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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL VALUE OF AG PRODUCTS SOLD</th>
<th>VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD PER ACRE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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.
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.

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.

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.
The share of land in the county that is farmland, which equates to 150,514 acres. Down 8 percent since 2012.

The number of farms. Down 5 percent since 2012.

The average size of a farm. Down 4 percent since 2012.

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

The share of new and beginning producers (i.e. producers operating for 10 years or less). 25%

The number of farms (13 percent of total) that sell directly to consumers. 210

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.