

Union County

LOCAL FARMS AND FOOD PROFILE

DATA FROM 2017 & 2012 USDA CENSUS

186,626
ACRES
— OF —
FARMS

DOWN
7%
FROM
2012

UP
2%
FROM
2012

195
ACRES
AVERAGE
SIZE
OF FARM

341
ANIMAL
FARMS

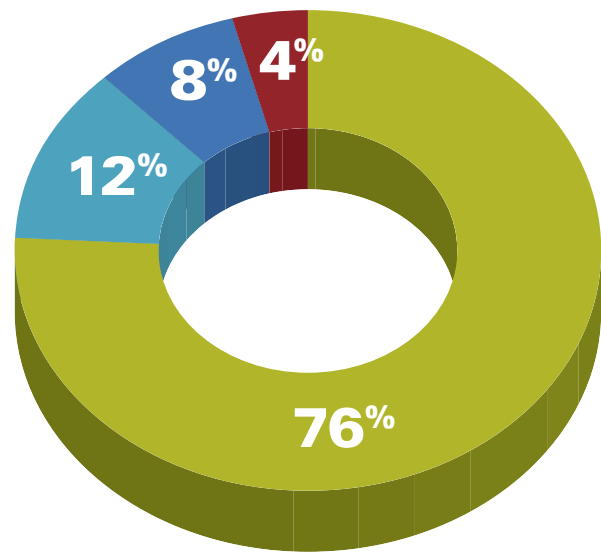
UP
2%
FROM
2012

DOWN
10%
FROM
2012

\$481,981,000
TOTAL AG PRODUCTS SOLD

957 FARMS

DOWN
10%
FROM
2012



FARMLAND COMPONENTS

- CROPLAND
- WOODLAND
- PASTURELAND
- OTHER

\$395,499,000
VALUE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS

DOWN
3%
FROM
2012

22
SOD, GREENHOUSE,
NURSERY, FLORICULTURE
FARMS

DOWN
48%
FROM
2012

\$18,279,000
VALUE OF SOD, GREENHOUSE,
NURSERY, FLORICULTURE
PRODUCTS

DOWN
8%
FROM
2012

368
TOTAL CROP FARMS,
INCLUDING NURSERY
& GREENHOUSE

DOWN
3%
FROM
2012

\$86,482,000
VALUE OF CROP
INCLUDING NURSERY
& GREENHOUSE

DOWN
33%
FROM
2012

41 FARMS THAT SELL
DIRECT TO CONSUMER

DOWN
16%
FROM
2012

\$428,000
DIRECT TO
CONSUMER SALES

UP
68%
FROM
2012

149
GRAIN, OILSEED, BEAN,
PEA FARMS

DOWN
20%
FROM
2012

\$63,534,000
VALUE OF GRAIN, OILSEED,
BEAN, PEA PRODUCTS

DOWN
37%
FROM
2012

9 FARMS WITH
INTERMEDIATED SALES

* Insufficient Data
VALUE OF INTERMEDIATED
SALES

UP
143%
FROM
2012

17
FRUIT, NUT &
BERRY FARMS

\$245,000
VALUE OF
FRUIT, NUT &
BERRY

UP
362%
FROM
2012

25
VEGETABLE,
MELON, &
POTATO
FARMS

UP
32%
FROM
2012

\$618,000
VALUE OF
VEGETABLE, MELON
& POTATO

\$443,000
AGRITOURISM
REVENUE

DOWN
23%
FROM
2012

DOWN
40%
FROM
2012

9
AGRITOURISM
FARMS

496
FEMALE
PRODUCERS

992
MALE
PRODUCERS

437
NEW & BEGINNING FARMERS

155
PRODUCERS
WITH
MILITARY
SERVICE

58.5
PRINCIPAL
PRODUCER
AVERAGE AGE



NC FarmLink



NC Local Food

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

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.



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