



Principle 1: Conserve Natural and Scenic Assets

County Information Sheet

Warren County

Warren County is a small county along the Shenandoah River. The county ranked 75th in agriculture in the state and 9th in the VCC region in 1997.

It is not a big agricultural county. Total market value of agricultural products nevertheless increased more than 87% over its 1987 total. Livestock and poultry made up 89% of that value. The value of crops actually declined by more than a quarter over the course of the decade, a loss quite rare in the region (Botetourt was the only other county in the region that lost value in agricultural projects and it also lost considerable farm acreage).

Paradoxically, in Warren County, the agricultural census reported an increase in both farms (36) and in land in farms (3,883). This farm increase followed a decrease between 1987 and 1992, indicating that the increases may result from a combination of the new census-taking methods and the type of population growth. For example, horse farms or other hobby farming would have been picked up for the first time in the 1997 census, and there appears to have been growth in nurseries or other operations that serve a growing population.

In terms of forestry, Warren County ranked 9th in the region in timber harvest value in 2000, up from 10th in 1986. The value of timber harvested was \$918,944 in 2000, up from \$53,379 in 1986 (a 1,621.6 % increase). All measures of volume and value moved up. Hardwood was increasingly dominant, moving from

66.7 percent of the harvest in 1986 to 93.2 percent in 2000.

Figure 1-14b.
Agricultural Census Statistics
Warren County

	1987	1997	Change 1987-1997
Number of Farms	223	259	36
Acres in Farms	40,901	44,784	3,883
Avg. Size of Farm	183	173	(11)
Market Value of Crops	\$ 830,000	\$598,000	(\$232,000)
Market Value of Livestock	2,126,000	4,941,000	2,815,000
Market Value Ag Products	\$2,956,000	\$5,539,000	\$2,815,000

Note: Rank in State: 75; in Valley: 9
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Figure 1-14c.
Timber Harvest Volume and Value
Warren County
(in thousand board feet)

	1986	2000	Change
Volume:			
Pine Sawtimber	98	237	142%
Hardwood Sawtimber	481	2,567	434%
Subtotal Sawtimber	579	2,804	384%
Small Dimension	783	2,465	215%
Total Volume :	1,362	5,269	287%
Value (\$):			
Pine	\$17,774	\$61,390	245%
Hardwood	35,605	857,554	NMF
Total Value	\$53,379	\$918,944	NMF
Percent Hardwood	67%	93%	
Rank in Region	10	9	
Rank in State	--	71	

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.