

2008 Florida Agriculture Statistical Highlights



Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner



Dear Friends of Florida Agriculture

It is my pleasure to present the 2008 Florida Agriculture Statistical Highlights brochure. This report presents a wealth of information about Florida's vast and varied agricultural production through data that details land use, crop yields, commodity prices, crop rankings and more. This yearly report is invaluable to anyone who is involved in this dynamic business or who wants to better understand its complexities.

The tables, charts and statistics contained in this report do an exceptional job of measuring the inputs and outputs, and presenting Florida agriculture in the context of "hard numbers." But there is more to our state's agricultural industry: our hard-working farmers, whose dedication, hard work and perseverance have made Florida agriculture into the diverse and highly productive industry that is respected throughout the globe. As evidenced by the ever-growing popularity of the "Fresh from Florida" label, consumers worldwide appreciate and seek out the quality products that our farmers provide.

Maintaining these standards of excellence seldom comes easily as each year presents new challenges for Florida's 40,000 commercial farmers. But, whether confronted by hurricanes, freezes, pests, diseases or fierce international competition, our state's producers continually show that they are up to the test. Enterprising spirit, love of the land, and pride in their products are all hallmarks of the well-earned reputation of Florida's farmers.

In addition to enjoying the quality products that our farmers produce, Florida's agricultural production benefits our state's residents in other important ways as well. Florida agriculture has an overall economic impact estimated at more than \$100 billion annually, making it a sound pillar of the state's economy. Florida agriculture is directly and indirectly responsible for 766,884 jobs and adds \$2.98 billion to state and local tax rolls.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services works diligently to promote our state's agricultural production and to help ensure the safety of these products from the field to the table. Our quality assurance and food safety programs help assure consumers of the wholesomeness of Florida agricultural products.

I sincerely thank you for your support of Florida's farmers and encourage you to look for the "Fresh from Florida" label when shopping.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Bronson

Charles H. Bronson
Commissioner of Agriculture



Florida Agricultural Overview

Florida's 40,000 commercial farms, utilizing 10 million acres, continue to produce a wide variety of safe and dependable food products. From the citrus groves and the nurseries in central and southern Florida, to the vegetables in regions around the state, to the cattle and calves throughout the state, these farms provide Florida with a large and stable economic base.

In 2007 Florida ranked:

- 1st in the U.S. in the value of production of oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and sugarcane for sugar and seed.^{1/}
- 1st in value of production of: snap beans, fresh market tomatoes, cucumbers for fresh market, squash, bell peppers, watermelons and sweet corn.
- 2nd in value of production of greenhouse and nursery products, strawberries and cucumbers for pickles.
- 4th in value of production of honey.

In 2007, in terms of total value of production, Florida accounted for:

- 73 percent of the total U.S. value for oranges (\$1.5 billion)
- 65 percent of the total U.S. value for grapefruit (\$184.6 million)
- 55 percent of the total U.S. value snap beans (\$217 million)
- 53 percent of the total U.S. value for tangerines (\$75 million)
- 50 percent of the total U.S. value for sugarcane for sugar and seed (\$446 million) ^{1/}
- 36 percent of the total U.S. value for fresh market tomatoes (\$464 million)
- 39 percent of the total U.S. value for bell peppers (\$183 million)
- 31 percent of the total U.S. value for cucumbers for fresh market (\$72 million)
- 32 percent of the total U.S. value for watermelons (\$152 million)

^{1/}Data for 2006, the latest year available

Cash Receipts



Farm cash receipts from marketing Florida agricultural products in 2006 amounted to \$6.97 billion, a decrease of 9 percent from the previous year. Nationally, Florida ranks 2nd in the value of vegetable and melon production with cash receipts of \$1.57 billion, 3rd in fruits and nuts with receipts of \$1.8 billion, 5th in all crops with receipts of \$5.7 billion, and 9th in total cash receipts.

Commodity	Cash Receipts	Percent of Total
All Commodities	6,974,161	100.00
Citrus	1,444,978	20.72
Other Fruits and Nuts	337,318	4.84
Vegetables and Melons	1,568,869	22.50
Field Crops	499,082	7.16
Foliage and Floriculture	800,399	11.48
Other Crops and Products	1,018,623	14.61
Milk	343,559	4.93
Cattle and Calves	484,288	6.94
Poultry and Eggs	297,159	4.26
Aquaculture	57,231	.82
Miscellaneous Livestock	122,615	1.75

Vegetables, Melons and Berries



The 2006-07 value of production for the seven major vegetable crops, potatoes, berries and watermelons totaled \$1.833 billion, up 10 percent from the 2005-06 value of \$1.67 billion. Snap beans, cabbage, potatoes, squash, watermelon, strawberries and blueberries showed increases in the value of production from the previous season's value. Sweet corn, cucumbers, bell peppers and tomatoes showed value of production decreases when compared to the previous season.

Acreage

Harvested acreage of the seven major vegetable crops, potatoes, berries and watermelons totaled 210,400 acres during the 2006-07 season, up 11,200 acres or six percent, from the revised 199,200 acres harvested during the 2005-06 season. Acreage harvested increased for all selected vegetable and berry crops except for tomatoes, watermelons and potatoes. Blueberry harvested acreage showed no change from the previous season.

Acreage double cropped was counted twice for the estimates, but acreage abandoned before maturity due to natural causes and acreage reaching maturity but not harvested due to economic reasons were excluded. Economic abandonment was limited to economic factors such as low prices, shortages of labor, transportation, containers and packing facilities, marketing order decisions affecting size, grade or cullage, and interruptions of the normal market flow. Economic abandonment did not include the usual trimming and grading losses, which occur during harvesting and packing.

Farms and Land in Farms



Florida had 40,000 commercial farms in 2007, using a total of 10 million acres. There were 6,350 farms with sales exceeding \$100,000. The average farm size was 250 acres. The number of farms in Florida has decreased by 5,000 over the past 10 years. Florida ranks 23rd among all states in number of farms and tied at 28th in land in farms with Michigan and Georgia.

Year	Total No. of Farms	Total Acres	Average Farm Size
1998	45,000	10,500	233.3
1999	45,000	10,500	233.3
2000	44,000	10,400	236.4
2001	44,000	10,300	234.1
2002	44,000	10,300	234.1
2003	44,000	10,200	231.8
2004	43,200	10,100	234.0
2005	42,000	10,000	238.0
2006	41,000	10,000	244.0
2007	40,000	10,000	250.0



Citrus



Florida accounted for 70 percent of total U.S. citrus production; California totaled 25 percent, while Texas and Arizona produced the remaining 5 percent. Production of Florida citrus in the 2006-07 season was 162.1 million boxes, down 7.2 percent from the 2005-06 season. The primary reason for the decrease was low average fruit per tree on orange varieties. Early-midseason orange average fruit per tree, at 690, was the lowest since 1971. Valencia average fruit per tree, at 426, was the lowest on record. Production was 12.5 percent lower for early-midseason-Navel oranges, and 13 percent lower for Valencia oranges. The all orange crop production, at 129 million boxes, was the lowest since the 110.2 million boxes in the freeze-affected 1989-90 season. Navel production, at 2.85 million boxes, was 25.0 percent lower than in 2005-06. All grapefruit production at 27.2 million boxes was 40.9 percent higher than the 2005-06 season. Decreases in production were recorded for all types of specialty fruit.

Florida Citrus

Value of sales on-tree, crop years 1997-98 through 2006-07

Crop year ^{1/}	Value 1,000 dollars	Crop year ^{1/}	Value 1,000 dollars
1997-98	1,023,383	2002-03	787,378
1998-99	1,097,253	2003-04 ^{2/}	891,500
1999-00	1,108,253	2004-05 ^{3/}	754,169
2000-01	862,031	2005-06	1,024,610
2001-02	933,803	2006-07	1,362,427

^{1/} Excludes lemons beginning in the 2003-04 season.

^{2/} Revised. ^{3/} Preliminary.

Forestry

In the last decade, more than two thirds (70 percent) of all harvests came from non-industrial private forests, 16 percent came from forest industry lands and 14 percent came from public lands. Among the 13 southern states, Florida ranked 10th in total roundwood production, 5th in pulpwood, 9th in veneer logs and 11th in saw logs production in 2003 (Johnson et al. 2006). By 2005, Florida slipped to 9th in pulpwood production (Johnson and Steppleton 2007). Harvested wood volume varies from year to year, depending on many factors, including catastrophic events, such as hurricanes, which increase the harvested volume due to salvage operations.

Source: Florida Forestry Association



Aquaculture

Florida aquaculture producers reported sales of \$75 million during 2005, down from \$95.5 million in 2003 due to devastating hurricanes of 2004 and 2005. In 2005, sales increased for alligator farmers, but decreased for tropical fish, aquatic plants, hard clams, turtles, sportfish, and a variety of food fish including catfish, tilapia, and hybrid striped bass.

There were 359 operations that reported sales for 2005 versus 544 farms in 2003. In 2003, 544 operations used 6,450 water acres in production, versus 3,010 water acres used by 359 operations during 2005.

Field Crop Highlights

Value

The 2007 value of production for hay, peanuts, cotton and cottonseed, corn, pecans, soybeans, and wheat in Florida at \$200 million increased by 20 percent or \$32.9 million from the 2006 revised value of field crops of \$167.2 million, which included the value of tobacco. Estimates for tobacco were discontinued in 2007. The value of corn, cottonseed, hay, peanuts, pecan, soybeans, and wheat rose while the value of production for cotton declined.

Acreage and Production

Acreage harvested for field crops estimated (excluding sugarcane), totaled 556,000 acres for crop year 2007, up 6 percent or 33,900 acres from the 522,100 acres (which included tobacco acreage) harvested during the 2006 crop year. Corn, peanuts, hay, soybeans, and wheat showed increases from the previous year acres harvested. Cotton acres harvested and production decreased from the previous year.

Sugarcane

The value for the 2006 crop of sugarcane was set at \$446.2 million up 25 percent from the 2005 value of \$356.9 million. Sugarcane cash receipts made up 72 percent of Florida's cash receipts from field crops and 5 percent of all cash receipts from the marketing of Florida agricultural products. Florida continues to rank number one in the production of sugarcane nationwide. Sugarcane was the fifth leading commodity of the 2006 cash receipts in the State, exceeded by cash receipts from greenhouse and nursery, oranges, tomatoes, and cattle and calves. The production of sugarcane, along with greenhouse and nursery, citrus, tomatoes, and strawberries boosts Florida to the number five spot for cash receipts from crops nationwide with only California, Iowa, Illinois, and Texas having higher cash receipts from marketing of crops

Livestock

Dairy

Florida dairies produced 2.11 billion pounds of milk in 2007, down from 2.17 billion pounds produced during 2006. The milkfat content was 3.63 percent. Annual production per cow was 16,622 pounds, up from 16,447 pounds in 2006. The average number of milk cows on Florida farms and commercial dairies in 2007 was 127,000, which was 5,000 head less than in 2006. Florida ranked 16th among states in number of milk cows, the same rank held in 2006.

Cash receipts from marketings of Florida milk in 2007 totaled \$461 million, up from \$344 million in 2006. The price of replacement milk cows peaked at \$2,250 per head in January. The annual average farm-gate price for milk in Florida was \$21.90 per hundredweight in 2007, up from \$15.90 in 2006. The highest price was in September at \$26.00 per hundredweight, and the lowest average monthly price was \$17.40 per hundredweight in February. Ice cream regular production in Florida was 17.3 million gallons in 2007, down from 18.7 million in 2006. Ice cream lowfat at 19.3 million gallons was below the production in 2006 of 20.9 million gallons.

Beef

Nationally, Florida ranked 12th in beef cows and 18th in total cattle. Calves born during 2007 totaled 900,000 down 10,000 head from 2006. Calves marketed from Florida in 2007 totaled 721,000 head, over 80 percent of the calf crop.



Poultry

The total value of Florida egg production in 2007 was \$186 million, up from \$120 million in 2006. The average annual price for eggs (hatching and table eggs, combined) was 77.6 cents per dozen, up from 48.9 cents per dozen in 2006. The value of broilers produced in Florida during 2007 totaled \$183 million, up from \$159 million a year earlier. The average annual price of broilers in 2007 was 43.0 cents per pound, a increase from 36.0 cents per pound in 2006. The value of sales from other chickens was \$816,000. This includes sales of 4.4 million roosters and spent hens. Hens and pullets of laying age on farms on December 1, 2007, were 10.9 million birds. This compares to 11.2 million in 2006.

Florida liveweight broiler production in 2007 totaled 425 million pounds, down from 443 million pounds in 2006. Broilers raised in Florida during 2007 totaled 73 million birds, down from 75 million birds in 2006.

Hogs

The average market year price in 2007 was \$39.10 per hundredweight, down from \$39.40 per hundredweight in 2006.

Florida Farm Income and Expenses

	2005	2006	2007
Value of agricultural sector production (billion)	8.283	7.904	8.496
Value of crop production	6.275	5.901	6.332
Less total purchases	3.396	3.407	4.161
Net farm income	3.319	2.298	1.882
For a total breakdown of the Florida agricultural sector go to www.nass.usda.gov			

Florida's Top 5 Agricultural Exports in 2007

Commodity	Export Value	U.S. Ranking
Other**	\$730,500,000	2
Fruit	\$729,800,000	3
Vegetables	\$179,100,000	5
Seeds	\$43,300,000	23
Live Animals/Meat	47,800,000	20

*Includes sugar and tropical products, minor oilseeds, essential oils, beverages other than juice, nursery and greenhouse, wine, and misc. vegetable products.

Over 140 countries imported Florida agricultural commodities in 2007.



Floriculture

The wholesale value of floriculture in Florida was nearly \$1 billion in 2007.

Florida Floriculture Wholesale Value

