Wake County

LOCAL FARMS AND FOOD PROFILE

DATA FROM 2012 & 2007 USDA CENSUS

84,229 ACRES OF FARMS IN WAKE COUNTY

DOWN 1% FROM 2007

$463,000 GROSS REVENUE FROM AGRITOURISM & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

UP 517% FROM 2007

UP 5% FROM 2007

108 ACRES AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM

24 FARMS WITH AGRITOURISM & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

DOWN 8% FROM 2007

UP 57% FROM 2007

143 FARMS THAT SELL DIRECT TO CONSUMER

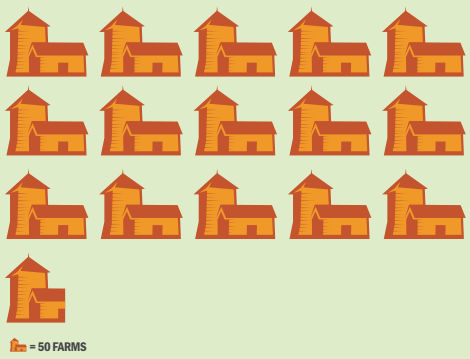
$654,000 DIRECT TO CONSUMER SALES

UP 36% FROM 2007

34 FARMERS MARKETS, ROADSIDE STANDS, AND PRODUCE MARKETS IN WAKE COUNTY

13 FARMS SELLING THROUGH CSA

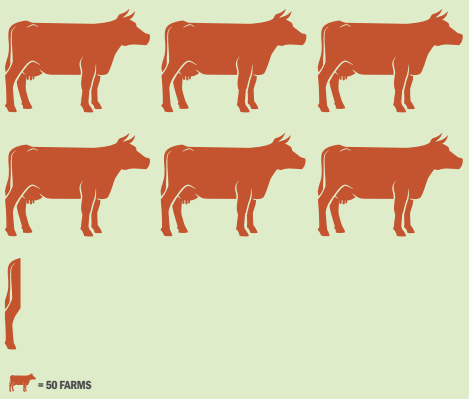
UP 8% FROM 2007



= 50 FARMS

783 FARMS IN WAKE COUNTY

DOWN 5% FROM 2007



= 50 FARMS

304 ANIMAL FARMS IN WAKE COUNTY

DOWN 3% FROM 2007

$3,836,000 VALUE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS IN WAKE COUNTY

DOWN 35% FROM 2007

UP 36% FROM 2007

49 FRUIT, NUT & BERRY FARMS

= 10 FARMS

95 MELON, VEGETABLE & POTATO FARMS

= 10 FARMS

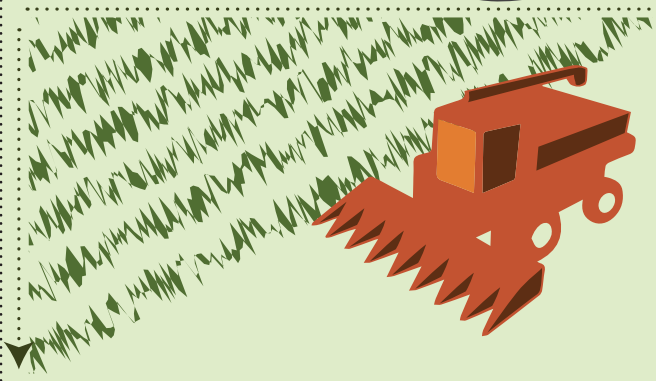
UP 1% FROM 2007

$760,000 SALES FRUIT NUT BERRY FARMS

UP 76% FROM 2007

$3,581,000 SALES VEGETABLE, MELON, POTATO FARMS

UP 17% FROM 2007



37,990 ACRES HARVESTED

UP 7% FROM 2007

PIEDMONT GROWN

10% BUILDING NORTH CAROLINA'S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY Farm To Fork

PIEDMONT together Community Choices. Regional Solutions.

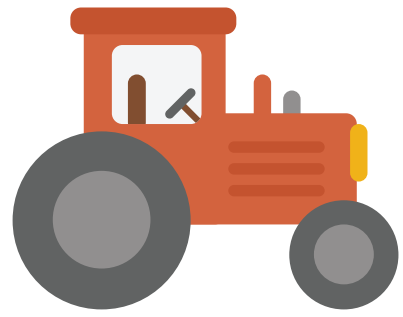
CEFS CENTER for ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING SYSTEMS NCSU | NCA&T | NCDA&CS www.cefs.ncsu.edu

SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number RD309-122/4940246 through the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Data Compiled from USDA Census - North Carolina Public Health Department - Farmers Market Data

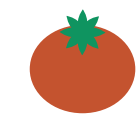
Agriculture as Economic Development

Agriculture is one of North Carolina's top industries, bringing more than $84 billion into the state's economy each year – that is 17% of the state's income! Over 16% of the state's workforce is employed in the agribusiness sector, and the state ranks 8th in the nation for agricultural cash receipts.[1] NC farms and agribusinesses are meeting the demand for food and food products by producing over 80 different commodities.[2]



This Local Food and Farms factsheet is designed for economic developers, planners, local food advocates, and community members to understand their geography's place in the multibillion-dollar NC agricultural industry. 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 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 agricultural sector there are numerous examples and supporting reports providing guidance:

Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) Resources:
Local Government Guide to Developing Local Food Economies
https://cefs.ncsu.edu/food-system-initiatives/local-food-economies/local-government-guide-to-food-economies/
NC Growing Together Local Food Economies Initiative (includes NC case studies)
https://cefs.ncsu.edu/food-system-initiatives/local-food-economies/
The NC 10% Campaign Initiative
https://www.nc10percent.com/
From Farm to Fork: Building a Sustainable Local Food Economy in North Carolina
https://cefs.ncsu.edu/resources/from-farm-to-fork-a-guide-to-building-north-carolinas-sustainable-local-food-economy-2010/

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

NC State University:
The North Carolina Food Processing and Manufacturing Initiative: An Economic Feasibility Study
http://harvest.cals.ncsu.edu/ckfinder/userfiles/files/The%20North%20Carolina%20Food%20Processing%20and%20Manufacturing%20Initiative%20%20-%20An%20Economic%20Feasibilty%20Study(1).pdf

American Farmland Trust:
Growing Food Connections: Building Local Government Capacity to Support Agriculture and Promote Food Access
https://www.farmland.org/initiatives/growing-food-connections

1 https://projects.ncsu.edu/cals/agcomm/news-center/media-releases/ag-and-agbiz-worth-84-billion-in-nc/

2 http://www.ncagr.gov/stats/general/overview.htm

Infographic sources

USDA Census of Agriculture

North Carolina Public Health Department- Farmer's Market Data

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