

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURE FACTS



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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 85,500 farms, tied with Oklahoma as the 4th ranking state in the number of farms.¹ The average farm size in Kentucky is 164 acres, compared to the national average of 421 acres.¹ Of Kentucky's 25.4 million acres, 55% is farmland, accounting for 14 million acres.¹

Kentucky agriculture is dominated by small family farms. Over 60 percent of its farms (about 54,700) have annual sales of less than \$10,000.¹ Cash receipts for all Kentucky farms totaled over \$5.2 billion in 2012.¹

| Source: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012 |

Economic Impact

In 2012, Kentucky farmers spent just over

\$3 billion for inputs¹

- \$747 million for feed
- \$164 million for seed
- \$359 million for fertilizer
- \$119 million for chemicals
- \$237 million for gas and oil
- \$47 million for electricity
- \$39 million for contract labor

Kentucky is nationally
ranked

25th

for net farm income at
\$1.5 billion²

20th

in total agriculture
exports²

2nd

in unmanufactured
tobacco²

\$5.2+ billion

total value of cash
receipts for Kentucky
commodities²

Top 5

Kentucky Agriculture
Exports¹

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. Tobacco | 4. Wheat |
| 2. Soybean | 5. Feed & Hay |
| 3. Corn | |

Sources: ¹USDA Economic Research Service, 2012 |

²National Agriculture Statistics Service, 2011 |

2011 Agriculture Jobs, Value and Income¹

	Direct, Indirect & Induced Impacts Production Ag	Total Impact Value Added Manufacturing	Total Impact Production & Manufacturing
Total Economic Output	\$8.4 Billion	\$37.9 Billion	\$46.3 Billion
Total Employment	119,525	143,776	263,301
Total Labor Income	\$1.39 Billion	\$5.9 Billion	\$7.3 Billion

Source: ¹Economic and Policy Update, June 26, 2013: Vol. 13 No. 6,
University of Kentucky



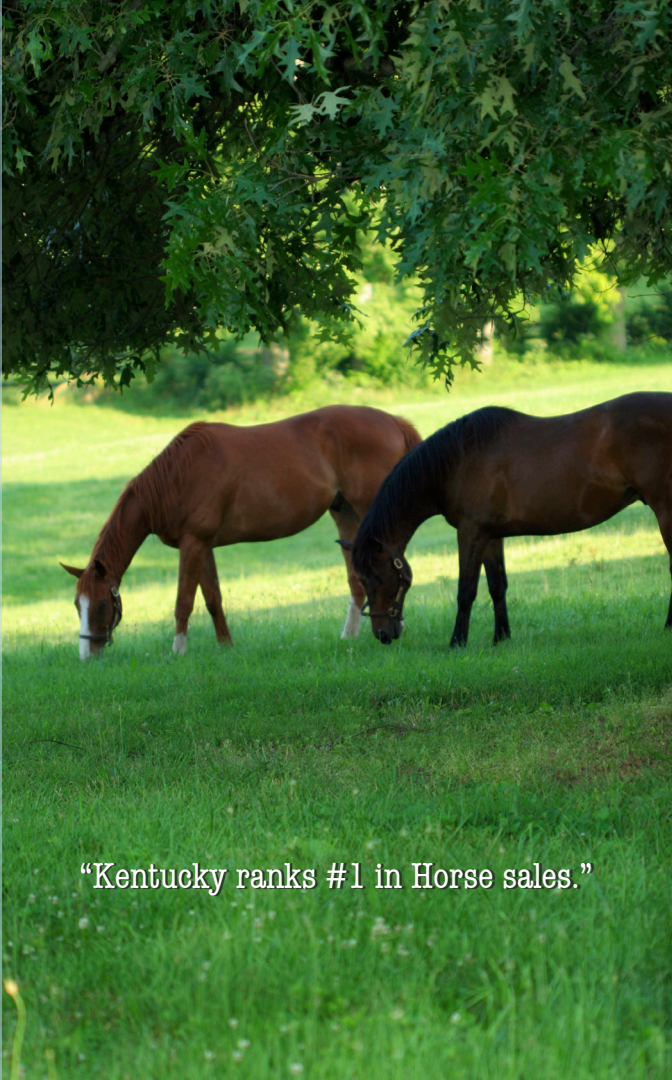
Ranked Commodities

Kentucky ranks in the top 30 nationally in several commodities.

Rank	Commodity
1	Burley Tobacco Production (2012) ¹
1	Fire-Cured Tobacco Production (2012) ¹
1	Horses ²
2	Dark Air-Cured Tobacco Production (2012) ¹
2	Tobacco Production (2012) ¹
2	Other Hay Production (2011) ¹
7	All Hay Production (2011) ¹
8	Broiler Production (2012) ¹
8	Beef Cows (Cows that have calved inventory, Jan. 1, 2013) ¹
11	Cattle (All Cattle & Calves inventory, Jan. 1, 2013) ¹
13	Corn for grain production (2011) ¹
15	Soybean Production (2011) ¹
15	Wheat Production (2013) ¹
19	Swine (Inventory, Dec. 1, 2012) ¹
23	Egg Production (2012) ¹
25	Alfalfa & Alfalfa Mixed Hay Production (2011) ¹
26	Milk Cows (Inventory, Jan. 1, 2012) ¹
27	Milk Production (2012) ¹

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service

²Census of Agriculture, 2007, total sales including stud fees



“Kentucky ranks #1 in Horse sales.”

Leading Commodities

Kentucky's leading commodities based on cash receipts, 2012

Rank	Commodity	Value of Receipts (1,000 dollars)
	ALL COMMODITIES ¹	5,284,095
	LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS ¹	2,862,111
	CROPS ^{1,3}	2,421,984
1	All Poultry	1,045,532
	Broilers	866,600
	Chicken eggs	116,078
	Farm chickens	2,399
2	Other livestock ²	882,180
3	Corn	828,795
4	Soybeans	741,325
5	Cattle and calves	656,711
6	Tobacco	384,886
7	Dairy products	219,582
8	Hay	142,373
9	Wheat	201,341
10	Swine	115,409
11	Other Crops ⁴	86,329
12	Vegetables & Melons	28,515
13	Fruits & nuts	8,420
14	Aquaculture	2,289
15	Honey	811
16	Wool	52

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

Leading Commodity Counties¹

Top 5 in total cash receipts

1. Fayette
2. Graves
3. Woodford
4. Christian
5. McLean

Top 5 in total crop production

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

Top 5 in total livestock production

1. Fayette
2. Woodford
3. Graves
4. McLean
5. Bourbon

Poultry

- The #1 agriculture commodity in Kentucky.¹
- Kentucky ranks 8th in the nation in broiler production.¹
- Value of poultry industry in Kentucky is over \$1 billion.¹
- There are 800 poultry farms in Kentucky, with 2,800 poultry houses in 42 counties.²
- The poultry industry in Kentucky accounts for 7,000 industry employees and pays out \$133.8 million in salaries and wages.²
- Over 50% of poultry farms were tobacco farms or continue to produce tobacco.²
- In 2011, 15.5% of the poultry product produced in Kentucky was exported, bringing \$108.5 million into the state from international trade.²

Top poultry counties³

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

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012

²Kentucky Poultry Federation

³Based on total sales, Census of Agriculture, 2007

“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 cattle inventory.¹
- Kentucky has the most beef cattle of any state east of the Mississippi River, with 1,028,000 head as of January 1, 2013.¹
- As of January 1, 2013 there were 150,000 beef replacement females in Kentucky.¹
- There are over 38,000 beef cattle producers in Kentucky who have an average herd size of 27 head.¹
- In 2012, cash receipts for the sale of cattle and calves were over \$656.7 million.¹
- Cattle and calves ranks 5th among Kentucky commodities for cash receipts.¹
- Cash receipts from cattle and calves accounted for 12.4% of the total cash receipts in 2012.¹

Top beef cattle counties^{1,2}

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

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2013

²Based on total inventory, January 1, 2013

Dairy

- Kentucky produced 130.3 million gallons or 1.12 billion pounds of milk in 2012.¹
- Cash receipts from the sale of milk by dairy farmers amounted to \$214.6 million in 2012.¹
- As of January 1, 2013, there were 72,000 milk cows in Kentucky, with an average herd size of 88 milking cows.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 2.4 pounds of butter.²
- The average value of a day's milk was \$9.51 per cow.²
- Kentucky has 7 commercial milk processing plants, 3 commercial cheese manufacturing plants, a specialty ice cream plant, 2 on-farm milk bottling plants, and 6 on-farm cheese makers.²

Top dairy cattle counties^{1,3}

1. Barren
2. Adair
3. Marion
4. Metcalfe
5. Lincoln

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service

²Kentucky Dairy Development Council

³Based on total inventory, December 2012

Swine

- Kentucky ranks 19th nationally in total swine production.¹
- Kentucky has approximately 750 swine operations.¹
- In 2012, cash receipts from swine accounted for \$115.4 million and 2.2% of total cash receipts.¹
- As of December 1, 2012, there were 315,000 total head of swine in Kentucky; 36,000 were breeding animals and 279,000 were market hogs.¹

Top swine counties²

1. Logan
2. Allen
3. Todd
4. Nelson
5. McLean

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service

³Based on total inventory, Census of Agriculture, 2007



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, 2013, there were 69,000 head of goats in Kentucky, up 1,000 head from January 1, 2012.¹
- Milk goats were estimated at 6,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2012.¹

Sheep

- As of January 1, 2013, the total number of sheep in Kentucky was estimated at 43,000 head, an increase of 3,000 from 2012.¹
- All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 35,000 and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 8,000 head in Kentucky as of January 1, 2013.¹
- The lamb crop for 2012 increased by 2,000 from 2011, to 32,000 head.¹

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

²Based on total inventory, Census of Agriculture, 2007

Corn

- Corn ranks 1st in Kentucky's crop receipts.¹
- Kentucky ranks 13th 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
- As of November 2013, the USDA forecasted that Kentucky's 2013 corn crop was planted on 1,530,000 acres, of which 1,430,000 were to be harvested to produce a record crop of 247,390,000 bushels with an average yield of 173 bu./ac., a new record average yield for the state.³
- During an average year, approximately 70 million bu. of corn is fed to Kentucky livestock, 47 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 2012¹

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

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012

²Kentucky Corn Growers Association

³National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2013



“Corn is Kentucky’s
#1 cash crop.”

Tobacco¹

- Kentucky ranks 1st in burley tobacco production, 1st in fire-cured tobacco production, 2nd in dark-cured tobacco production, and 2nd in total tobacco production nationally.
- Tobacco is Kentucky's #1 agriculture export.
- In 2012, 87,200 acres of tobacco were harvested producing 195.8 million lbs. of tobacco, with an average yield of 2,245 lbs./ac.
- In 2012, 9,000 acres of fire-cured tobacco produced 31.5 million lbs., 74,000 acres of burley produced 151.7 million lbs., and 4,200 acres of dark air-cured tobacco produced 12.6 million lbs.

Top burley tobacco counties in 2012

1. Barren
2. Monroe
3. Shelby
4. Green
5. Breckinridge

| Source: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012 |

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



Soybeans¹

- Soybeans rank 2nd in Kentucky's crop receipts.
- Kentucky ranks 15th nationally in soybean production.
- Soybeans are grown on nearly 1.3 million acres in Kentucky.
- 89% of soybean meal goes to feed domestic livestock.
- As of November 2013, the USDA forecasted that Kentucky's 2013 soybean crop was planted on 1,650,000 acres, of which 1,640,000 acres were to be harvested to produce a record crop of 80,360,000 bushels with an average yield of 49 bu./ac., a new record average yield for the state.²

Top soybean counties in 2012

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------|
| 1. Christian | 3. Logan | 5. Todd |
| 2. Daviess | 4. Henderson | |

Source: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012

²National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2013



Forestry¹

- In 2012, Kentucky's forest and wood industry added \$9.9 billion to the economy.
- Kentucky's forest and wood industry employs over 51,000 Kentuckians, over 24,000 of whom are directly employed, representing 2.7% of all employment.
- Kentucky is the leading producer of hardwood timber in the south and one of the top three in the U.S.
- There are 12.5 million acres of forestland in Kentucky representing 49% of the land cover in the state including pastured woodland.
- 75% of Kentucky's forestlands were family-owned in 2012.
- In 2012, there were 708 forest and wood industry facilities located in 109 of Kentucky's 120 counties.

Source: ¹Kentucky Forestry Economic Impact Report 2012-2013,
University of Kentucky



Wheat

- Kentucky ranks 15th nationally in wheat production.¹
- In 2013, Kentucky farmers harvested 610,000 acres of wheat, the largest area since 1982.¹
- 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.¹

Top wheat counties in 2012²

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

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2013

²National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012



Hay

- Kentucky ranks 2nd nationally for other hay production and 7th for all hay production.¹
- In 2012, 2,380,000 acres of hay were harvested, producing 4,922,000 tons, an average of 2.07 tons/acre.¹
- 180,000 acres of alfalfa and 2,200,000 acres of other hay were harvested in 2012.¹
- In 2012, cash receipts for hay sales totaled \$142.4 million.¹

Top alfalfa counties²

1. Lincoln
2. Fleming
3. Mason
4. Bourbon
5. Hart

Top all other hay counties²

1. Barren
2. Pulaski
3. Warren
4. Marion
5. Adair

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012

²National Agricultural Statistics Service,
Based on total production, 2011



Specialty Production

Aquaculture

- Kentucky has approximately 30 aquaculture growers, producing freshwater prawn, catfish, paddlefish, largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass and tilapia.¹
- In 2012, cash receipts for aquaculture totaled \$2.289 million.²

Honey

- Kentucky has approximately 20,000 bee hives.³
- There are approximately 5,000 to 8,000 beekeepers statewide.³
- Kentucky has 40 local beekeeper associations.³
- In 2012, cash receipts for honey totaled \$811,000.⁴

Sources: ¹Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 2012

²USDA Economic Research Service

³Dr. Thomas Webster, Kentucky State University

⁴USDA Economic Research Service



Specialty Production

Horticulture

- In 2012, cash receipts from fruit and nut crops totaled \$8.42 million and cash receipts from vegetables and melons totaled \$28.5 million in Kentucky.¹
- Cash receipts for wholesale and retail sales for nursery, greenhouse and sod products totaled \$50 -70 million in 2012.²
- In 2013, there were estimated 13,000 acres of produce crops in Kentucky, including 3,000 acres in fruit production and 10,000 acres in vegetable production.³

Grapes and Wine⁴

- Kentucky has approximately 150 grape growers.
- There are 67 licensed wineries in the Bluegrass state.
- The largest vineyard in Kentucky has 40 acres, but most vineyards average 5 acres.

Sources: ¹National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2012

²Kentucky Horticulture Council

³The Kentucky Agricultural Economic Outlook for 2013,
University of Kentucky

⁴Patsy Wilson, Extension Specialist, Viticulture, University of Kentucky

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