



Principle 1: Conserve Natural and Scenic Assets

County Information Sheet

Frederick County

Frederick County is fairly large and is the main population center in the northern Valley. The county ranked 27th in agriculture in the state and 5th in the VCC region in 1997.

The main agricultural product is apples (perennially #1 in the state and ranked nationally). Nurseries and greenhouses are of growing importance. Total market value of agricultural products in 1997 was \$20.5 million, an increase of more than 16% over its 1987 total. In contrast to most counties in the region, crop values were much higher than livestock and poultry. Livestock made up only 30% of the total agricultural value. Crop values increased in the period, while livestock value declined by \$184,000.

Frederick County gained 13 farms in the 10-year period, but this likely was the result of the 1997 census picking up previously uncounted smaller farms. Acreage farmed declined considerably, down 11,190 acres, or 10%. This was the worst percentage loss in the region. The average size of farm also went way down, from an average of 200 acres to 176 acres.

Frederick County is not a major forestry county. The value of timber harvested was \$388,274 in 2000, up from \$95,079 in 1986 (a 308.4% increase). The county ranked 10th in the region in timber harvest value in 2000, down from 9th in 1986. Small-dimension volume declined significantly, while saw timber increased. Even within the regional trend toward increasing dominance of hardwood, the county's shift

was notable. Hardwood moved from 66.7 percent of the harvest in 1986 to 92.9 percent in 2000.

Figure 1-8b.
**Agricultural Census Statistics
Frederick County**

	1987	1997	Change 1987-1997
Number of Farms	555	568	13
Acres in Farms	111,116	99,926	(11,190)
Avg. Size of Farm	200	176	(24)
Market Value of Crops	\$11,239,000	\$14,294,000	\$3,055,000
Market Value of Livestock	6,420,000	6,236,000	(184,000)
Market Value Ag Products	\$17,659,000	\$20,530,000	\$2,871,000

Note: Rank in State: 27; in Valley: 5
Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

Figure 1-8c.
**Timber Harvest Volume and Value
Frederick County**
(in thousand board feet)

	1986	2000	Change
Volume:			
Pine Sawtimber	--	230	230%
Hardwood Sawtimber	830	1,227	48%
Subtotal Sawtimber	830	1,457	76%
Small Dimension	2,578	1,360	(47%)
Total Volume :	3,408	2,817	(17%)

	1986	2000	Change
Value (\$):			
Pine	\$31,583	\$27,652	(12%)
Hardwood	63,496	360,622	468%
Total Value	\$95,079	\$388,274	308%

Percent Hardwood 67% 93%

Rank in Region 9 10

Rank in State -- 83

Source: Virginia Department of Forestry, July 2002

Note: Volume is based on forest products tax receipts; value is based on average county stumpage costs. The standard measure for saw timber is thousand (mille) board feet abbreviated mbf. A tree 22 inches at breast height with 48 feet of usable stem would yield approximately 500 board feet.