

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE FACTS

— Second Edition —



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Agriculture in Kentucky

Agriculture sustained the first settlers of Kentucky in the 1770s, and the business of raising crops and livestock continues to be the backbone of rural Kentucky today. Kentucky is home to a wide variety of agriculture production, from horses and beef cattle to tobacco and corn. Agriculture in Kentucky, nicknamed the Bluegrass State, is constantly changing to keep up with consumer demand and the ever-growing world population.

Due to the tobacco buy-out in 2004, many producers have diversified their operations to include new ventures, such as poultry, aquaculture, horticulture, etc.

Kentucky is home to 76,500 farms, making it the 6th ranking state in the number of farms.¹ The average farm size in Kentucky is 170 acres, compared to the national average of 435 acres.¹ Of Kentucky's 25.4 million acres, 51% is farmland, accounting for 13 million acres.¹

Kentucky agriculture is dominated by small family farms. Over 57 percent of its farms (about 43,700) have annual sales of less than \$10,000.¹ Cash receipts for all Kentucky farms totaled nearly \$5.7 billion in 2013.¹

Economic Impact

In 2013, Kentucky farmers spent just over

\$3.9 billion for inputs¹

- \$953 million for feed
- \$263 million for seed
- \$462 million for fertilizer
- \$164 million for chemicals
- \$304 million for fuel and oil
- \$77 million for electricity
- \$436 million for labor

Kentucky is nationally
ranked

16th

for 2013 net farm
income at \$2.74 billion²

25th

in total 2013
agriculture exports¹

2nd

in unmanufactured
tobacco¹

\$5.7 billion

total value of cash
receipts for Kentucky
commodities²

Top 5

Kentucky Agriculture
2013 Exports¹

1. Soybean
2. Other Livestock Products
3. Wheat
4. Poultry Products
5. Other Plant Products

Sources: ¹USDA Economic Research Service, 2014, 2015

²National Agriculture Statistics Service, 2014

2014 Economic Impact¹

	Direct, Indirect & Induced Impacts Production Ag	Total Impact Agricultural Processing	Total Impact Production, Processing & Ag-related
Total Economic Output	\$9.5 Billion	\$34.9 Billion	\$45.6 Billion
Total Employment	128,855	124,199	258,605
Total Labor Income	\$0.90 Billion	\$5.1 Billion	\$6.2 Billion

Source: Department of Agricultural Economics,
University of Kentucky, 2015



Ranked Commodities

Kentucky ranks in the top 30 nationally in several commodities.

Rank	Commodity
1	Burley Tobacco Production (2014) ¹ Fire-Cured Tobacco Production (2014) ¹ Horses ² Dark Air-Cured Tobacco Production (2014) ¹
2	Tobacco Production (2014) ¹
4	Other Hay Production (2014) ¹
7	Broiler Production (2013) ¹ Meat and Other Goats (Jan. 1, 2015) ¹
8	Beef Cows (Cows that have calved inventory, Jan. 1, 2015) ¹
12	All Hay Production (2014) ¹
14	Cattle (All Cattle & Calves inventory, Jan. 1, 2015) ¹ Corn for Grain Production (2014) ¹
17	Soybean Production (2014) ¹
18	Wheat Production (2014) ¹
20	Swine (Inventory, Dec.1, 2014) ¹
23	Milk Goats (Jan. 1, 2015) ¹
26	Alfalfa & Alfalfa Mixed Hay Production (2014) ¹
28	Egg Production (2013) ¹
29	Milk Cows (Inventory, Jan. 1, 2015) ¹ Milk Production (2013) ¹ Sheep and Lambs (Jan. 1, 2015)

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service

²Census of Agriculture, 2012, total sales including stud fees



“Kentucky ranks #1 in Horse sales.”

Commodity Cash Receipts

Commodity	Value of Receipts, 2013 (1,000 dollars)
ALL COMMODITIES ¹	5,690,171
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS ¹	2,798,655
Poultry and Eggs	1,204,897
Broilers	1,011,172
Cattle and Calves	835,822
Other Livestock ²	406,453
Dairy Products, Milk	228,975
Swine	122,507
CROPS ^{1,3}	2,891,516
Oil Crops, including Soybeans	1,055,238
Feed Crops, including Hay	983,820
Corn	782,457
Tobacco	404,348
Wheat	280,068
All Other Crops ⁴	156,508
Fruits & Nuts	11,535

Sources: USDA - Economic Research Service. ¹May not add due to rounding. ²Includes horses, stud fees, mules, sheep and lambs, goats, turkeys, aquaculture, honey, wool, rabbits, bison and all other livestock. ³Forest products not included in farm cash receipts, but are included in net farm income. ⁴Includes greenhouse/nursery, vegetables, barley, sorghum grain, popcorn, sunflowers, other seeds, other field crops and mushrooms.

Leading Counties¹

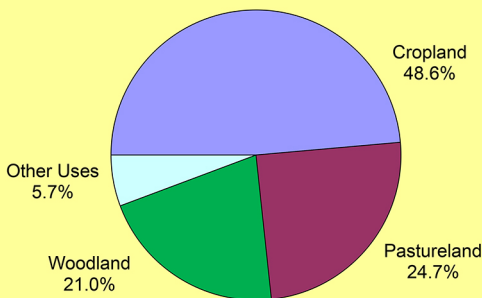
Number of farms

1. Barren
2. Pulaski
3. Warren
4. Shelby
5. Graves

Amount of cropland

1. Christian
2. Graves
3. Logan
4. Daviess
5. Union

Land Use on Kentucky Farms, 2012



| Source: ¹Census of Agriculture, 2012 |

Poultry

- The #1 agriculture commodity in Kentucky.¹
- Kentucky ranks 7th in the nation in broiler production.¹
- Value of the poultry industry in Kentucky is over \$1 billion.¹
- The poultry industry in Kentucky accounts for approximately 7,000 industry employees and pays out \$316.8 million in direct job wages.²
- In 2012, there were 1,274 farms with broilers and other meat-type chickens in Kentucky. 6,252 farms in Kentucky also had laying hens, with 5,501 of farms having 1 to 49 hens.³

Top poultry counties^{3, 4}

1. Graves
2. McLean
3. Hickman
4. Todd
5. Ohio

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014

²Kentucky Poultry Federation

³Census of Agriculture, 2012

⁴Based on total sales

“Poultry is Kentucky’s #1 commodity.”



“Kentucky has the most beef cattle of any state east of the Mississippi River.”



Beef Cattle

- Kentucky ranks 8th in the nation in beef cow inventory.¹
- Kentucky has the most beef cattle of any state east of the Mississippi River, with 1,007,000 head as of January 1, 2015.¹
- As of January 1, 2015 there were 135,000 beef replacement females in Kentucky.¹
- In 2012, there were 33,823 farms with beef cattle in Kentucky.²
- In 2013, cash receipts for the sale of cattle and calves were over \$835.8 million.¹
- Cattle and calves ranks 4th among Kentucky commodities for cash receipts.¹
- Cash receipts from cattle and calves accounted for 14.7% of the total cash receipts in 2013.¹

Top beef cow counties^{1,3}

1. Barren
2. Pulaski
3. Madison
4. Monroe
5. Warren

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014, 2015

²Census of Agriculture, 2012

³Based on total inventory, January 1, 2013

Dairy

- As of January 1, 2015, there were 63,000 milk cows and 45,000 replacement females in Kentucky.¹
- Kentucky produced 115 million gallons of milk in 2014.³
- Cash receipts from the sale of dairy products including milk by dairy farmers amounted to \$228.9 million in 2013.¹
- Kentucky's dairy cows produced an average of 5.8 gallons of milk per day, or enough to make 5 pounds of cheese or 2.3 pounds of butter.²
- The average value of a day's milk was \$10.44 per cow during 2013.²
- Kentucky began 2015 with 714 dairy farms with an average herd size of 88 milk cows.³
- Kentucky has 7 commercial milk processing plants, 3 commercial cheese manufacturing plants, a specialty ice cream plant, 1 on-farm milk bottling plant, and 6 on-farm cheese makers.³

Top milk cow counties^{1,4}

1. Barren
2. Adair
3. Logan
4. Todd
5. Christian

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014, 2015

²The Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc.

³Kentucky Dairy Development Council

⁴Based on total inventory, January 1, 2013

Swine

- Kentucky ranks 21st nationally in total swine production.¹
- In 2013, cash receipts from swine accounted for \$122.5 million and 2.2% of total cash receipts.¹
- As of December 1, 2014, there were 325,000 total head of swine in Kentucky; 40,000 were breeding animals and 285,000 were market hogs.¹
- In 2012, there were 1,284 farms with hogs and pigs in Kentucky.²

Top swine counties^{2, 3}

1. Warren
2. Carlisle
3. Hickman
4. Nelson
5. Marion

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014

²Census of Agriculture, 2012

³Based on total inventory



Equine

- Kentucky ranks #1 nationally in horse sales including stud fees.¹
- Kentucky is home to 242,400 equine.¹
- There are approximately 35,000 equine operations in Kentucky.¹
- 1.1 million acres in Kentucky are devoted to equine use.¹
- The total value of the state's equine and equine-related assets is estimated at \$23.4 billion.¹
- Total equine-related sales and income for equine operations in 2011 was \$1.1 billion.¹
- Equine-related expenditures by equine operations in 2011 totaled about \$1.2 billion; 77% of operating expenses were spent in Kentucky.¹

Top 5 equine breeds^{1,2}

1. Thoroughbreds
2. Quarter Horse
3. Walking Horse
4. Saddlebreds
5. Donkeys, etc

Top equine counties^{1,2}

1. Fayette
2. Bourbon
3. Woodford
4. Jefferson
5. Scott

Sources: ¹2012 Kentucky Equine Survey, University of Kentucky

²Based on total inventory, January 1, 2012

Sheep and Goats

Goats

- As of January 1, 2015, there were 65,700 head of goats in Kentucky, up 3,200 head from 2014.¹
- Milk goats were estimated at 5,700 head, up 1,200 head from 2014.¹
- In 2012, there were 3,797 farms with goats in Kentucky.²

Sheep

- As of January 1, 2015, the total number of sheep and lambs in Kentucky was estimated at 48,000 head, a decrease of 1,000 from 2014.¹
- All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 38,000 and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 10,000 head in Kentucky as of January 1, 2015.¹
- In 2012, there were 1,743 farms with sheep and lambs in Kentucky.²

Top goat counties²

1. Hart
2. Hardin
3. Warren
4. Christian
5. Pulaski

Top sheep counties²

1. Breckinridge
2. Hardin
3. Bourbon
4. Shelby
5. Casey

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2015

²Based on total inventory, Census of Agriculture, 2012

Corn

- Corn ranks 2nd in Kentucky's crop receipts.¹
- Kentucky ranks 14th in corn production nationally.¹
- In 2012, the economic impact of Kentucky corn was \$1.27 billion.²
- There were 27,313 jobs related to corn production in Kentucky in 2012.²
- USDA estimated Kentucky's 2014 corn crop was planted on 1,520,000 acres, of which 1,430,000 were harvested to produce 225,940,000 bushels with an average yield of 158.0 bu./ac. In 2013, a record crop of 243,100,000 bushels with a record average yield of 170.0 bu./ac. was produced.¹
- During an average year, approximately 70 million bu. of corn is fed to Kentucky livestock, 45 million bu. of corn is used for food and spirits, and 12 million bu. of corn is processed into fuel ethanol.²

Top corn counties in 2014¹

1. Union
2. Henderson
3. Daviess
4. Christian
5. Graves

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014. 2015

²Kentucky Corn Growers Association



"Corn is Kentucky's
#2 cash crop."

Tobacco¹

- Kentucky ranks 1st in burley tobacco production, 1st in fire-cured tobacco production, 1st in dark-cured tobacco production, and 2nd in total tobacco production nationally.
- Tobacco is one of Kentucky's top 5 agriculture export.
- In 2014, 91,700 acres of tobacco were harvested producing 214.3 million lbs. of tobacco, with an average yield of 2,337 lbs./ac.
- In 2014, 10,700 acres of fire-cured tobacco produced 36.4 million lbs., 76,000 acres of burley produced 163.4 million lbs., and 5,000 acres of dark air-cured tobacco produced 14.5 million lbs.

Top burley tobacco counties in 2013

1. Barren
2. Allen
3. Shelby
4. Breckinridge
5. Harrison

| Source: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014 |

“Kentucky is the #1 burley and
dark tobacco producing state.”



Soybeans¹

- Soybeans rank 1st in Kentucky's crop receipts.
- Kentucky ranks 14th nationally in soybean production.
- Soybeans are grown on over 1.7 million acres in Kentucky.
- 70% of soybean meal goes to feed domestic livestock.
- USDA estimated Kentucky's 2014 soybean crop was planted on 1,760,000 acres, of which 1,750,000 acres were harvested to produce a record crop of 84,000,000 bushels with an average yield of 48 bu./ac., or 2.0 bu./ac. below the state's record average yield set in 2013.

Top soybean counties in 2014

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Henderson | 4. Christian |
| 2. Daviess | 5. Union |
| 3. Graves | |

| Source: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014, 2015 |



Forestry

- The 2014 estimated direct economic impact of the Kentucky's forest and wood industry is \$8.3 billion, with a total impact of \$12.8 billion.¹
- Kentucky's forest and wood industry directly employs over 28,000 Kentuckians with a total employment impact of 57,753 jobs.¹
- Kentucky is the leading producer of hardwood sawlogs in the south and one of the top three in the U.S.²
- Export value of Kentucky's wood products is estimated at more than \$273 million in 2014.¹
- There are 12.5 million acres of forestland, including pastured woodland, representing 49% of the land cover in the state, of which 75% is family-owned.²
- There were 703 forest and wood industry facilities located in 109 of Kentucky's 120 counties in 2013.³

Source: ¹2014-2015 Agricultural Situation and Outlook,
University of Kentucky

²Kentucky Forestry Economic Impact Report 2012-2013,
University of Kentucky

³Kentucky Forestry Economic Impact Report 2013-2014,
University of Kentucky

Wheat

- Kentucky ranks 17th nationally in wheat production.¹
- In 2014, Kentucky farmers harvested 510,000 acres of wheat with an average yield of 71.0 bu./ac., producing 36.2 million bushels.¹
- The largest wheat crop on record of 45.8 million bu. was produced in 2013, with a record average yield of 75.0 bu./ac. Harvested area of 610,000 acres was the largest since 1982.²

Top wheat counties in 2014¹

1. Christian
2. Logan
3. Todd
4. Simpson
5. Graves

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014

²National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2013



Hay

- Kentucky ranks 4th nationally for other hay production and 12th for all hay production.¹
- In 2014, 2,265,000 acres of hay were harvested, producing 4,761,000 tons, an average of 2.10 tons/acre.¹
- 165,000 acres of alfalfa and 2,100,000 acres of other hay were harvested in 2014.¹

Top alfalfa counties²

1. Mason
2. Owen
3. Meade
4. Metcalfe
5. Bracken

Top all other hay counties²

1. Barren
2. Pulaski
3. Grayson
4. Madison
5. Warren

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2014, 2015

²National Agricultural Statistics Service,
Based on total production, 2014



Specialty Production

Aquaculture

- Kentucky has approximately 30 aquaculture growers, producing freshwater prawn, catfish, paddlefish, largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass and tilapia.¹
- The cash receipts for aquaculture are approximately \$2 million.¹

Honey

- There are approximately 2,500 beekeepers in Kentucky.¹
- Kentucky has 50 local beekeeper associations.¹
- In 2012, there were 12,669 colonies of bees in Kentucky.²
- 344,306 lbs. of honey was collected in Kentucky according to the 2012 census.²
- In 2012, cash receipts for honey totaled \$811,000.³

Sources: ¹Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 2015

²Census of Agriculture, 2012

³USDA Economic Research Service

Specialty Production

Horticulture¹

- Estimated cash receipts from vegetables and melons for 2014 totaled \$31.4 million in Kentucky.
- Estimated fruit sales in Kentucky totaled \$12.3 million in 2014.
- Nursery and greenhouse sales were estimated at \$91 million for 2014.
- Direct markets contribute over 50% of produce sales in Kentucky.

Grapes and Wine

- Kentucky has approximately 150 grape growers.²
- The largest vineyard in Kentucky has 40 acres, but most vineyards are less than 5 acres.²
- There are 71 licensed wineries in the Bluegrass State.³

Sources: ¹2014-2015 Agricultural Situation and Outlook,
University of Kentucky

²Patsy Wilson, Extension Specialist, Viticulture, University of Kentucky

³Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Our Mission

Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of farm families and their allies dedicated to serving as the voice of agriculture by identifying problems, developing solutions and taking actions which will improve net farm income, achieve better economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all.

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

Commodity Division
9201 Bunsen Parkway
Louisville, KY 40220
502-495-5000



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