



Principle 1: Conserve Natural and Scenic Assets

County Information Sheet

Botetourt County

Botetourt County is fairly mountainous, but its main travel corridors are in the path of rapid development. It ranked 56th in agriculture in the state and 8th in the VCC region in 1997. Main agricultural products are alfalfa hay and livestock, particularly milk cows. Botetourt also ranked 7th in the state in apple production. While livestock made up most of the value, the percentage of crop value (17%) was higher than in most VCC counties.

Agriculture declined in all measures in the period between 1987 and 1997. In fact, it was the only county in the region to suffer a decline in the value of agricultural products. Total market value of agricultural products in 1997 was \$10,733,000, down \$1.2 million (10 %) from its 1987 total of \$11,934,000). Crop and livestock totals declined, as did both number and acreage of farms. The county lost 27 farms (505 farms, compared to 532 in 1987) and 7,021 acres in farming.

Botetourt County is a significant forestry county. The value of timber harvested in the county was \$2,201,892 in 2000, up from \$277,892 in 1986 (a 692.4 % increase). The county ranked 3rd in the region in timber harvest value in 2000, up from 6th in 1986. Small-dimension hardwood volume decreased, while all other measures moved up. Hardwood moved from 82.4 percent of the harvest in 1986 to 94.0 percent in 2000.

Figure 1-7b.
Agricultural Census Statistics
Botetourt County

	1987	1997	Change 1987-1997
Number of Farms	532	505	(27)
Acres in Farms	97,523	90,502	(7,021)
Avg. Size of Farm	183	179	(4)
Market Value of Crops	\$2,086,000	\$1,772,000	(\$314,000)
Market Value of Livestock	9,848,000	1,772,000	(887,000)
Market Value Ag Products	\$11,934,000	\$10,733,000	(\$1,201,000)

Note: Rank in State: 56; in Valley: 8
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Figure 1-7c.
Timber Harvest Volume and Value
Botetourt County
(in thousand board feet)

	1986	2000	Change
Volume:			
Pine Sawtimber	109	769	606%
Hardwood Sawtimber	2,367	7,531	218%
Subtotal Sawtimber	2,476	8,300	235%
Small Dimension	10,299	10,585	3%
Total Volume :	12,775	18,885	48%
Value (\$):			
Pine	\$ 48,823	\$132,063	171%
Hardwood	229,069	2,069,829	804%
Total Value	\$277,892	\$2,201,892	692%
Percent Hardwood	82%	94%	
Rank in Region	6	3	
Rank in State	--	44	

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 standar 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.