

Farming is good for Fauquier County

Fauquier County was founded in 1759.
Then, it was mostly farmland.
Today, it still is.

Facts about farming in Fauquier County

- Agriculture is one of Fauquier County's largest industries, directly producing nearly \$50 million in total impact.
- Fauquier's farmers support our local economy by creating more than 3,500 jobs.
- Nearly all of Fauquier's farms are family owned and operated.
- Fauquier's farmers raise enough beef cattle to feed nearly 550,000 people every year.
- Fauquier's horses are Virginia's most valuable, and support a \$54 million industry.
- Fauquier's dairy industry is Virginia's 5th largest.

Your neighbor is probably a farmer. Fauquier County has more than 1,222 farms on nearly 225,000 acres.

Do you know how good farming is for Fauquier County?



Agriculture is tax-positive for Fauquier County because agricultural land pays more in taxes than it uses in county services:



Residential land uses \$1.18 in county funds for every \$1 paid in local taxes.

Agricultural land uses only 34¢ in county services for every \$1 paid in local taxes.



With 17 wineries, Fauquier is Virginia's #2 county for wine. Our vineyards produce award-winning wines from some of Virginia's best grapes, including cabernet franc, chardonnay, riesling, viognier and vidal blanc.



Fauquier is horse country, and our horses are worth more than \$270 million—the most valuable in Virginia. Our horses race in the Kentucky Derby, run the Gold Cup, fox hunt, steeple chase and compete in the Olympics.

Agriculture and forestry protect our land and water

Fauquier County landowners have permanently protected nearly 90,000 acres of land—more than any other county in Virginia—and almost 41 miles of streams.

Most of this is farmland.



Fauquier County Agricultural Development Office



Learn more about farming in Fauquier County online:
www.fauquierag.com

FAUQUIER COUNTY FARMING FACTS

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Produced by:

[Fauquier Agriculture Development Office](#) & [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#)

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[Fauquier County Farm Bureau](#), [Virginia Farm Bureau](#), [John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District](#), [Fauquier Agriculture Development Office](#)

| | Fauquier County [^] | Total VA Agriculture [^] |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Number of farms | 1,222 | 47,383 |
| Average farm size | 182 acres | 171 acres |
| Land in Farms | 222,486 acres | 8,103,925 acres |
| % of land in farmland | 53.7% | 32.1% |
| Value of farmland per acre | \$5,780 | \$4,213 |
| Cash receipts of crops | \$10.21 million | \$858.3 million |
| Cash receipts of livestock | \$37.77 million | \$2.05 billion |
| Total cash receipts | \$47.98 million | \$2.91 billion |

WATER FACTS: %

From 2005 – 2008, the Virginia Agriculture Cost-Share Program installed:
40.8 miles of stream protection fence and **8,439 acres** under conservation treatment in Fauquier County

IMPACT OF LAND USE: *

For every \$1.00 of local taxes paid (on average):

Residential services use:

\$1.18

Commercial and industrial services use:

\$0.40

Working and open land use:

\$0.34

LAND CONSERVATION TOTALS:

Total private lands in conservation easement thru 2008:

86,389 acres **

Total farmland under Fauquier County

Purchase of Development Rights Program thru 2008:

6,577 acres approved ***

Fauquier County agriculture did you know...

Between 2002 and 2007, the average size farm in Fauquier County increased 3%. ^

Between 2002 and 2007, the total market value of production in Fauquier County increased 6%. ^

Between 2002 and 2007, the average market value of production in Fauquier County increased 16%. ^

Fauquier County is home to the most valuable horse industry in Virginia. ^#

Fauquier County land owners have protected nearly 90,000 acres of land, more than any other county in Virginia. **

Fauquier County is home to the #5 largest dairy industry in Virginia. ^#

Fauquier County is home to the #8 largest beef cattle industry in Virginia. ^#

Fauquier County is home to the #8 largest fruit, tree nut and berry industry in Virginia. ^#

Fauquier County is home to the 12th largest agricultural industry in Virginia. ^#

Over 82% of Fauquier County farms are family owned. ^

Fauquier County farmers support our local economy by creating more than 3,500 jobs. @

It costs Fauquier County \$10,700 per year per child in the public schools. Maintaining Fauquier County's farmland and open space is cost-effective fiscal impact for Fauquier County Government. ?

If each household in Fauquier County spent \$10 a week on local food and farm products, over \$12.7 million would directly be generated and reinvested in Fauquier County's economy. ****

Between 2002 and 2007: For every 1 acre lost in farmland, over 2 acres of land were conserved. ^**

Fauquier County is home to 17 wineries (#2 in Virginia), 9 agro-tourism farms and 4 farmers markets attracting tourists and visitors from across Virginia— creating jobs and economic impact. i?

Endnotes:

* Based on an August 2007 fact sheet published by the [American Farmland Trust](#) which completed six studies in Virginia estimating land use fiscal impacts.

** Fauquier County land records & [Piedmont Environmental Council](#).

*** PDR acreage is also included in the total land in conservation easement.

**** [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#).

? [Fauquier County Agricultural Development Office](#).

% [John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District](#).

^ [2007 Census of Agriculture](#).

i [Fauquier County Department of Economic Development & Tourism](#).

Looking at value of sales compared to any other Virginia county.

@ Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, "[The Economic Impact of Agriculture and Forestry on the Commonwealth of Virginia](#)".