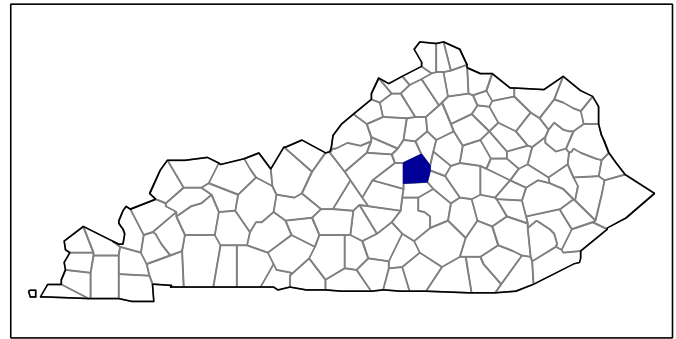




# 2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile



## Mercer, Kentucky

### Number of farms

1,086 farms in 2002, 1,079 farms in 1997, up 1 percent.

### Land in farms

133,692 acres in 2002, 129,979 acres in 1997, up 3 percent.

### Average size of farm

123 acres in 2002, 120 acres in 1997, up 3 percent.

### Market Value of Production

\$28,900,000 in 2002, \$30,858,000 in 1997, down 6 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$8,946,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$19,954,000 of the total value in 2002.

### Market Value of Production, average per farm

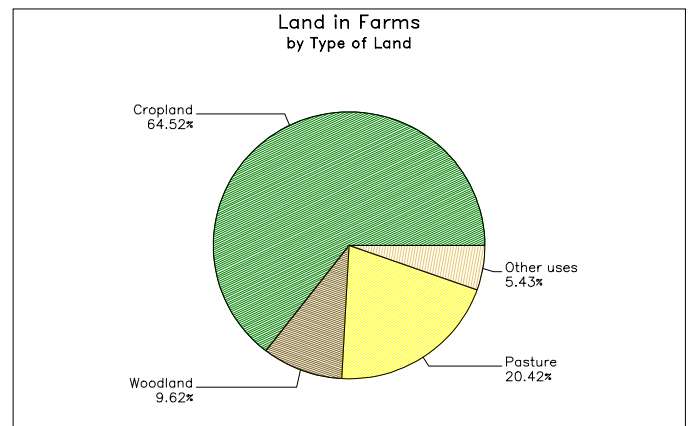
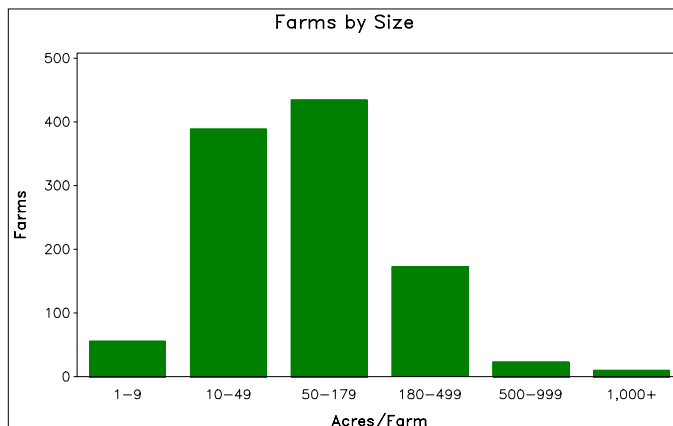
\$26,611 in 2002, \$28,598 in 1997, down 7 percent.

### Government Payments

\$493,000 in 2002, \$150,000 in 1997, up 229 percent.

### Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$2,218 in 2002, \$984 in 1997, up 125 percent.



**2002 Census of Agriculture  
County Profile  
United States Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service**

**Mercer, Kentucky**

**Ranked items among the 120 state counties and 3,078 U.S. counties, 2002**

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Rank	Universe <sup>1</sup>
<b>MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)</b>					
Total value of agricultural products sold	28,900	40	120	1,740	3,075
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	8,946	44	120	1,732	3,070
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	19,954	32	120	1,300	3,070
<b>VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)</b>					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	366	68	117	2,089	2,871
Tobacco	6,099	21	114	78	560
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	114	37	111	1,658	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	18	56	112	2,004	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	791	31	106	1,202	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	-	-	49	-	1,774
Other crops and hay	1,559	4	120	837	3,046
Poultry and eggs	32	47	115	1,581	2,918
Cattle and calves	12,108	14	120	847	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	3,500	25	106	769	2,493
Hogs and pigs	10	77	111	2,310	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	135	5	120	631	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	4,164	8	118	20	3,014
Aquaculture	-	-	51	-	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	4	58	100	2,120	2,727
<b>TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)</b>					
Cattle and calves	38,439	19	120	809	3,059
Quail	(D)	3	40	(D)	1,412
All Goats	2,814	1	119	117	2,971
Horses and ponies	2,533	11	119	308	3,065
Layers 20 weeks old and older	1,150	27	119	1,280	2,983
<b>TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)</b>					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	38,774	19	120	506	3,059
Tobacco	1,610	21	114	75	563
Corn for silage	1,551	20	106	882	2,307
Corn for grain	1,224	66	117	1,736	2,592
Soybeans	979	68	100	1,534	2,076

**Other County Highlights**

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	197	Farming	589
\$1,000 to \$2,499	169	Other	497
\$2,500 to \$4,999	148		
\$5,000 to \$9,999	182	Principal operators by sex:	
\$10,000 to \$19,999	134	Male	990
\$20,000 to \$24,999	44	Female	96
\$25,000 to \$39,999	73		
\$40,000 to \$49,999	28	Average age of principal operator (years)	54.4
\$50,000 to \$99,999	55		
\$100,000 to \$249,999	40	All operators <sup>2</sup> by race:	
\$250,000 to \$499,999	9	White	1,566
\$500,000 or more	7	Black or African American	4
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	25,828	American Indian or Alaska Native	5
Average per farm (\$)	23,761	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
		Asian	-
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	7,078	More than one race	2
Average per farm (\$)	6,512	All operators <sup>2</sup> of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	15

(D) Cannot be disclosed. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

<sup>1</sup> Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.

<sup>2</sup> Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.

**Mercer 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS: 2002 AND 1997

--- ITEM ---

	ALL FARMS	
	2002	1997
Farms.....number..	1,086	1,079
Land in farms.....acres..	133,692	129,979
Average size of farm.....acres..	123	120
Median size of farm.....acres..	78	N/A
Estimated market value of land and buildings 1/:		
Average per farm.....dollars..	329,046	212,606
Average per acre.....dollars..	2,852	1,913
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment 1/:		
Average per farm.....dollars..	47,025	31,204
Farms by size:		
1 to 9 acres..	56	88
10 to 49 acres..	389	353
50 to 179 acres..	435	453
180 to 499 acres..	173	155
500 to 999 acres..	23	21
1,000 acres or more..	10	9
Total cropland.....farms..		
acres..	989	997
Harvested cropland.....farms..		
acres..	86,260	93,668
acres..	776	840
acres..	42,663	38,720
Irrigated land.....farms..		
acres..	57	111
acres..	336	1,017
Market value of agricultural products sold.\$1,000..		
Average per farm.....dollars..	28,900	30,858
dollars..	26,611	28,598
Crops (including nursery and greenhouse)...\$1,000..		
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000..	8,946	14,967
\$1,000..	19,954	15,891
Principal operator by primary occupation:		
Farming.....number..	589	413
Other.....number..	497	666
Principal operator by days worked off farm:		
Any.....number..	643	679
200 days or more.....number..	485	517

1/ Data are based on a sample of farms.

**Legend:**

- Represents zero.
- (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.
- (NA) Not available or not published. Some historic data are not published because they are not comparable, electronic files are unavailable, or re-summarizing could compromise respondent confidentiality.
- (X) Not applicable
- (Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

There is a significant difference in the measurements from the 1997 Census of Agriculture to the 2002 Census of Agriculture. For the first time, data for every county and state have been statistically adjusted to account for farms missed or misclassified in the census. For more information go to:  
<http://www.usda.gov/nass/events/news/methodology.htm>

**Mercer 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE**

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS: 2002 AND 1997

--- ITEM ---

ALL FARMS

	2002	1997
Livestock and poultry:		
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms..	651	693
number..	38,439	36,244
Beef cows.....farms..	509	532
number..	15,656	13,748
Milk cows.....farms..	47	54
number..	2,008	2,696
Cattle and calves sold.....farms..	577	685
number..	22,659	23,782
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms..	4	14
number..	136	111
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms..	13	6
number..	171	187
Sheep and lambs inventory.....farms..	32	20
number..	638	654
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory.....farms..	47	30
number..	1,150	427
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..farms..	3	2
number..	(D)	(D)
Selected crops harvested:		
Corn for grain.....farms..	26	49
acres..	1,224	2,029
bushels..	112,866	188,881
Winter wheat for grain.....farms..	10	8
acres..	267	433
bushels..	8,638	16,160
Barley for grain.....farms..	-	-
acres..	-	-
bushels..	-	-
Sorghum for grain.....farms..	-	-
acres..	-	-
bushels..	-	-
Soybeans for beans.....farms..	8	16
acres..	979	1,112
bushels..	25,102	31,352
Tobacco.....farms..	287	536
acres..	1,610	4,078
pounds..	3,179,812	7,565,112
Forage - land used for all hay and all haylage, grass silage, and greenchop.....farms..	698	(NA)
acres..	38,774	(NA)
tons, dry..	89,576	(NA)
Vegetables harvested for sale.....farms..	19	9
acres..	59	45
Land in orchards.....farms..	6	13
acres..	22	22

**Source:**

2002 Census of Agriculture, Volume 1 Geographic Area Series, Chapter 1 State Data and Chapter 2 - County Data. This presents summary statistics for Kentucky and each county with comparable data from the 1997 census. Data for 2002 and 1997 are directly comparable for acreage and inventories. Dollar values have not been adjusted for changes in price levels.