



# Farm Facts



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## Tennessee's Farm Assets Climb 5 Percent

Tennessee's farm business sector assets in 2002 rose 5 percent from 2001 to a record high \$29.8 billion. The value of farm real estate, accounting for 80 percent of the sector's assets, increased by over 6 percent to \$23.8 billion. On average, farm real estate values in Tennessee grew 7 percent annually during the 1990s, compared to less than 4 percent for the U.S. Farm debt for the state was \$2.92 billion at the end of 2002, surpassing its previous record level (in nominal terms) of \$2.87 billion set in 1981. Farm real estate debt, at \$1.77 billion, was up 9 percent from the year earlier. Sector equity (net worth) rose more than 4 percent from 2001 to \$26.8 billion in 2002.

## Farm Business Balance Sheet: Tennessee, December 31, 1998-2002

Item	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	Million Dollars				
Total Farm Assets	24,141.9	25,931.0	26,989.7	28,465.4	29,755.7
Real Estate	18,742.9	20,317.9	21,168.4	22,397.7	23,827.4
Livestock & Poultry <sup>1</sup>	1,047.9	1,253.2	1,330.4	1,348.4	1,366.1
Machinery & Motor Vehicles <sup>2</sup>	2,162.8	2,163.8	2,166.9	2,273.4	2,271.2
Crops <sup>3</sup>	471.7	407.0	471.8	498.2	442.8
Purchased Inputs	56.4	45.1	54.8	47.2	63.1
Financial	1,660.2	1,743.9	1,797.3	1,900.5	1,785.0
Total Farm Debt <sup>4</sup>	2,389.7	2,457.4	2,605.5	2,756.9	2,917.1
By Purpose:					
Real Estate	1,308.0	1,411.9	1,522.0	1,621.4	1,772.4
Nonreal Estate	1,081.8	1,045.4	1,083.4	1,135.5	1,144.8
By Lender:					
Farm Credit System	873.5	893.4	953.8	1,068.5	1,188.7
Farm Service Agency	156.0	151.8	147.1	144.4	137.7
Commercial Banks	872.8	912.6	986.8	1,014.6	1,047.7
Life Insurance Companies	28.7	30.7	28.4	28.8	29.4
Individuals & Others	458.7	468.7	489.4	500.5	513.6
Equity	21,752.2	23,473.6	24,384.2	25,708.5	26,838.6
	Percent				
Ratio:					
Debt/Equity	11.0	10.5	10.7	10.7	10.9
Debt/Assets	9.9	9.5	9.7	9.7	9.8

<sup>1</sup> Excludes horses, mules, and broilers. <sup>2</sup> Includes only farm share value for trucks and autos. <sup>3</sup> All non-CCC crops held on farms plus the value above loan rate for crops held under CCC. <sup>4</sup> Excludes debt for nonfarm purposes.

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters) Prior to November 15, Crop Years 2000-2003**

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Cotton				
AL	425,950	464,700	334,950	462,000
AZ	310,700	321,200	305,350	215,850
AR	1,348,650	1,485,600	1,253,350	1,340,700
CA	1,275,700	1,099,500	954,850	737,550
FL	64,900	73,850	30,550	71,000
GA	905,250	1,070,150	733,250	990,400
LA	893,500	926,400	582,700	973,550
MS	1,644,650	1,828,550	1,359,450	1,808,200
MO	478,400	551,350	432,900	443,550
NM	37,950	39,350	20,250	25,200
NC	687,600	749,550	416,300	460,900
OK	88,600	92,300	85,350	77,800
SC	232,600	259,400	56,950	137,400
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>673,350</b>	<b>771,350</b>	<b>555,450</b>	<b>577,000</b>
TX	2,305,200	2,742,400	2,096,050	2,159,200
VA	73,450	82,300	47,250	46,950
US	11,446,450	12,557,950	9,264,950	10,527,250

**Prices Received:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 117, based on 1990-92=100, 4 points (3.5 percent) above the October Index. Both the Livestock and Products Index and the All Crops Index were higher in November. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, and wheat. Lower prices were received for cotton, hogs, and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of all milk, cotton, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, and potatoes.

**Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., November with Comparisons**

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		November 2002	October <sup>1</sup> 2003	November <sup>2</sup> 2003	November 2002	October <sup>1</sup> 2003	November <sup>2</sup> 2003
Dollars Per Unit							
Winter Wheat	bu.	4.00	3.41	---	4.18	3.37	3.64
Corn	bu.	2.66	2.05	2.45	2.28	2.12	2.24
Cotton Lint	lb.	.431	.630	.620 <sup>3</sup>	.430	.680	.641 <sup>3</sup>
Soybeans	bu.	5.76	7.04	7.60	5.46	6.61	7.37
All beef cattle	cwt.	54.80	68.60	70.00	67.30	92.00	93.20
Steers/heifers	cwt.	72.00	87.00	88.00	71.90	97.80	99.70
Cows	cwt.	29.00	41.00	43.00	33.00	44.90	46.70
Calves	cwt.	78.00	95.00	97.00	91.90	113.00	112.00

<sup>1</sup> Entire month. <sup>2</sup> Mid-month. <sup>3</sup> Based on purchases first half of month.

**Prices Received: Corn, Tennessee, by Month, for Marketing Years, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan <sup>2</sup>	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	MYA
Dollars Per Bushel													
<b>Corn</b>													
2001-2002	2.10	1.97	1.86	2.28	2.24	2.26	2.18	2.14	2.25	2.15	2.28	2.42	2.06
2002-2003	2.54	2.52	2.61	2.66	2.71	2.58	2.60	2.66	2.72	2.77	2.81	2.64	2.58

<sup>1</sup> Marketing year is August-July. <sup>2</sup> Second year.

**Corn: Farm Marketings, Percent of Sales, by Month and State, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003**

Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan <sup>2</sup>	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Percent												
<b>Corn</b>												
2001-2002	11	43	13	3	3	8	5	4	2	3	2	3
2002-2003	14	40	7	4	4	11	5	5	3	3	2	2

<sup>1</sup> Monthly farm marketings, based on a sample survey, as a percent of total used for calculating marketing year average prices. <sup>2</sup> Second year.

**Chicken & Egg Production:** U.S. egg production totaled 7.39 billion during October 2003, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.34 billion table eggs and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.00 billion were broiler-type and 57.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2003 averaged 333 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,218 eggs, up one percent from October 2002.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State and United States, during October 2002-2003**

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup>	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Thousands			Number			
Alabama	2,305	2,084	9,816	9,436	1,925	1,939
Arkansas	4,699	4,293	14,667	14,778	1,868	1,929
Georgia	10,979	11,138	20,330	20,200	2,105	2,139
North Carolina	3,368	3,416	10,725	10,576	1,977	1,995
All Other States <sup>2</sup>	253,505	249,415	282,621	278,261	2,232	2,257
<b>United States</b>	<b>274,856</b>	<b>270,346</b>	<b>338,159</b>	<b>333,251</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>2,218</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. <sup>2</sup> Tennessee included in other states.

**Livestock Slaughter:** Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, down 8 percent from October 2002. The average live weight was down 39 pounds from the previous year, at 1,231 pounds. Hog kill totaled 9.64 million head, 3 percent above October 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 267 pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 87,500 head, down 13 percent from October 2002. The average live weight was unchanged last year, at 308 pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 265,500 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

**Livestock Slaughter<sup>1</sup>: United States, October 2002 and 2003**

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	3,267	3,003	4,148,453	3,695,836	1,270	1,231
Calves	101	88	31,033	26,973	308	308
Hogs	9,404	9,639	2,482,798	2,575,859	264	267
Sheep & lambs	301	266	39,617	35,706	132	135

<sup>1</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

## State Christmas Tree Web Site Links to Farms, Facts, Fun- Fast! -- for the Holidays

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** "The official Christmas season is short this year - only four weeks, from Thanksgiving Day to Christmas Day," says Rob Beets, horticulture specialist with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. "Waste no time getting into the holiday spirit - go straight to [www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org) for all sorts of Christmas tree history, educational fun and games, and of course, a directory of farms across Tennessee to go to for your natural Christmas tree."

"Just look for the picture of the Christmas tree and click on the 'Christmas Trees' banner," says Beets. In addition to a statewide listing of tree farms across the state, the Web page offers a link to the national Christmas tree site. "Among the things you'll find at this link are stories on where the president's tree is coming from this year," says Beets. "There are lesson plans on conifers, how trees grow, tree recycling, graphs and mapping, traditions and even writing poetry. There are also games and activities just for fun, but all related to trees."

The "Pick Tennessee Products" Web site offers tips on proper selection and care of natural trees, whether the trees are cut or balled and burlapped for post-holiday planting. "Tennessee Christmas tree farms are spread out across the state," says Beets. "The types of trees grown depend on the geography and climate of the region, from mountainous trees like firs and spruces in Upper East Tennessee to warm-weather wetland trees like pines and Leyland Cypress in West Tennessee. Tennessee Christmas tree farms range from large wholesale businesses with helicopter harvesting to small family 'choose and cut' farms."

For information about other Tennessee grown and processed products, including gourmet and specialty products for the holidays, visit the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market Development Web site at [www.picktnproducts.org](http://www.picktnproducts.org).

### Timely Topics for State's Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Dec. 14-16

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** The Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (TFVA) will hold their annual meeting Dec. 14-16 at the Airport Marriott in Nashville. The meeting will feature a range of topics from country of origin labeling to the latest fruit and vegetable production and marketing techniques. Dr. Allen Straw, vegetable and strawberry specialist for the University of Tennessee, says there is something at this year's conference for all growers. For those new to the industry as well as veteran producers looking for a "refresher", there will be special short course entitled: "Fruit and Vegetable 101: Back to the Basics", on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 14, and on Monday morning, Dec. 15.

Growers attending the meeting will have an opportunity to hear from Tennessee's agriculture commissioner, Ken Givens. A special food safety session presented by Dr. Bill Morris and Dr. Ann Draughon of the University of Tennessee's Department of Food Science and Technology will include updates on the Country of Origin Labeling Program (COOL) as well as third party audits of HACCP and GAP plans. Authorities from North Carolina and Kentucky will also be involved in the annual conference.

Several speakers from the University of Tennessee are on the meeting agenda. Dr. Charlie Hall, marketing expert from UT, will discuss marketing innovations for vegetables, tree fruit and small fruit. Dr David Lockwood will focus on peach and apple orchard

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management. Those interested in biological control will not want to miss Dr. Craig Canaday's report on BioYield evaluations. Dr. Allen Straw will provide varietal and cultural practice updates on pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, muskmelons and strawberries. A tradeshow is also part of the day's activities.

For more information, contact TFGVA President Jim Beale at (615) 374-4029 or email Beale at [sunfreshfarm@msn.com](mailto:sunfreshfarm@msn.com).