



# Principle 1: Conserve Natural and Scenic Assets

## County Information Sheet

### Page County

Page County, nestled in a narrow valley between the Blue Ridge and the Massanutten ranges, ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in agriculture both in the state and in the VCC region in 1997.

Main agricultural products are poultry (it is one of the top poultry counties) and to a much lesser extent cattle. Total market value of agricultural products in 1997 was \$115,209,000, a whopping 157% increase over its 1987 total. Livestock and poultry made up 98% of that value, despite a more than tripling in the value of crops over the decade. The census showed a gain of 52 farms (by far the greatest gain in the region) although the gain in acreage was only 579 acres. This reflects the increase in poultry operations, which have exploded in the county since 1987 and do not require much land.

Page County does not rank as high in forestry terms, in part because there is little forestland that is not publicly owned. The value of timber harvested in Page County was \$1,041,070 in 2000, a huge increase from just \$45,303 in 1986. The county ranked 8th in the region in timber harvest value in 2000, up from 11th in 1986. All measures increased. Bucking a regional trend toward increased dominance of hardwood, in Page County hardwood decreased from 98.4 percent of the harvest in 1986 to only 49.7 percent in 2000.

Figure 1-10b.  
**Agricultural Census Statistics**  
**Page County**

	1987	1997	Change 1987-1997
Number of Farms	489	541	52
Acres in Farms	67,250	67,829	579
Avg. Size of Farm	138	125	(13)
Market Value of Crops	692,000	2,305,000	1,613,000
Market Value of Livestock	44,177,000	112,904,000	68,727,000
Market Value Ag Products	\$44,869,000	\$115,209,000	\$70,340,000

*Note:* Rank in State: 3; in Valley: 3  
*Source:* U.S. Census of Agriculture

Figure 1-10c.  
**Timber Harvest Volume and Value**  
**Page County**  
(in thousand board feet)

	1986	2000	Change
<b>Volume:</b>			
Pine Sawtimber	6	4,950	NMF
Hardwood Sawtimber	684	1,682	146%
Subtotal Sawtimber	690	6,632	861%
Small Dimension	--	263	525%
Total Volume :	690	6,895	899%
<b>Value (\$):</b>			
Pine	\$ 710	\$523,213	NMF
Hardwood	44,593	517,857	1061%
Total Value	\$45,303	\$1,041,070	2098%
Percent Hardwood	98%	50%	
Rank in Region	11	8	
Rank in State	--	67	

*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.