NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION | N.C. A&T STATE UNIVERSITY | NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Lee County

LOCAL FARMS AND FOOD PROFILE

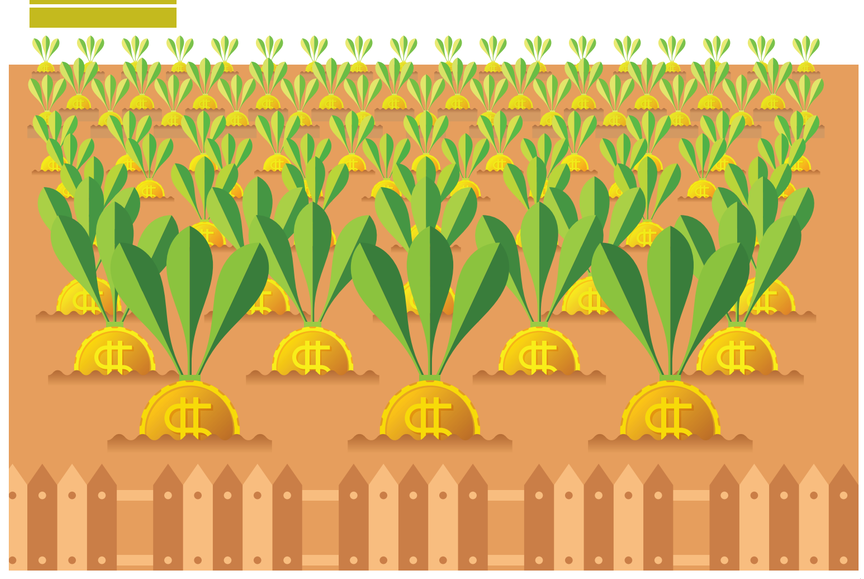
DATA FROM 2017 & 2012 USDA CENSUS. MORE INFO AT GO.NCSU.EDU/AGCENSUS

35,170 ACRES OF FARMS
DOWN 10% FROM 2012

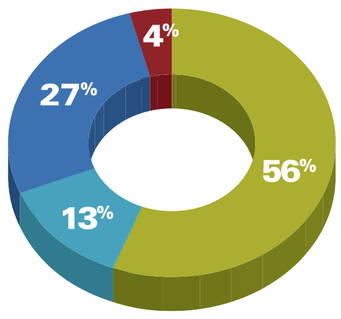
141 ACRES AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM
DOWN 11% FROM 2012

146 ANIMAL FARMS
UP 22% FROM 2012

UP 57% FROM 2012
$54,392,000 TOTAL AG PRODUCTS SOLD

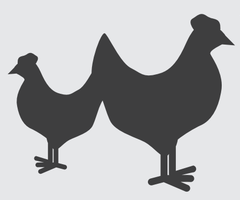


250 FARMS
UP 2% FROM 2012

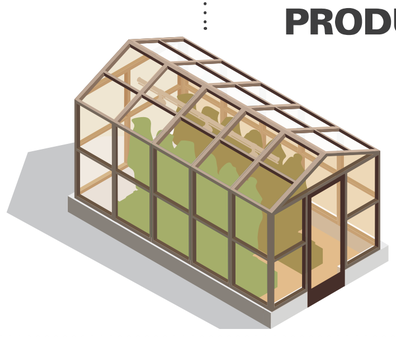


FARMLAND COMPONENTS
- CROPLAND
- WOODLAND
- PASTURELAND
- OTHER

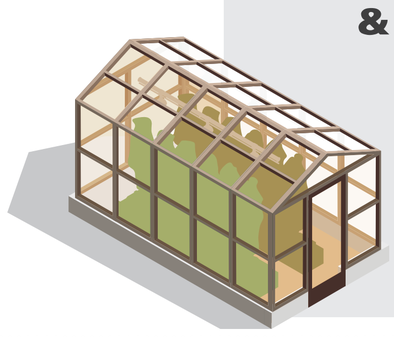
$35,623,000 VALUE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS
UP 103% FROM 2012



8 SOD, GREENHOUSE, NURSERY, FLORICULTURE FARMS
DOWN 11% FROM 2012



$1,272,000 VALUE OF SOD, GREENHOUSE, NURSERY, FLORICULTURE PRODUCTS
UP 1% FROM 2012



99 TOTAL CROP FARMS, INCLUDING NURSERY & GREENHOUSE
UP 4% FROM 2012

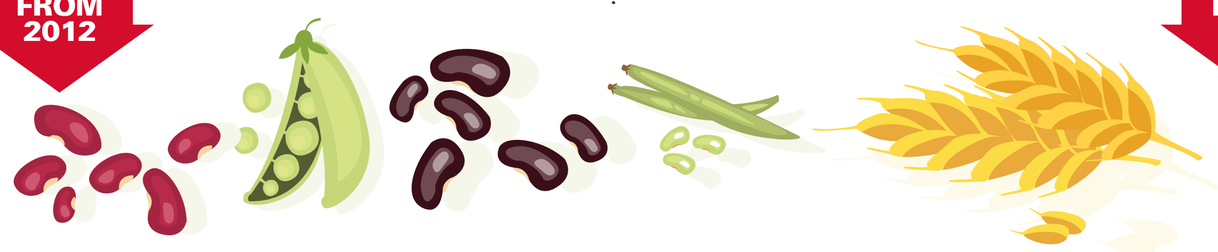
$18,769,000 VALUE OF CROP INCLUDING NURSERY & GREENHOUSE
UP 9% FROM 2012

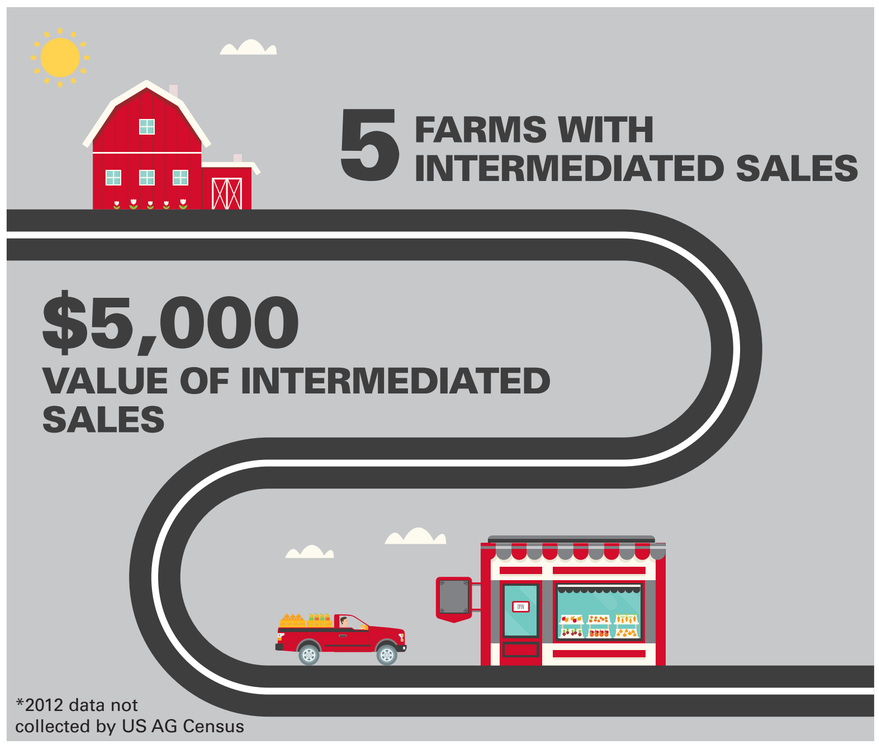
44 FARMS THAT SELL DIRECT TO CONSUMER
UP 110% FROM 2012

$126,000 DIRECT TO CONSUMER SALES
UP 29% FROM 2012

30 GRAIN, OILSEED, BEAN, PEA FARMS
DOWN 30% FROM 2012

$2,778,000 VALUE OF GRAIN, OILSEED, BEAN, PEA PRODUCTS
DOWN 20% FROM 2012





5 FARMS WITH INTERMEDIATED SALES

$5,000 VALUE OF INTERMEDIATED SALES

*2012 data not collected by US AG Census

DOWN 4% FROM 2012
25 FRUIT, NUT & BERRY FARMS

24 VEGETABLE, MELON, & POTATO FARMS
UP 33% FROM 2012

$193,000 VALUE OF FRUIT, NUT & BERRY

$701,000 VALUE OF VEGETABLE, MELON & POTATO
UP 115% FROM 2012

AGRITOURISM REVENUE
* Insufficient Data

DOWN 80% FROM 2012
1 AGRITOURISM FARMS

130 FEMALE PRODUCERS

288 MALE PRODUCERS

123 NEW & BEGINNING FARMERS

85 PRODUCERS WITH MILITARY SERVICE

60.0 PRINCIPAL PRODUCER AVERAGE AGE

PIEDMONT GROWN

NC FarmLink

CEFS CENTER for ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING SYSTEMS
NCSU | NCA&T | NCDA&CS
www.cefs.ncsu.edu

NC Local Food

N.C. Cooperative Extension prohibits discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, gender identity, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status.
NC State and N.C. A&T State universities, U.S. Department of Agriculture and local governments cooperating. This material was produced with funding from the NC Cooperative Extension Local Food Program.

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.

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

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.

N.C. Cooperative Extension prohibits discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, gender identity, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status. NC State and N.C. A&T State universities, U.S. Department of Agriculture and local governments cooperating.

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_US_State_Level/st99_2_0004_0004.pdf