



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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2002 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS DATA RELEASED

(Richmond, Virginia, June 4, 2004) - Results of the latest census of agriculture, conducted by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), show the value of farm land and buildings increased by 24 percent from 1997 to 2002. The average value of land and buildings per farm rose by over \$100,000 during the 5-year period, reaching an average of \$547,837 in 2002. The average value of land and buildings per acre is up more than \$200 during that same time period to \$1,213 per acre in 2002.

The results also provide the first census-based look at net cash farm income which reflected an average of \$19,032 per farm.

"These data prepared by NASS provide the only complete, detailed look into the economic situation of America's agricultural producers at the county level. Without these data, we would have an extremely difficult task when making decisions that affect U. S. agriculture," said USDA's Chief Economist Keith Collins.

HIGHLIGHTS OF VIRGINIA'S 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA

An average farm in Virginia in 2002 had 181 acres, 4 acres more five years ago. The farm generated \$49,593 worth of sales, about 2 percent more than in 1997. Expenditures per farm averaged \$42,970, up nearly 3 percent from 1997. The value of land and buildings at \$490,064 increased about 37 percent from the 1997 census. Net cash farm income for Virginia averaged \$10,586 per farm.

In 2002, farms with sales of \$100,000 or more were 8.2 percent of the total farms in Virginia. These farms accounted for 82 percent of all sales by farms in 2002. In 1997, farms with sales of \$100,000 or more accounted for 8.2% of the total farms, and had 80% of all sales.

For a complete copy of the 2002 Preliminary Agricultural Census Report, visit the NASS web site at www.usda.gov/nass/.

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