

# RENSSELAER COUNTY FARM STATISTICS

April 2000

Rensselaer County is located in eastern New York bordering Massachusetts. In 1998, there were 105,600 acres in farms, 25 percent of the county's total 418,560 acres. There were 545 farms in the county averaging 194 acres per farm. Rensselaer county ranks 39th in the state for number of farms and 37th for land in farms.

In 1997, according to the Census of Agriculture, the market value of all agricultural products sold from county farms was \$28.7 million. Total sales averaged \$62,528 per farm. The leading products sold were: dairy products, nursery and greenhouse, cattle and calves, corn for grain, and hay and silage.

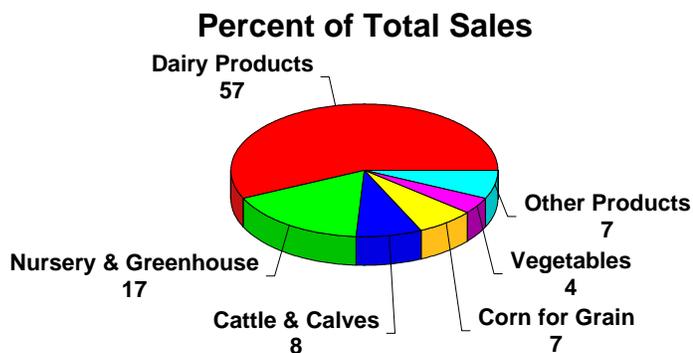
The average value of land and buildings per farm in 1997 was \$407,172. Machinery and equipment were valued at \$51,435 per farm. Total production expenses in 1997 were \$23.4 million for an average of \$50,706 per farm. The Census showed 51 percent of the farm operators reported farming as their principal occupation. The average age of the operator was 54.7 years. Data from the U.S. Department of Commerce showed the average personal income for all wage earners in the county in 1996 was \$22,270.

## LEADING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Product	1997 Sales Thous. Dol.	Percent of Total	County Rank
Dairy Products	16,376	57	32
Nursery & Greenhouse	4,948	17	9
Cattle & Calves	2,227	8	40
Corn for Grain	1,959	7	18
Vegetables	1,265	4	24
Other Products	1,925	7	0
<b>TOTAL SALES</b>	<b>28,700</b>		<b>40</b>

1997 Census of Agriculture

## LEADING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



**FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LAND USE**

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Total Cropland 1/	Permanent Pasture 2/	Total Woodland 3/	Other Land 4/
		Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
1940	2,675	272,242	5/	5/	63,709	5/
1950	1,822	227,697	124,077	28,510	59,164	15,946
1959	1,151	179,503	98,820	21,138	46,822	12,723
1969	649	121,697	72,489	5/	29,906	5/
1978	559	111,659	67,145	7,052	28,364	9,098
1982	591	117,612	65,731	7,211	34,157	10,513
1987	585	110,200	67,400	9,000	26,300	7,500
1992	525	101,900	56,800	12,000	26,400	6,700
1993	535	100,700	56,100	11,500	26,100	7,000
1994	540	100,600	57,100	10,900	25,600	7,000
1995	540	102,900	59,000	10,700	25,900	7,300
1996	545	103,500	60,700	10,400	25,600	6,800
1997	550	106,400	62,700	10,200	25,900	7,600
1998	545	105,600	62,900	10,000	25,200	7,500

1940-1982 U.S. Census of Agriculture 1/ Includes cropland pastured. 2/ Excludes cropland and woodland pastured. 3/ Includes woodland pastured. 4/ Land in house lots, ponds, wasteland, etc. 5/ Not available.

**FARMS BY SALES CLASS**

Sales Class	1992	1997
Number of Farms		
Under \$10,000	224	251
\$10,000 to \$49,999	98	101
\$50,000 to \$99,999	46	36
\$100,000 or more	76	71
Farms Reporting	444	459

U. S. Census of Agriculture

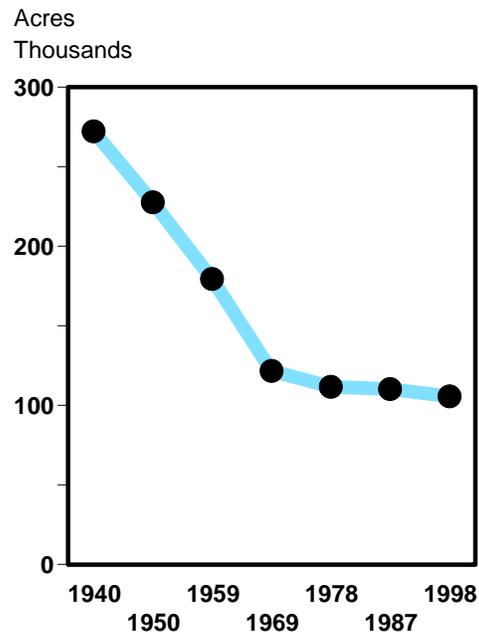
**RESIDENT POPULATION**

In 1998, County's population ranked 21st in the state

Year	Total	Population Per Square Mile
1940	121,800	186
1950	132,600	203
1960	142,600	218
1970	152,500	233
1980	151,900	232
1990	154,400	236
1998	152,689	233

U.S. Census of Population

**Land in Farms**



**CATTLE: Number on Farms, January 1**

Year	All Cattle & Calves	Beef Cows	Milk Cows
	Number on farms		
1940	25,970	1/	1/
1950	26,509	586	15,080
1959	26,593	584	15,421
1969	20,109	1,318	10,842
1978	23,000	1,500	10,500
1982	21,000	2,600	10,500
1987	21,000	1,600	10,000
1992	17,000	1,400	8,700
1993	16,500	1,400	9,500
1994	16,000	1,700	9,000
1995	16,000	1,500	9,000
1996	16,000	1,500	8,500
1997	17,000	1,600	9,500
1998	17,000	1,600	7,500

1940-1978 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Not available.

**MILK: Cows & Production**

Year	Annual Avg. Milk Cows	Average Production Per Cow	Total Milk Production
	No. Head	Pounds	Million lbs.
1940	1/	1/	1/
1950	1/	1/	1/
1959	1/	1/	1/
1969	1/	1/	1/
1978	10,600	12,100	128.3
1982	10,500	12,800	134.4
1987	9,400	13,600	127.8
1992	9,300	15,300	142.3
1993	9,100	16,100	146.5
1994	8,000	15,800	126.4
1995	8,800	16,000	140.8
1996	9,000	15,700	141.3
1997	8,500	16,000	136.0
1998	8,600	16,400	141.0

1/ Not available.

**OATS: Acreage, Yield, and Production**

Year	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Acres	Bushels	Bushels
1940	1/	7,185	29.7	213,350
1950	1/	6,751	32.6	220,359
1959	1/	5,866	45.2	265,116
1969	1/	1/	1/	1/
1978	1,500	1,100	52.0	57,200
1982	1,400	1,200	52.0	62,400
1987	2,100	800	57.0	45,600
1992	800	600	72.0	43,200
1993	700	500	59.0	29,500
1994	1,100	900	58.0	52,200
1995	900	700	58.0	40,600
1996	400	400	51.0	20,200
1997	500	500	52.0	26,000
1998	600	500	57.0	28,500

1940-1969 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Not available.

**EQUINE: Inventory and Value,**

1997 Census of Agriculture

Total Equine	Rank in State	Inventory Value	Rank in State
616	37	\$61,000	44

**MILK: Cows & Production**



■ Annual Avg. Milk Cows  
■ Average Production Per Cow

**CORN: Acreage, Yield, and Production**

Year	All Planted	Grain			Silage		
		Harvested	Yield	Production	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	Acres	Tons	Tons
1940	13,139	5,315	34.2	181,914	1/	1/	1/
1950	11,643	4,679	45.5	212,977	6,722	8.2	54,980
1959	10,272	2,881	47.7	137,360	7,203	8.7	62,930
1969	10,900	3,000	85.0	255,000	1/	1/	1/
1978	12,800	4,600	93.0	427,800	8,000	14.5	116,000
1982	17,200	9,100	102.5	932,800	7,900	15.4	121,700
1987	14,500	7,500	106.0	795,000	6,600	14.0	92,400
1992	18,400	8,800	88.0	774,400	8,800	19.2	169,000
1993	15,000	8,400	90.0	756,000	6,500	15.0	97,500
1994	15,100	8,900	112.0	998,200	6,200	15.7	97,100
1995	17,500	11,000	108.0	1,188,600	6,400	14.2	90,600
1996	20,000	12,300	106.0	1,304,100	7,600	15.7	119,100
1997	20,300	11,800	106.0	1,250,800	8,300	13.0	107,900
1998	20,100	11,600	110.0	1,273,900	8,500	15.8	134,300

1940 - 1969 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Not available

**HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production 1/**

Year	Alfalfa Hay			Other Hay			Total Hay		
	Harvested	Yield	Production	Harvested	Yield	Production	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Tons	Tons	Acres	Tons	Tons	Acres	Tons	Tons
1940	2,790	1.8	4,931	62,235	1.1	65,468	65,025	1.1	70,399
1950	4,926	1.9	9,402	44,049	1.3	56,842	48,975	1.4	66,244
1959	15,157	1.9	29,069	27,482	1.4	38,846	42,639	1.6	67,915
1969	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	32,331	2.1	69,254
1978	15,200	2.5	38,000	18,700	1.7	31,800	33,900	2.1	69,800
1982	14,400	2.6	37,400	17,100	2.1	35,900	31,500	2.3	73,300
1987	11,500	2.5	28,200	18,000	1.8	32,300	29,500	2.1	60,500
1992	12,100	2.7	33,000	12,200	1.8	21,700	24,300	2.3	54,700
1993	12,000	2.4	29,300	13,300	1.6	21,300	25,300	2.0	50,600
1994	10,600	3.0	31,300	13,200	1.8	24,000	23,800	2.3	55,300
1995	11,200	2.3	25,800	11,800	1.5	17,900	23,000	1.9	43,700
1996	9,400	2.8	26,300	11,800	1.7	20,300	21,200	2.2	46,600
1997	8,900	2.1	18,600	11,800	1.7	20,600	20,700	1.9	39,200
1998	8,300	2.0	16,400	10,600	1.8	19,000	18,900	1.9	35,400

1940-1969 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Dry hay only - excludes silage and green chop

2/ Not available