



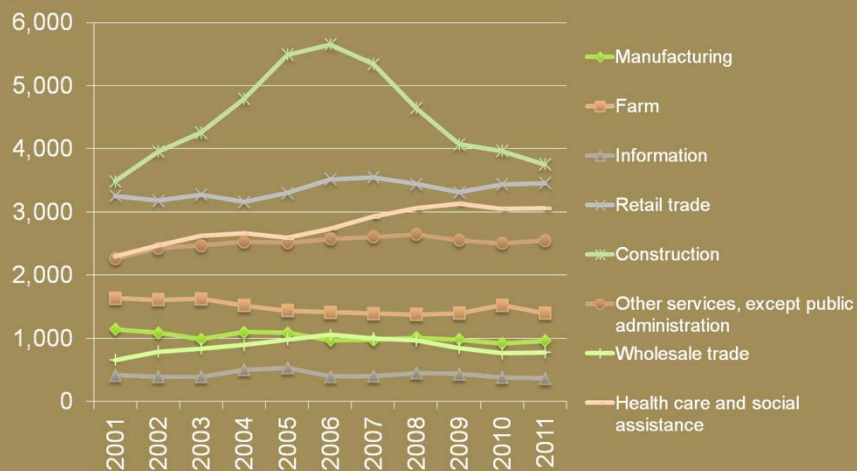


## Population Growth, 1970-2011



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## Industry Employment Growing Above Average



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

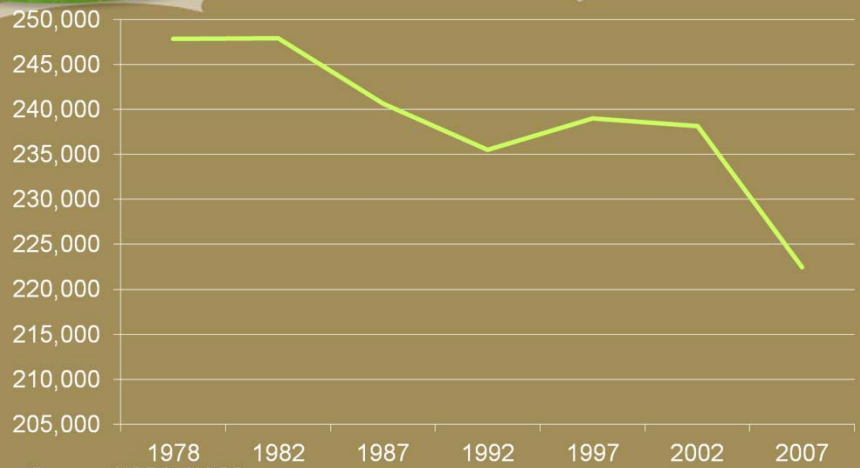
## Farm Employment, 1969-2011



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

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## Farm Acreage



Source: USDA, NASS

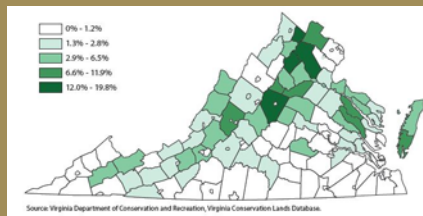
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## Land Preservation

### Land Preservation Stats

- Land Use Taxation—  
211,108 acres
- Ag/Forestal Districts—  
80,037 acres
- Conservation  
easement—88,042 acres

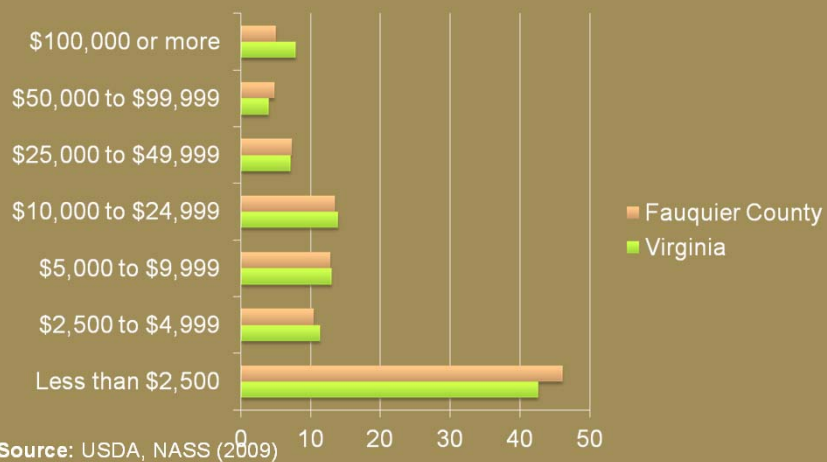
### Percentage under Conservation Easement



Source: Weldon Cooper Center, Virginia Local Tax Rates;  
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

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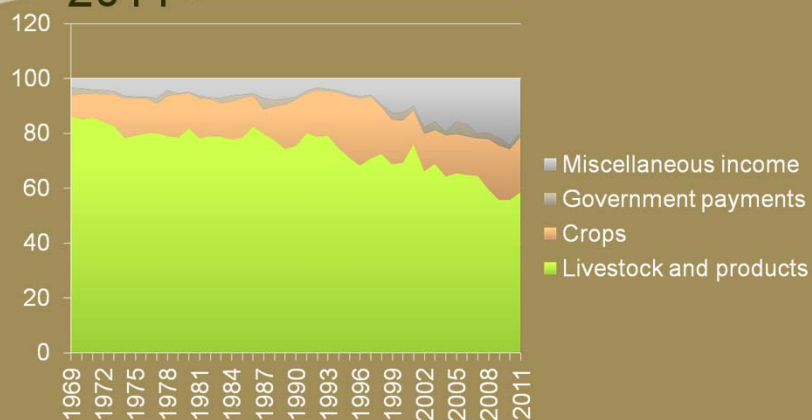
## Percentage of Farms by Value of Sales, 2007



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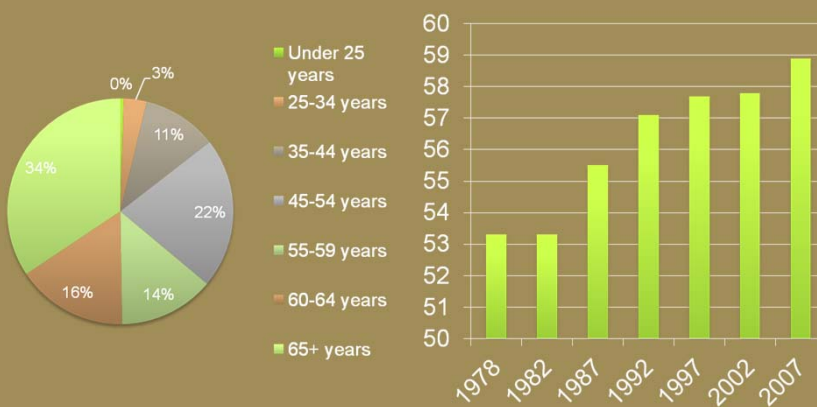
## Fauquier Co. Farm Cash Receipts by Source, 1969-2011



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

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## Average Age of Principal Operator

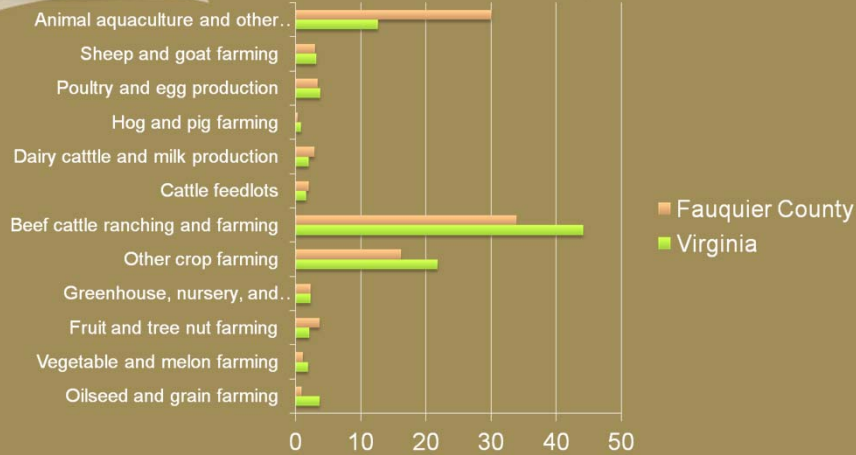


Source: USDA, NASS (2009)

Source: USDA, NASS

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## Percentage of Farms by Enterprise, Virginia and Fauquier Co., 2007



Source: USDA, NASS, 2009

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## Number of Farms by NAICS, Fauquier Co., 1997-2007



Source: USDA, NASS, 2009

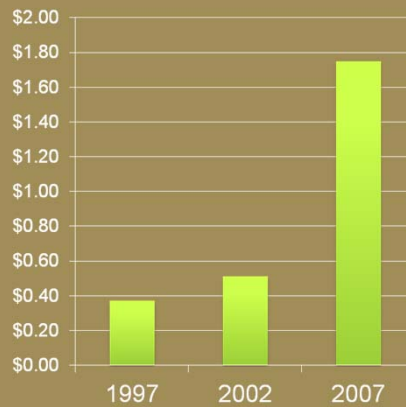
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## Direct Sales to Consumers

- Fauquier County ranked 1st among Virginia localities in direct sales according to 2007 Agriculture Census

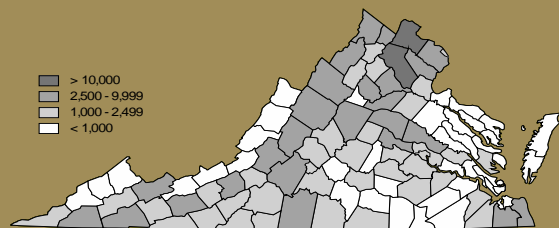
Direct Sales per Capita (Annual)



Source: USDA, NASS

## Horse Industry

Number of Horses, 2006



Source: NASS, Virginia Equine Survey Report

Source: Weldon Cooper Center



## Virginia Agriculture

- Agriculture & Forestry is Virginia's #1 industry
- \$55 billion & over 357,000 jobs
  - \$2.91 billion in direct output
  - ~\$61,000 average farm gross sales
  - ~\$29 million direct marketing industry
- Average age of farmer is 58 years old

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## What's going on in the County?

- Livestock
- Horses
- Hay
- Grain crops and silage
- Produce, fruit, sod, etc.

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# Commodity Based Markets

## Why Wholesale?

- Most farmers are production oriented.
- Selling direct can be time intensive.
- Access to established customer base and high demand
- Easier placement for lower grades
- Big Checks



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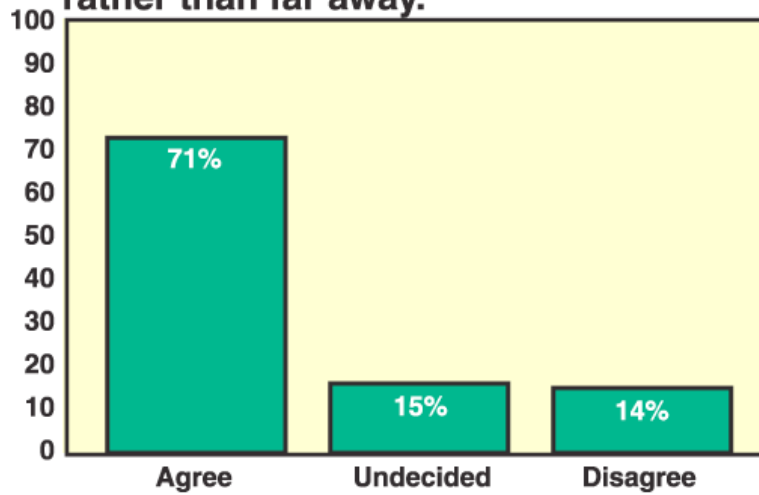
## Disadvantages of Wholesale

- Little direct-to-consumer contact
- More crop specialization
- More planning and communication with suppliers and retailers
- Deferred payment
- More post harvest handling requirements
- More risk that product will be rejected for quality
- Need to fulfill contracts and purchase orders



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**"I would be willing to pay more for food that is grown locally, near where I live, rather than far away."**



*From: Food from Our Changing World: The Globalization of Food and How Americans Feel About It, 2003 North Carolina State University*

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Consumers want to connect with their food sources.





## Challenges with Scaling Up

1. Lack of Aggregation and Distribution Infrastructure
  1. Over 95 % of All Food Consumed Flows Through Wholesale Markets.
2. Not enough farmers
3. Food Safety
  1. Animal exclusion
  2. Harvest and Postharvest handling
  3. Toilet and hand washing facilities



## Keys to scaling up to meet the demand for local food

- Aggregation
- Controlling product quality and consistency
- Seasonality
- Matching supply and demand
- Food identity and product differentiation
- Supply chain infrastructure
- Capital
- Capacity and beginning farmer development
- Information flow and transparency

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## An Opportunity for Local Foods and a New Paradigm

- What if each household in Virginia spent \$10 per week of their total food budget on fresh local food and farm-based Virginia products?
- How many dollars would be generated on an annual basis and be available to be reinvested in local independent businesses and communities?
- What would be the direct economic impact?

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Farm to School Week 2010 November 8 – 12 Survey Results

School Districts that Participated - 84%

Featured Virginia Grown Products

Apples - 91 %  
Sweet Potatoes – 54%  
Broccoli - 48%

Products purchased from:

Distributor – 71%  
Farmer – 34%  
Food Cooperative – 5%  
Other – 9%

Incorporated an educational component – 70%

Total dollars spent for Farm to School week - \$63,000.  
(47 responders = \$1,341 per District)  
(56 responders)



## Agritourism

- Birthday parties, Holiday and special events, weddings, company picnics
- Schools, bus charters, seniors groups, scouts
- Cooking classes, garden and herb workshops, wreath making
- Hiking, camping, bird watching, kayaking, hunts



The **FreshLink**  
Family Farms to City Plates



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