

# Agricultural Info Sheet

## Chester County Highlights from the 2017 Census of Agriculture

The census of agriculture is the leading source of statistics about the nation's agricultural production. It provides a detailed picture of farms every five years and is the only source of uniform agricultural data for every state and county in the United States. The census definition of a farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

### State/National Rankings

#### TOTAL VALUE OF AG PRODUCTS SOLD



Chester County **ranked 2nd** among all 67 Pennsylvania counties and **53rd** in the U.S. in the total value of agricultural products sold with annual sales of \$712,468,000.

#### VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD PER ACRE



Chester County **ranked 18th** of over 3,000 counties in the U.S. in value of agricultural products sold per acre of land in farms with a value per acre of \$4,733.00.



## Commodity Rankings

### EQUINE



Chester County **ranked 2nd** in PA and **24th** in the U.S. in the value of horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys with sales of \$5,881,000. There was an 11 percent increase in value from 2012 (\$5,249,000).

### CROP PRODUCTION



Chester County **ranked 1st** in PA and **25th** in the U.S. in crop production with a production value of \$570,929,000. There was a 6 percent increase in value from 2012 (\$535,206,000).

### CROPS GROWN UNDER COVER



Chester County **ranked 1st** in PA and **3rd** in the U.S. in the value of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod and mushrooms with a production value of \$515,267,000. Mushrooms accounted for \$450,378,000 of the total value or 87.4 percent. There was an 8 percent increase in value from 2012 (\$475,480,000).

### VEGETABLE



Chester County **ranked 7th** in PA and **294th** in the U.S. in vegetable, melons, potatoes and sweet potato production with sales of \$6,266,000. There was a 24 percent increase in value from 2012 (\$4,771,000). There are 154 farms involved in vegetable, melons, potatoes and sweet potato production. The number of farms grew 5.5 percent (8 farms) from 2012.

### MILK



Chester County **ranked 5th** in PA in the value of milk from cows with sales of \$82,808,000 (ranked **99th** in the U.S.). There was a 12 percent increase in value from 2012 (\$73,185,000). There are 333 dairy farms with sales from milk. The number of farms grew 17 percent (58 farms) from 2012.

## Commodity Rankings (continued)

### CHRISTMAS TREES



Chester County **ranked 14th** in PA and **69th** in the U.S. in cultivated Christmas tree production with a production value of \$605,000. There was an 11.7 percent increase in value from 2012 (\$534,000). There are 27 farms involved in cultivated Christmas tree production. The number of farms shrank 13 percent (4 farms) from 2012.

### POULTRY & EGGS



Chester County **ranked 17th** in PA and **380th** in the U.S. in poultry and egg production with a production value of \$25,667,000. There was a 35 percent increase in value from 2012 (\$16,775,000). There are 243 farms with sales from poultry and egg production. The number of farms grew 9 percent (23 farms) from 2012.

### FRUITS, TREE NUTS & BERRIES



Chester County **ranked 12th** in PA and **338th** in the U.S. in fruits, tree nuts and berries with a production value of \$1,845,000. There was a 2 percent decrease in value from 2012 (\$1,883,000). However, there are 110 farms growing fruits, tree nuts and berries. The number of farms grew 15 percent (16 farms) from 2012.

## Characteristics



**1,646**

The number of farms.

Down 5 percent since 2012



**91 acres**

The average size of a farm.

Down 4 percent since 2012



**190**

The number of beef cattle operations.

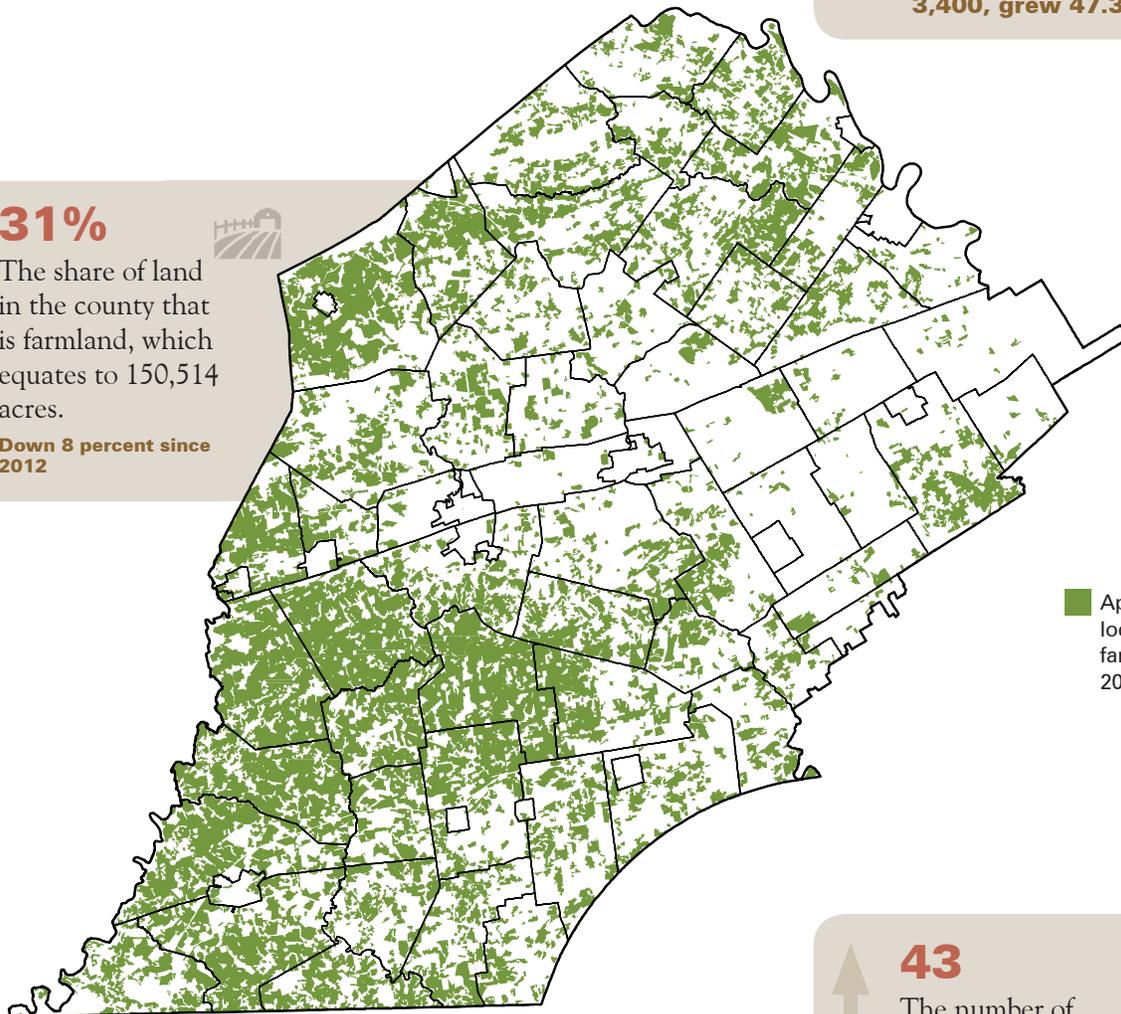
Up 26.3 percent (50 farms) since 2012. The number of beef cattle, 3,400, grew 47.3%



**31%**

The share of land in the county that is farmland, which equates to 150,514 acres.

Down 8 percent since 2012



■ Approximate location of farmland in 2017

**25%**

The share of new and beginning producers (i.e. producers operating for 10 years or less).



**210**

The number of farms (13 percent of total) that sell directly to consumers.



**43**

The number of farms (3 percent of total) farming organically.

Up almost 30 percent since 2012. The value of organically produced products increased \$11,801,000 to \$43,625,000 (296 percent)



For more information on the 2017 Census of Agriculture go to [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

Chester County Agricultural Development Council • [www.chesco.org/agdev](http://www.chesco.org/agdev)