



## ***HOWARD COUNTY 2002 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE***

Howard County became Maryland's 21st county in 1851, but has been providing food and fiber for commercial markets for nearly 200 years. It is the second smallest county in the state having a total land area of 161,394 acres (251 square miles) of which approximately 25 percent is land in farms.

Located in Central Maryland, about 90 percent of Howard County is in the Piedmont Plateau and 10 percent is in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Altitude ranges from 20 feet to 875 feet above sea level. The county is situated in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan corridor with a population of 247,842 in 2000.

A progressive county Farmland Preservation Program ensures agricultural opportunities in Howard County and provides ample green space for future generations.

Agricultural sales exceed \$100 million annually, ranking agriculture among the top five industries in the county. Important commodities include horticulture, dairy, livestock, corn, small grains, and hay. Tree fruits, small fruits and vegetables also add to the agricultural income. Pick-your-own operations, roadside stands and on-the-farm markets are valuable outlets for these commodities.

## ***HOWARD AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS***

<i>Crop</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Acreage Harvested</i>	<i>Average Yield</i>	<i>Total Production</i>
<b>Corn for Grain</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Bu.</b>	6,300	127.0	800,000
	<b>2001</b>		6,200	119.8	743,000
	<b>2002</b>		6,000	83.3	500,000
<b>Corn for Silage</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Tons.</b>	600	18.0	10,800
	<b>2001</b>		700	17.1	12,000
	<b>2002</b>		1,000	13.0	13,000
<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Bu.</b>	3,800	42.1	160,000
	<b>2001</b>		3,400	40.0	136,000
	<b>2002</b>		3,400	40.0	136,000
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Bu.</b>	2,400	58.0	139,100
	<b>2001</b>		2,000	60.0	120,000
	<b>2002</b>		2,000	62.0	124,000
<b>Hay</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Tons.</b>	6,000	2.8	16,500
	<b>2001</b>		6,000	2.2	13,000
	<b>2002</b>		5,800	1.9	10,800
<b>Barley</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Bu.</b>	600	82.5	49,500
	<b>2001</b>		600	77.8	46,700
	<b>2002</b>		600	80.0	48,000

<i>Crop Production</i>				<i>Livestock Inventories</i>	
<i>Rank among MD. Counties, 2002</i>				<i>Rank among MD. Counties, 1997<sup>1</sup></i>	
Corn	14	Oats	3 <sup>3</sup>	Cattle	10
Wheat	19	Barley	13	Hogs	14
Hay	10	Soybeans	18	Sheep	13
				Milk Cows	11 <sup>5</sup>

## ***HOWARD AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS***

<i><b>Farm Number &amp; Size</b></i> <sup>1</sup>		<b>1987</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1997</b>
Number of Farms		432	382	318
Average Size	<i>(acres)</i>	125	117	125
Land in Farms	<i>(acres)</i>	54,041	44,623	39,846
<i><b>Livestock (Number on Farms)</b></i> <sup>1</sup>				
Cattle Inventory		9,841	8,203	6,321
Hog Inventory		2,721	1,730	1,254
Sheep Inventory		1,013	1,081	477
<i><b>Value of Sales</b></i> <sup>1</sup>			<i><b>(\$1,000)</b></i>	
All Products		18,305	18,949	19,610
Crops		9,068	12,294	12,086
Livestock, Poultry, and Poultry Products		9,237	6,655	7,524
Average Number of Milk Cows		<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
		1,200	1,000	1,000
Milk Production - 1,000 lbs.		24,000	23,000	24,000
<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>		
	5,190	61,265	1,200	
<b>Cash Rents</b>				
		<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Cropland	<i>dollars per acre</i>	54.60	51.67	50.58

<sup>1</sup> Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

<sup>2</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Unranked - Data not published.

<sup>4</sup> Revised.

<sup>5</sup> 2002.

\* Acreage too small to publish .