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Tools for Community Self-determination

Yavapai County, Arizona Local Food Economy

Highlights of a data compilation

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Yavapai County (Arizona)

190,628 residents hold \$3.9 billion in annual purchasing power (2004).

The county's ranches & farms (2002)

Land:

- 575 ranches and farms. This is 8% of Arizona's total. Yavapai County had 654 farms and ranches in 1997, so the number of farms/ranches fell 17% from 1997 to 2002.
- 59 (10%) of county farms and ranches are 1,000 acres or more, and 380 (66%) are less than 50 acres.
- 720,362 acres in farms and ranches in 2002, 10% less than 1997 (797,574 acres).
- Yavapai County has 2.7% of Arizona's farm and ranch land.
- 28,534 acres of cropland, of which 4,886 acres (17%) was harvested.
- 10,304 acres of irrigated land.
- Average value of land and buildings per ranch/farm is \$737,949.

Ownership:

- 9 Native American-operated farms, 5 Asian, and 42 Hispanic.
- 146 farms are operated principally by women.

Sales:

- The Agriculture Census reports that \$37.3 million of crops and livestock were sold in 2002. Bureau of Economic Analysis data state that total sales of crops and livestock in that year were \$29.9 million.
- The Agriculture Census does not report a breakdown of livestock and products sold for Yavapai County in 2002. Bureau of Economic Analysis data show that \$27.9 million were sold in 2002.
- Thus, 93 % of agricultural sales are livestock or livestock products, according to BEA.
- The number of farms/ranches selling livestock, poultry and related products fell 27% from 1997 to 2002 (451 to 328 according to the Census), while the amount of products sold fell 17% from \$38.8 million to \$27.9 million (according to BEA).
- 314 (55%) farms and ranches sold less than \$2,500 of food products.

- 42 (7%) farms and ranches sold more than \$100,000 of food products.
- 77% of county farms reported net losses in 2002.
- 26 farms collected \$272,000 in federal support payments. Note that BEA data, listed below, is substantially higher.

Cattle & Dairy:

- 263 ranches and farms hold an inventory of 37,508 cattle. 29,726 (79%) were sold in 2002.
- Number of ranches and farms selling cattle dropped 40% from 1997 to 2002 (332 to 199).
- The County's cattle inventory was 76,657 in 1997, so inventory fell 55% in five years.
- County cattle sales totaled \$15.4 million in 1997, but sales were not reported for 2002.
- Yavapai County sold 4% of the cattle sold in Arizona in 1997.
- 63% of Yavapai County's cattle inventory lived on 17 ranches with 500 or more cattle (2002).
- 31% of the county's cattle ranches raised fewer than 10 animals.
- 19 farms raise milk cows. 17 of these farms have less than 10 cows. One has over 500.
- Number of farms selling milk rose from 4 to 7 (1997 to 2002).
- 50 farms produce 11,832 tons of forage crops (hay, etc.)

Other livestock & animal products:

- 10 farms hold an inventory of 113 hogs and pigs. Eight farms sold 52 animals. (There were 25 farms selling hogs and pigs in 1997). Sales fell from \$13,000 to \$3,000 from 1997-2002.
- 48 farms have an inventory of 288 sheep and lambs, all held on farms having less than 25 sheep each. 116 animals were sold in 2002 for total sales of \$32,000. Another 1,736 tons of wool were sold, but no sales amount was given.
- This is an increase in 25% of the number of farms raising or selling sheep and lambs over 1997, but a 32% in inventory and a 57% fall in animal sales.
- 49 farms sell poultry and eggs, selling a total of \$165,000 of products. Although this is 10 more farms than in 1997, sales plummeted 79% from the 1997 level (\$780,000).
- 65 farms have a total of 1,398 laying hens.
- 6 farms sell broiler chickens.
- 92 farms have horses, mules, burros, etc.

Vegetables & Melons (some sources state that Ag Census data does not fully represent vegetable production):

- 23 farms sell vegetables.
- 5 farms raise 8 acres of snap beans.
- 3 farms raise cabbage.
- 8 farms raise 6 acres of cantaloupes.
- 10 farms raise 7 acres of cucumbers and pickles.
- 2 farms raise fresh herbs.
- 3 farms raise lettuce.
- 8 farms raise 4 acres of okra.
- 1 farm raises onions.
- 10 farms raise 5 acres of sweet peppers.
- 11 farms raise 3 acres of chile peppers.
- 4 farms raise pumpkins.
- 13 farms raise 12 acres of squash.
- 9 farms raise sweet corn.
- 16 farms raise 4 acres of tomatoes.

- 6 farms raise watermelons.

Fruits (some farmers state that Ag Census data does not fully represent fruit production):

- The county has 118 farms with a total of 463 acres of orchards. This is an increase of nearly 120% in both number of farms and acres of orchards.
- 42 farms raise 41 acres of apples.
- 20 farms raise 5 acres of apricots.
- 12 farms raise sweet cherries.
- 25 farms raise 158 acres of grapes.
- 1 nectarine orchard.
- 29 farms raise peaches.
- 16 farms raise 4 acres of pears.
- 14 farms raise 2 acres of plums and prunes.
- 3 farms raise grapefruit.
- 3 farms raise oranges.
- 3 farms raise tangerines.
- 5 farms raise 1 acre of almonds.
- 61 farms raise 162 acres of pecans.
- 1 farm raises pistachios.
- 4 farms raise walnuts.

Grains:

- 4 farms sell corn for grain.
- 4 farms sell 1,810 tons of corn for silage.
- 2 farms sell oats.
- 2 farms sell wheat for grain.
- 1 farm sells barley.

Direct and organic sales:

- 17 farms in Yavapai County sold \$106,000 of organic food products.
- 69 farms in Arizona sold \$3.4 million of organic food products in 2002.
- Thus, Yavapai County has 25% of all Arizona farms selling organic products, but only 3% of organic sales.
- 89 farms sell \$225,000 of food directly to consumers. This is a decrease of 27% in both the number of farms selling direct (70 in 1997) and in direct sales (\$310,000) from 1997 to 2002.
- Yavapai County has 12.5% of the state's farms selling food directly, but only 6% of Arizona's direct sales.
- The County has 2 aquaculture (fish) farms.

Ranking in Arizona:

- Ranks first in Arizona in broiler chickens.
- Ranks second in Arizona in pigeon inventory.
- Ranks third in Arizona in poultry sales.
- Ranks third in Arizona in horses and ponies.
- Ranks third in Arizona in acres of watermelon.

Balance of Cash Receipts and Production Costs (BEA):

Yavapai County ranchers and farmers sell \$34.4 million of food commodities per year (2002-2004 average), yet spend \$43.2 million to raise them, losing an average of \$8.8 million in production costs each year.

77% of the county's farms and ranches reported a net loss in 2002 (Ag Census). Producers have endured a total loss of \$26 million over the last 3 years. Yavapai County farmers and ranchers earned \$8.7 million more from selling commodities in 1969 than they earned in 2004 (in 2004 dollars).

Farmers and ranchers earn another \$700,000 per year of farm-related income — primarily custom work, rental income — and collect another \$900,000 of federal supports, to help cover the costs of farming. (3-year average for 2002-2004). Note that the Bureau of Economic Analysis reports far more government payments than does USDA (see above).

The county's consumers:

Yavapai County consumers spend \$437 million buying food each year, including \$255 million for home use. Most of this food is produced outside the region. Only \$225,000 of food products (0.6%) are sold by farmers directly to consumers.

Farm and food economy summary:

Farmers lose \$8 million each year producing food commodities, and also spend \$18 million buying outside inputs, while consumers spend \$260 million buying food from outside. This is a total loss to the region of \$286 million of potential wealth *each year*. This loss amounts to more than 7 times the value of all food commodities raised in the region.

Yavapai County markets: food for home use (2004):

	<i>millions</i>
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	\$ 65
Fruits & vegetables	45
Cereals and bakery products	29
Dairy products	34
“Other,” incl. sweets, fats, & oils	83

Key data sources:

Bureau of Economic Analysis data on farm production balance

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis/>

Food consumption estimates from Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Survey

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

U.S. Census of Agriculture

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

USDA/Economic Research Service food consumption data:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/>

USDA/ Economic Research Service farm income data:

<http://ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmIncome/finfidmu.htm>

For more information:

To see results from *Finding Food in Farm Country* studies in other regions of the U.S., including Minnesota, Iowa, California, and Hawaii: <http://www.crcworks.org/fffc.pdf>.

To read the original *Finding Food in Farm Country* study from Southeast Minnesota (written for the Experiment in Rural Cooperation): <http://www.crcworks.org/ff.pdf>.

To view a PowerPoint presented by Ken Meter at a keynote appearance to the Minnesota Rural Partners Summit in July, 2005: <http://www.crcworks.org/metersummit05.pdf>.

To get a brief list of essential food facts, many of which are cited in the presentation above, <http://www.crcworks.org/foodmarkets.pdf>.

To link to further analysis of farm and food economies in the U.S.: <http://www.crcworks.org/rural.html>.

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