

# Durham County

## LOCAL FARMS AND FOOD PROFILE

DATA FROM 2017 & 2012 USDA CENSUS. MORE INFO AT [GO.NCSU.EDU/AGCENSUS](http://GO.NCSU.EDU/AGCENSUS)

**18,603**  
ACRES  
— OF —  
FARMS

DOWN 11%  
FROM 2012

**77**  
ACRES  
AVERAGE  
SIZE  
OF FARM

DOWN 14%  
FROM 2012

**124**  
ANIMAL  
FARMS

UP 27%  
FROM 2012

**\$10,103,000**  
TOTAL AG PRODUCTS SOLD

UP 7%  
FROM 2012

**241** FARMS

UP 4%  
FROM 2012

**FARMLAND COMPONENTS**

- CROPLAND 36%
- WOODLAND 39%
- PASTURELAND 17%
- OTHER 8%

**\$1,096,000**  
VALUE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS

DOWN 31%  
FROM 2012

**16**  
SOD, GREENHOUSE,  
NURSERY, FLORICULTURE  
FARMS

DOWN 33%  
FROM 2012

**VALUE OF SOD, GREENHOUSE,  
NURSERY, FLORICULTURE  
PRODUCTS**

\* Insufficient Data

**104**  
TOTAL CROP FARMS,  
INCLUDING NURSERY  
& GREENHOUSE

DOWN 8%  
FROM 2012

**\$9,007,000**  
VALUE OF CROP  
INCLUDING NURSERY  
& GREENHOUSE

UP 15%  
FROM 2012

**43** FARMS THAT SELL  
DIRECT TO CONSUMER

UP 5%  
FROM 2012

**\$477,000**  
DIRECT TO  
CONSUMER SALES

UP 315%  
FROM 2012

**10**  
GRAIN, OILSEED, BEAN,  
PEA FARMS

DOWN 29%  
FROM 2012

**VALUE OF GRAIN, OILSEED,  
BEAN, PEA PRODUCTS**

\* Insufficient Data

**15** FARMS WITH  
INTERMEDIATED SALES

**\$44,000**  
VALUE OF INTERMEDIATED  
SALES

\*2012 data not collected by US AG Census

**24**  
FRUIT, NUT &  
BERRY FARMS

UP 85%  
FROM 2012

**\$336,000**  
VALUE OF  
FRUIT, NUT &  
BERRY

UP 140%  
FROM 2012

**33**  
VEGETABLE,  
MELON, &  
POTATO FARMS

DOWN 6%  
FROM 2012

**\$356,000**  
VALUE OF  
VEGETABLE,  
MELON &  
POTATO

UP 45%  
FROM 2012

**\$406,000**  
AGRITOURISM  
REVENUE

UP 77%  
FROM 2012

**12**  
AGRITOURISM  
FARMS

DOWN 20%  
FROM 2012

**150**  
FEMALE  
PRODUCERS

**223**  
MALE  
PRODUCERS

**173**  
NEW & BEGINNING FARMERS

**41**  
PRODUCERS  
WITH  
MILITARY  
SERVICE

**56.7**  
PRINCIPAL  
PRODUCER  
AVERAGE AGE

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# Agriculture as Economic Development



North Carolina's agricultural industry, including food, fiber and forestry, contributes \$91.9 billion to the state's economy, accounts for more than 17 percent of the state's income, and employs 17 percent of the workforce. \*

North Carolina is one of the most diversified agriculture states in the nation. The state's 46,418 farmers grow over 80 different commodities, utilizing 8.4 million of the state's 31 million acres to furnish consumers a dependable and affordable supply of food and fiber. The state ranks eighth nationally in Total Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold. Net income per farm in the state is over \$86,645.

This Local Food and Farms infographic is designed for economic developers, planners, local food advocates, and community members to understand the impact of their county and region to the overall NC agricultural economic impact. The economic indicators provided here can help local governments as they design ways to support agricultural businesses as key components of vibrant and resilient, local and rural economies. Each region in North Carolina presents a unique set of opportunities for sustainable economic growth and entrepreneurship.

Consider one example: When school systems purchase food from local farmers, students benefit from access to healthy fresh produce, farmers benefit from sales into local schools, and the community benefits because these local sales are spent at other local businesses. This type of local business opportunity keeps farms in production, maintaining North Carolina's agricultural asset base both in terms of land and farming know-how. And it keeps dollars spent on food circulating among other local businesses.

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**As decision makers consider policies, programs and practices to support the agriculture sector there are numerous examples and supporting reports providing guidance:**

NCSU / Center for Environmental Farming Systems / NC State Extension Local Food  
Local Government Guide to Developing Local Food Economies

<https://cefs.ncsu.edu/food-system-initiatives/local-food-economies/local-government-guide-to-food-economies/>

Food System Initiatives (includes NC case studies)

<https://cefs.ncsu.edu/food-system-initiatives/local-food-economies/>

The NC 10% Campaign Initiative

<https://www.nc10percent.com/>

NC Local Food

<https://localfood.ces.ncsu.edu/>

<https://localfood.ces.ncsu.edu/food-system-supply-chain/>

USDA

The Economics of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments, and Choices

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Toolkit%20Designed%20FINAL%203-22-16.pdf>

For up to date information on this project go to

[go.ncsu.edu/agcensus](http://go.ncsu.edu/agcensus)

This material is based upon work supported by NC State Extension [Local Foods Program](#), NC State Extension [FarmLink](#), and the [EmPOWERing Mountain Food Systems Project](#) of the Center for Environmental Farming Systems.

