



Watauga County North Carolina

Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017 and change since 2012

	2017	% change since 2012
Number of farms	520	-15
Land in farms (acres)	49,614	-11
Average size of farm (acres)	95	+4
Total	(\$)	
Market value of products sold	16,724,000	+9
Government payments	351,000	+58
Farm-related income	1,389,000	+42
Total farm production expenses	14,745,000	-11
Net cash farm income	3,720,000	+3302
Per farm average	(\$)	
Market value of products sold	32,162	+28
Government payments (average per farm receiving)	5,085	+213
Farm-related income	9,388	+65
Total farm production expenses	28,355	+4
Net cash farm income	7,153	+3850

(Z) Percent of state agriculture sales

Share of Sales by Type (%)

Crops	53
Livestock, poultry, and products	47

Land in Farms by Use (%) ^a

Cropland	29
Pastureland	37
Woodland	27
Other	7

Acres irrigated: 44

(Z)% of land in farms

Land Use Practices (% of farms)

No till	2
Reduced till	1
Intensive till	4
Cover crop	6

Farms by Value of Sales

	Number	Percent of Total ^a
Less than \$2,500	193	37
\$2,500 to \$4,999	69	13
\$5,000 to \$9,999	73	14
\$10,000 to \$24,999	86	17
\$25,000 to \$49,999	46	9
\$50,000 to \$99,999	14	3
\$100,000 or more	39	8

Farms by Size

	Number	Percent of Total ^a
1 to 9 acres	62	12
10 to 49 acres	240	46
50 to 179 acres	153	29
180 to 499 acres	47	9
500 to 999 acres	13	3
1,000 + acres	5	1

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

	Sales (\$1,000)	Rank in State ^b	Counties Producing Item	Rank in U.S. ^b	Counties Producing Item
Total	16,724	86	100	2,470	3,077
Crops	8,932	81	100	2,094	3,073
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	19	96	99	2,540	2,916
Tobacco	-	-	62	-	323
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	52	-	647
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	132	86	100	1,434	2,821
Fruits, tree nuts, berries	243	43	98	929	2,748
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	442	70	98	1,074	2,601
Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops	7,167	4	38	10	1,384
Other crops and hay	928	57	98	1,945	3,040
Livestock, poultry, and products	7,792	73	100	2,245	3,073
Poultry and eggs	78	69	98	1,115	3,007
Cattle and calves	7,483	12	100	1,431	3,055
Milk from cows	(D)	43	49	(D)	1,892
Hogs and pigs	(D)	(D)	95	(D)	2,856
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk	83	23	95	1,411	2,984
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	101	41	92	1,435	2,970
Aquaculture	-	-	54	-	1,251
Other animals and animal products	24	41	97	1,264	2,878

Total Producers ^c

Sex	866
Male	571
Female	295
Age	
<35	78
35 – 64	430
65 and older	358
Race	
American Indian/Alaska Native	2
Asian	6
Black or African American	2
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-
White	847
More than one race	9
Other characteristics	
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin	8
With military service	126
New and beginning farmers	231

Percent of farms that:

Have internet access	76
Farm organically	3
Sell directly to consumers	13
Hire farm labor	29
Are family farms	99

Top Crops in Acres ^d

Forage (hay/haylage), all	8,358
Cultivated Christmas trees	3,400
Apples	52
Vegetables harvested, all	35
Grapes	27

Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2017)

Broilers and other meat-type chickens	(D)
Cattle and calves	12,863
Goats	715
Hogs and pigs	66
Horses and ponies	418
Layers	2,617
Pullets	78
Sheep and lambs	221
Turkeys	-

See 2017 Census of Agriculture, U.S. Summary and State Data, for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, commodity descriptions, and methodology.

^a May not add to 100% due to rounding. ^b Among counties whose rank can be displayed. ^c Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm.

^d Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at www.nass.usda.gov/go/cropnames.pdf. ^e Position below the line does not indicate rank.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) Not available. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. (-) Represents zero.