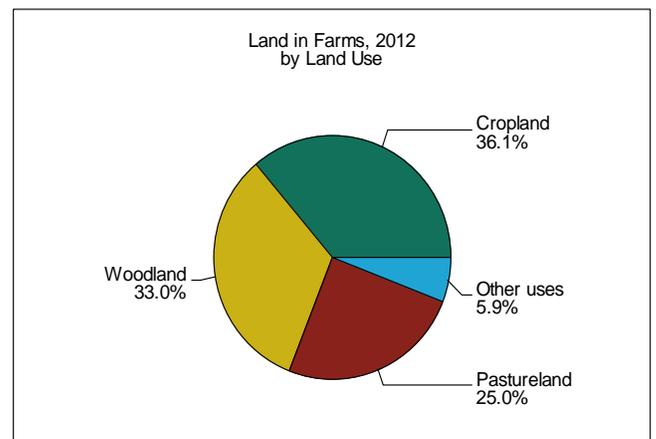
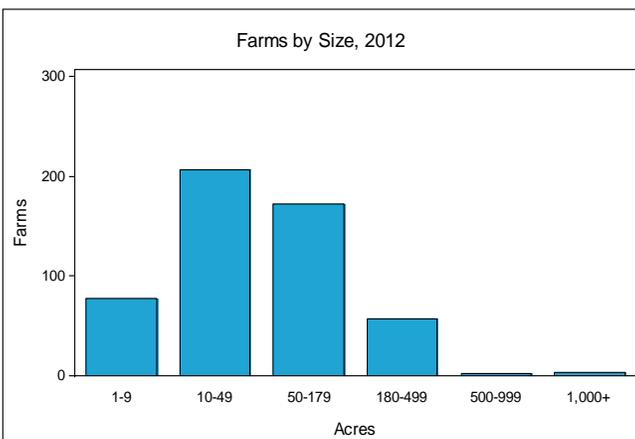


**Gaston County
 North Carolina**

	2012	2007	% change
Number of Farms	520	516	+ 1
Land in Farms	41,923 acres	37,561 acres	+ 12
Average Size of Farm	81 acres	73 acres	+ 11
Market Value of Products Sold	\$17,052,000	\$11,221,000	+ 52
Crop Sales \$5,120,000 (30 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$11,932,000 (70 percent)			
Average Per Farm	\$32,793	\$21,745	+ 51
Government Payments	\$186,000	\$198,000	- 6
Average Per Farm Receiving Payments	\$2,513	\$2,204	+ 14





Gaston County – North Carolina

Ranked items among the 100 state counties and 3,079 U.S. counties, 2012

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe ¹	U.S. Rank	Universe ¹
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	17,052	85	100	2,460	3,077
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	5,120	91	100	2,412	3,072
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	11,932	66	100	1,987	3,076
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	2,188	72	100	2,032	2,926
Tobacco	-	-	74	-	436
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	58	-	635
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	(D)	(D)	99	(D)	2,802
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	(D)	(D)	98	(D)	2,724
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	1,251	58	97	973	2,678
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	(D)	24	50	(D)	1,530
Other crops and hay	1,120	48	97	1,824	3,049
Poultry and eggs	8,450	57	99	641	3,013
Cattle and calves	1,320	51	99	2,531	3,056
Milk from cows	1,875	21	52	1,058	2,038
Hogs and pigs	25	66	91	1,703	2,827
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, and milk	57	39	98	1,826	2,988
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	155	46	93	1,472	3,011
Aquaculture	-	-	58	-	1,366
Other animals and other animal products	49	22	95	1,434	2,924
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	8,017	32	98	1,840	3,057
Soybeans for beans	2,711	66	92	1,444	2,162
Wheat for grain, all	1,594	68	91	1,456	2,537
Winter wheat for grain	1,594	68	91	1,387	2,480
Corn for silage	531	21	65	1,373	2,237
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	398,501	45	93	413	2,723
Quail	(D)	4	28	(D)	944
Layers	16,836	43	100	633	3,040
Cattle and calves	7,612	40	100	2,137	3,063
Roosters	(D)	41	69	(D)	2,120

Other County Highlights, 2012

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales:		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	159	Farming	207
\$1,000 to \$2,499	72	Other	313
\$2,500 to \$4,999	84	Principal operators by sex:	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	84	Male	464
\$10,000 to \$19,999	59	Female	56
\$20,000 to \$24,999	12	Average age of principal operator (years)	60.3
\$25,000 to \$39,999	12	All operators by race ² :	
\$40,000 to \$49,999	4	American Indian or Alaska Native	3
\$50,000 to \$99,999	8	Asian	2
\$100,000 to \$249,999	14	Black or African American	7
\$250,000 to \$499,999	-	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
\$500,000 or more	12	White	764
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	17,462	More than one race	1
Average per farm (\$)	33,581	All operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin ²	4
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	426		
Average per farm (\$)	819		

See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, and methodology.

- Represents zero. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item. ² Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.