

LIVESTOCK ON FARMS JANUARY 1

YEAR	All Cattle (including milk cows)	Milk Cows (2 years and older) 1/	Hogs and Pigs 2/	Stock Sheep and Lambs
1935	7,816	NA	3,641	1,767
1940	6,905	NA	3,834	1,318
1945	8,273	NA	3,666	1,290
1950	9,679	3,170	3,704	2,046
1954	10,656	2,570	3,756	1,773
1959	10,130	1,446	3,419	1,470
1964	12,190	938	1,584	616
1969	10,477	210	825	838
1974	13,331	139	866	538
1978	11,011	193	1,740	472
1982	14,526	324	2,398	2,053
1987	12,522	22	1,983	(D)
1992	14,056	44	217	1,172
1997	13,388	29	415	1,662

1/ "Milk cows that have calved" beginning in 1970. 2/ Beginning in 1970 hog inventory data refers to preceding December. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.

FARM INCOME AND SALES

	1997	1992	1987
Number of farms:	357	358	365
Farm income and sales:			
	-Thousand Dollars-		
Crops Sold	3,825	2,756	2,089
Grains	(D)	91	96
Tobacco	----	(D)	(D)
Field seeds, hay, forage, and silage	(D)	231	82
Other field crops	----	(D)	(D)
Vegetables, sweet corn and melons	228	95	(D)
Fruits, nuts and berries	2,767	1,956	1,519
Nursery and greenhouse products	704	377	(D)
Forest Products Sold	429	177	61
Livestock, Poultry and Products Sold	2,145	3,043	3,315
Poultry and products	(D)	(D)	3
Dairy products	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cattle and calves	1,876	2,865	2,517
Hogs and pigs	28	19	(D)
Sheep, lambs and wool	97	55	(D)
Other livestock and products	(D)	43	143
Total income from sales:	5,970	4,832	5,404
Custom work and other agricultural services:	102	32	17

(D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms. ---- Represents zero.

NUMBER OF FARMS, BY SIZE, GROUP

YEAR	Size of Farm (Acres)						All Farms	
	1-9	10-49	50-179	180-499	500-999	1,000-1,999		
			50-174 1/	175-499 1/	1,000-Over 1/	2,000+		
1974	10	52	172	95	23	9	3	364
1978	16	60	177	112	22	8	1	396
1982	13	70	180	95	17	10	3	388
1987	13	61	174	85	21	9	2	365
1992	18	65	159	87	20	6	3	358
1997	17	67	156	88	18	11	----	357

1/ Applies to 1997. ---- Represents zero.

OPERATORS' OCCUPATION AND AGE

	1982	1987	1992	1997
Operators by principal occupation:				
Farming	169	139	138	147
Other	219	226	220	210
Operators by age group:				
Under 25 years	4	2	1	3
25 to 34 years	32	30	17	19
35 to 44 years	74	59	65	58
45 to 54 years	69	66	91	83
55 to 64 years	NA	93	78	89
65 years and over	NA	115	106	105
Average Age	55	56	56	56

NA Not available.



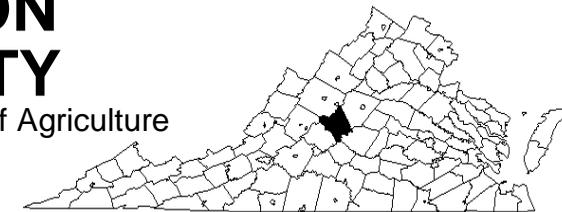
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NELSON COUNTY

U.S. Census of Agriculture



Nelson County lies partly in the Piedmont Plateau and partly in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Central Virginia. Formed from part of Amherst in 1807, the county was named in honor of General Thomas Nelson, Virginia's third governor.

In 1997 Nelson land in farms totaled 73,200 acres, or 24 percent of the county's area of 302,324 acres. According to the **1997 Census of Agriculture**, there were 357 farms in the area, each averaging 205 acres in size and worth an average of \$329,616, including land and buildings. As in other areas of the state, both farmland and the number of farms in Nelson have been shrinking since 1934, when 227,745 acres were recorded.

The topography of the county ranges from rolling hills to steep mountain slopes and peaks, and includes part of the George Washington National Forest. Elevations in the Piedmont vary from 500 to 1,000 feet above sea level, and shoot up to 4,000 feet on some peaks of the Blue Ridge. Temperatures in the area average 35 degrees in January and 76 in July. The frost-free growing season is approximately 200 days, usually extending from around April 10 to October 25. Annual precipitation averages 41 inches.

Agriculture is an integral part of Nelson's economy, and nearly 46 percent of the cash farm income in 1997 was derived from apple and peaches. Crops contributed 64 percent of total farm sales that year, followed by livestock, poultry, and poultry products. Fire cured tobacco provides an additional source of income on some farms. Since more than three-fourths of the county is wooded, The sale of lumber, fence posts, pulpwood, and piling also brings considerable income to the county.

The estimated county population in 1990 was 12,778. The total gross personal income that year was \$193.4 million, or an average of \$15,135 per capita.

Lovingson is the county seat.

FARM DATA & LAND USE

YEAR	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Avg. Value Per Acre For Land & Buildings	LAND USE						
				Cropland			Other Pasture 1/	Woodland		
				Harvested	Other	Pasture		Pasture	Number Sold	
				Number	Acres	Dollars	-Acres-			
1935	2,465	227,745	26	37,789	15,772	23,745	NA	NA	NA	
1940	1,829	197,048	29	40,016	13,237	27,344	NA	NA	NA	
1945	1,983	186,892	35	35,838	12,796	5,530	32,366	19,027	76,783	
1950	1,417	181,456	59	28,870	13,875	13,499	21,454	20,212	76,901	
1954	1,277	166,306	61	24,766	8,681	5,824	32,071	20,983	68,254	
1959	748	129,740	82	19,840	6,586	10,937	20,700	17,039	50,512	
1964	693	139,805	94	18,680	4,762	7,825	27,710	16,016	60,921	
1969	427	84,252	168	12,583	2,010	16,608	NA	NA	NA	
1974 2/	364	82,837	422	12,455	1,240	17,166	NA	NA	NA	
1978	396	83,326	571	14,887	2,493	16,982	6,220	12,958	25,819	
1982	388	85,812	935	14,724	1,481	16,285	11,641	14,285	24,957	
1987	365	78,246	838	14,229	1,918	15,653	9,315	11,006	22,839	
1992	358	72,681	1,176	12,947	1,770	17,796	9,094	7,787	21,230	
1997	357	73,200	1,624	14,261	2,155	18,917	8,034	7,704	19,896	

1/ Due to changes in definition and wording of questions, figures for "cropland pasture" and "other pasture" are not always comparable from the Census. Acreage beginning with 1964 refer to pastureland and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pastured, on farms with sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 2/ Beginning with 1964, agricultural operations under individual management with annual sales of \$1,000 or more. NA Not Available.

APPLE AND PEACH TREE NUMBERS

YEAR	APPLES				PEACHES			
	No. Farms Reporting	Non-bearing Trees	Bearing Trees	Total	No. Farms Reporting	Non-bearing Trees	Bearing Trees	Total
1935	1,322	56,240	339,304	395,544	547	21,368	38,952	60,320
1940	931	41,035	320,594	361,629	506	99,828	149,436	249,264
1945	842	NA	NA	296,633	429	NA	NA	192,890
1950	550	22,918	208,513	231,431	275	25,573	147,597	173,170
1954*	281	21,181	173,128	194,309	99	8,473	89,161	97,634
1959*	191	22,001	121,810	143,811	66	16,687	61,270	77,957
1964*	104	28,801	82,841	111,642	49	8,100	47,658	55,758
1969* 1/	44	51,234	73,679	124,913	15	8,550	23,731	32,281
1974* 1/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1978 2/	55	NA	NA	NA	13	NA	NA	NA
1982	43	34,208	89,764	123,972	13	(D)	(D)	(D)
1987	29	50,231	77,377	127,608	4	(D)	(D)	(D)
1992	23	45,673	91,737	137,410	9	3	6,251	6,254
1997	19	32,478	170,507	202,985	4	(D)	(D)	(D)

* Does not include data for farms with less than 20 trees and grapevines. 1/ Data for farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 2/ Data for all farms. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.

POULTRY SALES

YEAR	Broilers		Turkeys		Hens & Pullets of Laying Age	
	Number of Farms	Number Sold	Number of Farms	Number Sold	Number of Farms	Number Sold
1945 1/	1,662	132,732	18	552	NA	NA
1950 2/	312	29,992	24	944	NA	NA
1954 3/	10	192,129	21	3,909	NA	NA
1959 3/	12	273,305	17	5,139	NA	NA
1964 3/ 4/	3	105,000	4	47	NA	NA
1969 4/	1	8,000	4	22,710	9	2,127
1974 5/ 6/	----	----	NA	NA	11	8,480
1978 5/	1	(D)	1	(D)	12	(D)
1982	----	----	----	----	6	329
1987	----	----	----	----	5	85
1992	1	----	----	----	3	32
1997	----	(D)	1	(D)	2	(D)

1/ 1945 Chickens raised. Turkeys raised. 2/ 1950 Chickens sold. Turkeys raised. 3/ 1964, 1959 and 1954 Turkeys and turkey fryers raised. 4/ 1969 and 1964 Broilers and other meat-type chickens less than 3 months old. 1969 and 1964 Turkeys with farm sales of \$2,500 and over. 5/ 1974 and 1978 Broilers and other meat type chickens sold. 6/ 1974 Turkeys and Hens & Pullets with farm sales of \$2,500 and over. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms. ---- Represents zero. NA Not available.

CROP ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

YEAR	CORN			WHEAT			SOYBEANS			TOBACCO		
	Acreage	Yield	Production	Acreage	Yield	Production	Acreage	Yield	Production	Acreage	Yield	Production
1935 1/	12,883	21.1	272,466	5,001	12.1	60,560	2,459	NA	NA	867	746.6	647,311
1940	11,160	25.8	287,947	3,835	12.4	47,451	NA	NA	437	694	918.1	637,190
1945	9,278	28.5	264,020	3,052	15.5	47,225	NA	NA	210	498	972.7	484,382
1950	6,071	33.0	200,516	2,607	16.2	42,113	15	7.5	113	440	1,028.1	452,372
1954	5,041	33.8	170,213	1,385	19.3	26,737	9	11.1	100	383	1,107.0	423,988
1959 2/	3,323	47.2	156,913	867	19.7	17,061	11	14.2	156	187	1,417.0	264,972
1964	1,916	40.3	77,240	565	28.0	15,831	NA	NA	NA	207	941.5	194,885
1969	1,057	58.3	61,665	102	32.5	3,312	20	17.0	340	108	1,279.0	138,137
1974	1,409	62.2	87,633	349	42.1	14,700	190	11.3	2,150	58	1,096.8	63,612
1978	2,480	67.6	167,755	(D)	(D)	(D)	220	21.2	4,674	57	976.3	55,648
1982	2,491	85.5	212,962	388	34.4	13,330	196	25.5	5,003	22	999.2	21,983
1987	712	56.9	40,496	(D)								
1992	595	99.8	59,372	(D)								
1997	418	41.4	17,320	(D)								

1/ All corn (grain equivalent, including silage and forage) 1935-54. 2/ For grain only, 1959-92. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.

CROP ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

YEAR	Vegetables for sale 1/	Oats Threshed or Combined 2/		Barley Threshed or Combined 2/		Rye Threshed or Combined 2/		Potatoes 3/		Sweet Potatoes	
	Acreage	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels
1935	313	306	3,715	27	528	917	6,704	380	24,711	208	14,897
1940	59	400	6,858	49	1,082	700	6,568	384	19,422	171	11,404
1945	139	290	6,349	173	3,900	435	6,393	330	21,938	121	8,714
1950	29	219	6,148	102	3,338	167	2,165	73	12,982	10	4,178
1954	22	498	14,328	108	3,305	157	2,223	43	13,258	1	1,667
1959	9	249	8,030	89	2,087	51	792	22	4,329	1	1,811
1964	1	156	3,396	36	2,160	98	1,680	13	1,306	NA	221
1969	14	13	590	19	700	9	180	NA	NA	NA	NA
1974	7	46	2,270	250	15,208	(D)	365	9	369	NA	28
1978	15	26	910	246	12,150	(D)	(D)	2	257	(D)	(D)
1982	18	16	810	215	11,028	NA	NA	4	813	NA	NA
1987	18	24	648	(D)	(D)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1992	94	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1997	217	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

1/ Excludes potatoes and sweet potatoes. 2/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 3/ Potatoes are in hundred weight starting in 1959. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual.

CROP ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

YEAR	All Hay	Alfalfa for Hay 1/		Other Tame Hay 2/		Small Grains for Hay 2/ 3/	
	Acreage	Acreage	Tons	Acreage	Tons	Acreage	Tons
1935	7,364	284	574	3,895	3,987	472	353
1940	8,854	157	255	7,421	8,316	224	169
1945	9,706	180	449	8,502	8,780	205	178
1950	11,591	757	1,850	9,365	11,727	379	398
1954	12,182	1,371	2,147	7,945	6,980	1,232	1,335
1959	10,980	1,427	3,364	6,092	6,677	616	652
1964	11,884	1,111	1,258	2,945	2,886	358	336
1969	8,167	386	607	4,226	7,997	343	668
1974	8,149	164	500	NA	NA	NA	NA
1978	10,149	789	1,593	8,000	12,769	NA	NA
1982	9,703	954	2,415	7,917	14,275	(D)	603
1987	10,821	875	1,443	8,451	12,535	399	769
1992	10,688	1,933	4,179	7,507	13,652	296	358
1997	11,626	564	1,258	8,869	16,948	NA	NA

1/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 2/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. Beginning with 1978 data are for all farms. Includes clover-timothy, lespedeza and orchard grass mixtures cut for hay. 3/ Beginning with 1978 data are for all farms. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.