



WICOMICO COUNTY 2002 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Located on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico County has a population of 84,644 residents with approximately 23,750 living in the city of Salisbury. The county is bordered on the west by the Nanticoke River and the Pocomoke River on the east. The Wicomico River leading to Salisbury is a main transportation route for goods distributed throughout the county. These three rivers attract many tourists for fishing, boating, etc.

Wicomico County is the number one agricultural producing county in the State with \$186.3 million coming from agricultural production in 1997. Over 76 million broilers were sold in 1997, making the county number one in the state and tenth in the United States.

Total land area in the county is 241,415 acres. The county has 70,960 acres in crop production. The bulk of this cropland is used for corn and soybean production, much of which goes toward sustaining the broiler industry. Over 2,000 acres of mostly well-drained sandy soil are used for vegetable production, both fresh market and processing.

WICOMICO COUNTY 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.	21,000	167.3	3,513,000
	2001		23,000	162.6	3,740,000
	2002		24,500	69.4	1,700,000
Corn for Silage	2000	Tons.	*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*
	2002		*	*	*
Soybeans	2000	Bu.	29,500	44.0	1,297,000
	2001		29,600	40.0	1,184,000
	2002		25,500	21.0	535,000
Wheat	2000	Bu.	6,400	56.1	359,300
	2001		5,500	60.0	330,000
	2002		5,200	66.9	348,000
Hay	2000	Tons.	3,200	2.2	7,000
	2001		3,100	2.4	7,500
	2002		1,800	2.5	4,500
Barley	2000	Bu.	*	*	*
	2001		*	*	*
	2002		*	*	*

<i>Crop Production</i>				<i>Livestock Inventories</i>	
<i>Rank among MD. Counties, 2002</i>				<i>Rank among MD. Counties, 1997¹</i>	
Corn	7	Oats	3	Cattle	18
Wheat	11	Barley	3	Hogs	8
Hay	18	Soybeans	9	Sheep	16
				Milk Cows	3

WICOMICO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Number & Size ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		774	684	580
Average Size	<i>(acres)</i>	123	133	156
Land in Farms	<i>(acres)</i>	95,542	91,254	90,656
Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹				
Cattle Inventory		1,694	1,526	2,211
Hog Inventory		15,144	12,208	3,526
Sheep Inventory		²	225	310
Value of Sales ¹			(\$1,000)	
All Products		134,061	164,682	186,294
Crops		14,520	20,654	29,892
Livestock, Poultry, and Poultry Products		119,541	144,028	156,402
Equine, 2002				
	<i>Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Value of Equine Inventory</i>	<i>Number of Equine Places</i>	
		<i>1,000 dollars</i>		
	2,260	9,860	650	
Cash Rents				
			2000	2001
Cropland	<i>dollars per acre</i>		59.66	58.65
			2002	
				53.91

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ Unranked - Data not published.

⁴ Revised.

* Acreage too small to publish.