



Principle 1: Conserve Natural and Scenic Assets

County Information Sheet

Augusta County

A perennial agricultural powerhouse, Augusta County ranks 2nd in the state in agricultural receipts, behind only Rockingham County. It is one of the top poultry counties and ranks first in the state in production of beef cows, sheep/lambs, and alfalfa hay. It ranks second in the state in all cattle and calves, milk cows, all hay and corn for silage. Another strong sector is greenhouses and nursery products.

Total value of agricultural products in Augusta County was \$138,673,000 in 1997, an impressive 66% increase over its 1987 total (\$83,295,000). Live-stock/poultry value (\$124,983,000) dwarfed value of crops (\$13,690,000) despite a more than doubling of crop value in the 10-year period. Value of crops was 10% of the total, which is above the regional average and indicative of the county's rolling, fertile land.

Augusta County lost 37 farms and 10,039 acres of farmland between 1987 and 1997. This acreage loss constitutes 3% of the county's farmland and 20.1% of the farmland lost in the region. Average farm size (188 acres) remained fairly constant and was higher than the regional average of 174 acres.

Augusta County ranked 6th in the region in timber harvest value in 2000, down from 2nd in 1986. The value of timber harvested was \$1,424,296 in 2000, up from \$504,033 in 1986 (a 182.58 % increase). Pine lumber volume decreased, while all other measures moved up. Hardwood was

Figure 1-5b.
**Agricultural Census Statistics
Augusta County**

	1987	1997	Change 1987-1997
Number of Farms	1,536	1,499	(37)
Acres in Farms	292,191	282,152	(10,039)
Avg. Size of Farm	190	188	(2)
Market Value of Crops	6,192,000	13,690,000	7,498,000
Market Value of Livestock	77,103,000	124,983,000	47,880,000
Market Value Ag Products	\$83,295,000	\$138,673,000	\$55,378,000

Note: Rank in State: 2; in Valley: 2
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Figure 1-5c.
**Timber Harvest Volume and Value
Augusta County**
(in thousand board feet)

	1986	2000	Change
Volume:			
Pine Sawtimber	530	218	(59%)
Hardwood Sawtimber	6,190	7,281	18%
Subtotal Sawtimber	6,720	7,499	12%
Small Dimension	2,788	9,619	245%
Total Volume :	9,508	17,118	80%
Value (\$):			
Pine	\$85,511	\$138,645	62%
Hardwood	\$418,522	\$1,285,651	207%
Total Value	\$504,033	\$1,424,296	183%
Percent Hardwood	83%	90%	
Rank in Region	2	6	
Rank in State	--	61	

Source: Virginia Department of Forestry, July 2002
Note: Volume is based on forest products tax receipts; value is based on average county stumpage costs. The standard measure for saw timber is thousand (mille) board feet abbreviated mbf. A tree 22 inches at breast height with 48 feet of usable stem would yield approximately 500 board feet.

increasingly dominant, moving from 83.0 percent of the harvest in 1986 to 90.3 percent in 2000.