

Henry County Agriculture Facts

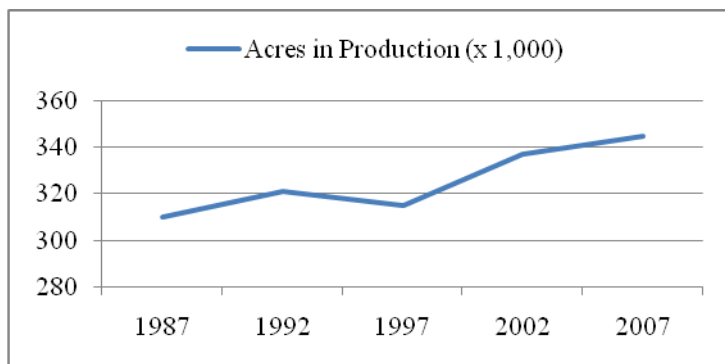
Farming is nearly a sixty-million dollar business in Henry County, according to data recently released by the US Department of Agriculture. Data from the 2007 Census of Agriculture was published in late February 2009, providing some interesting information about farming in Henry County.

In 2007, \$59,913,000 worth of agricultural products were sold in this county. This was a 33% increase in the value of farm products sold over data collected in 2002. Of those products sold in 2007, \$26 million (43%) were crops and \$34 million (57%) were livestock.

The number of farms in Henry County grew by 11% (from 1,010 to 1,125) between 2002 and 2007. But not all of these were your typical farming operation. In fact a large number of Henry County farms (271) are very small, generating less than \$1,000 in sales. These mini-farms account for 24% of all farms in Henry County.

And not every Henry County farmer makes his living from his farming operation. In fact the majority, 56% (or 629 out of 1,125 farms), identify some other occupation as their primary source of income.

Henry County has seen a steady increase in the number of acres in production over the last 20 years, growing from 310,508 acres in 1987 to 345,019 in 2007 (see chart below).



More chicken was produced in Henry County in 2007 (including broiler and meat-type chickens as well as layers) than any other type of livestock. Chicken production was followed by cattle and then hogs. Top crops in 2007 included hay, followed by soybeans, corn, and then field and grass seed. Interestingly, Henry County ranks second in the state in the production of field and grass seed.

The Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years. You can find more information on the Census of Agriculture on line at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>