147	5,341
Hog Inventory		462	160	153
Sheep Inventory		338	462	241
<i>Value of Sales</i> ¹			<i>(\$1,000)</i>	
All Products		3,294	3,431	3,322
Crops		1,298	1,329	1,150
Livestock, Poultry, and Poultry Products		1,996	2,102	2,172
Average Number of Milk Cows		2000	2001	2002
		400	400	300
Milk Production - 1,000 lbs		7,000	7,000	7,000
<i>Equine, 2002</i>				
<i>Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Value of Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Number of Equine Places</i>		
	<i>\$1,000 dollars</i>			
270	685	120		
Cash Rents		2000	2001	2002
Cropland	<i>dollars per acre</i>	39.22	36.26	32.34

1 Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

2 Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3 Unranked - Data not published.

4 Revised.

5 2002.

* Acreage too small to published.