



Principle 1: Conserve Natural and Scenic Assets

County Information Sheet

Shenandoah County

Shenandoah County, in the north-central Valley, is well-placed for farming and has no major cities in its borders. The county ranked 5th in agriculture in the state and 4th in the VCC region in 1997.

The main agricultural products are poultry, apples, sheep, and hay. Total market value of agricultural products in 1997 was \$73,044,000, an increase of more than 62% over its 1987 total. Livestock and poultry made up 90% of that value. Crop values more than doubled in the decade. Between 1987 and 1997, the county gained a minimal number of farms (11) but lost significant farm acreage (12,039 acres or 9% of the county's farmland). This amount was the worst acreage loss in the region and made up 24.1% of the regional farmland loss.

The county is moderately important in terms of forestry. The county ranked 5th in the region in timber harvest value in 2000, the same ranking as in 1986. The value of timber harvested in Shenandoah County was \$1,514,069 in 2000, up from \$305,329 in 1986 (a 395.9 % increase). Hardwood was quite dominant, moving from 93.7 percent of the harvest in 1986 to 99.7 percent in 2000.

Figure 1-13b.
**Agricultural Census Statistics
Shenandoah County**

	1987	1997	Change 1987-1997
Number of Farms	830	841	11
Acres in Farms	138,883	126,844	(12,039)
Avg. Size of Farm	167	151	(16)
Market Value of Crops	\$ 3,524,000	\$ 7,440,000	\$ 3,916,000
Market Value of Livestock	41,439,000	65,604,000	24,165,000
Market Value Ag Products	\$44,963,000	\$73,044,000	\$28,081,000

Note: Rank in State: 5; in Valley: 4
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Figure 1-13c.
**Timber Harvest Volume and Value
Shenandoah County**
(in thousand board feet)

	1986	2000	Change
Volume:			
Pine Sawtimber	43	8	(81%)
Hardwood Sawtimber	4,281	4,964	16%
Subtotal Sawtimber	4,324	4,972	15%
Small Dimension	1,464	783	(47%)
Total Volume :	5,788	5,755	(1%)
Value (\$):			
Pine	\$19,278	\$5,374	(72%)
Hardwood	286,051	1,508,695	427%
Total Value	\$305,329	\$1,514,069	396%
Percent Hardwood	94%	100%	
Rank in Region	5	5	
Rank in State	--	59	

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.