



Research Brief

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Pennsylvania's 86th Farm Show Showcases Pennsylvania's Agricultural Industry

MIDDLETOWN, Pa—The largest indoor agricultural event in America, the Pennsylvania Farm Show begins on Saturday, January 5th. This 86th version of the Farm Show is held at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Over 300 commercial and 8,000 competitive exhibitors will be located in seven buildings and cover sixteen acres, all under roof.

The Farm Show averages over 350,000 visitors each year and has no admittance charge. Visitors from all over the world travel to Harrisburg to view farm equipment, educational exhibits and livestock. Over \$480 million is generated for the Harrisburg area economy from Farm Show events.

Pennsylvania's Agriculture Industry

One of the major reasons the Farm Show is so popular is that Pennsylvania's agricultural industry is so successful. Data from the 1997 Census of Agriculture reflects Pennsylvania's strong agricultural background as well as its diversity. As a percentage of the U.S. total, Pennsylvania ranks 4th in the number of milk cows (6.8 percent) as well as 4th in acres of grapes harvested (1.3 percent). The commonwealth also ranks 5th in acres of apples harvested (5.8 percent). Table 1 provides information on how Pennsylvania ranks in the U.S. in selected categories.

Table 1: Selected Characteristics of Pennsylvania's Agriculture Industry, 1997

Category	U.S. Rank	Percent of U.S. Total
Milk Cows, number	4 th	6.8
Grapes Harvested, acres	4 th	1.3
Apples Harvested, acres	5 th	5.8
Oats for Grain Harvested, acres	6 th	5.4
Tomatoes Harvested, acres	6 th	1.0
Strawberries Harvested for Sale, acres	6 th	2.6
Hired Farm Labor, \$1,000	9 th	2.4
Tobacco Harvested, acres	9 th	0.9
Sweet Corn Harvested, acres	9 th	2.5

Pennsylvania Ranks 17th in Number of Farms

With 45,457 farms, Pennsylvania ranks 17th in the U.S. in the number of farms. At the county level, Lancaster County ranks 4th in the number of farms with 4,556, and York County ranks 82nd in the number of farms with 1,698. No other Pennsylvania county finished in the top 100.

The Value of Agricultural Products Sold in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania ranked 19th in market value of agricultural products sold with almost \$4 billion sold in 1997. At the county level, Lancaster County ranked 15th in the market value of agricultural products sold (\$767 million). Chester County ranked 50th (\$343 million), and Berks County ranked 90th (\$248 million) in the market value of agricultural products sold.

At the commodity level, Pennsylvania ranked 14th in value of livestock, poultry and their related products sold (\$2.7 billion). For additional data on how Pennsylvania ranked in the value of commodities sold, please review Table 2.

Table 2: Value of Selected Commodities, Pennsylvania, 1997

Category	U.S. Rank	Value (\$1,000)	Leading Counties*
Livestock, Poultry and Their Products Sold	14 th	2,715,039	Lancaster (5 th) Franklin (69 th) Lebanon (83 rd)
Poultry and Poultry Products Sold	11 th	720,263	Lancaster (6 th) Lebanon (82 nd)
Dairy Products Sold	4 th	1,320,801	Lancaster (8 th) Bradford (49 th) Berks (60 th) Lebanon (76 th) Chester (84 th) Cumberland (98 th)
Hogs and Pigs Sold	12 th	235,303	Lancaster (15 th)
Vegetables, Sweet Corn and Melons Sold	17 th	64,658	None in top 100
Fruits, Nuts and Berries Sold	12 th	93,252	Adams (55 th) Erie (91 st)

* ranking refers to where the county ranked with other U.S. counties

The 86th Pennsylvania Farm Show runs January 5th through January 10th. For additional information about Pennsylvania's population and industries, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Source: 1997 Census of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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