

RURAL LANDS STUDY: PHASE 1 SITUATION ASSESSMENT MAY 15, 2012

Assessment of Agriculture and Forestry in Clark County, Corrections, Clarifications, and Update, Exhibit 9, Number of Farms

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS, SITUATION ASSESSMENT, 2012

In the Rural Lands Study, Situation Assessment, May 15, 2012, information was reported on numbers of farms in 1997, 2002 and 2007, the available information at the time. The information was derived from the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service's Census of Agriculture for the years 1997, 2002 and 2007. BERK obtained Excel-based Census outputs, and summed information.

The first table in Exhibit 9 on page 11 indicated the number of farms including the numbers of farms selling specified products. A total line did not appear to sum the specified products above.

To make the table more complete with products sold by farms, BERK reviewed Table 2 of the Census of Agriculture for 2002 and 2007, and added the following specified products:

- Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes
- Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod
- Aquaculture
- Other animals and other animal products

While these categories were added, the total farms with sales by specified product still did not add to the total farms with sales reported in the Census of Agriculture. Accordingly, BERK contacted the USDA office in Olympia, Washington, and spoke with Wendy Vance, (360) 709-2400. The total number of farms selling specified products typically is higher when summed than the total number of farms selling unspecified products. This is because individual farms may sell more than one product. In 2002 and 2007 it does appear to be the case that farms selling specified products is a higher sum than the total farms selling unspecified products.

When asking our USDA contact about 1997 and achieving a smaller sum of farms selling specified products Ms. Vance indicated that may be due to the fact that 1997 was the first year USDA took over the Census of Agriculture from the US Bureau of the Census and that it is possible that the data was not as well collected as in later Census years. It also appears to BERK that the 1997 Census has different categories and therefore when 1997 was compared to 2002 data in the 2002 Census there were many categories reported as "not available". Also, the total farms with sales in 1997 was originally reported as 1,175, whereas in the 2002 Census the number of farms in 1997 was reported as 1,765.

On the following two pages, we have updated the first table in Exhibit 9 as well as the explanatory text related to the number of farms and agricultural products.

On the last page we have provided updated data including 2012 data to assist the County in its ongoing efforts at agricultural land review.

Exhibit 1 Crops by Clark County Farms and Commodity Totals

Number of Farms						
Agricultural Products	1997	2002	2007	2007 Percentage		
				Percentage Change*	of Total	
Cattle and calves	838	502	547	-35%	24%	
Crops and hay	-	284	429	51%	19%	
Poultry and eggs	113	120	309	173%	14%	
Fruit, tree nuts, and berries	103	117	215	109%	9%	
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	-	142	167	18%	7%	
Sheep, goats, and their products	-	105	153	46%	7%	
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	-	45	104	131%	5%	
Nurseries, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	-	140	98	-30%	4%	
Other animals and animal products (specialty animal)	-	55	83	51%	4%	
Cut Christmas trees and short term woody crops	-	46	69	50%	3%	
Hogs and pigs	38	49	62	63%	3%	
Milk and other dairy products from cows	32	25	25	-22%	1%	
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	-	17	15	-12%	1%	
Aquaculture	-	4	7	75%	0%	
Total Farms with Sales - Specified Products	1,124	1,651	2,283	38%		
Total Farms with Sales Not Specified	1,765	1,596	2,101	32%		

Commodity Totals (in 2007 \$)						
Agricultural Products	1997	2002	2007	2007 Percentage		
				Percentage Change*	of Total	
Milk and other dairy products from cows	\$ 18,384,324	\$ 10,965,268	\$ 11,841,000	-36%	22%	
Poultry and eggs	\$ 7,729,141	\$ 8,103,511	\$ 10,640,000	38%	20%	
Fruit, tree nuts, and berries	\$ 5,367,639	\$ 6,680,124	\$ 9,858,000	84%	19%	
Cattle and calves	\$ 7,069,006	\$ 5,437,685	\$ 5,439,000	-23%	10%	
Cut Christmas trees and short term woody crops	\$ -	\$ 1,509,828	\$ 2,976,000	97%	6%	
Other crops and hay	\$ -	\$ 1,762,234	\$ 1,798,000	2%	3%	
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	\$ -	\$ 562,000	\$ 917,000	63%	2%	
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	\$ -	\$ 212,067	\$ 450,000	112%	1%	
Sheep, goats, and their products	\$ -	\$ 291,593	\$ 342,000	17%	1%	
Hogs and pigs	\$ 117,558	\$ 81,830	\$ 37,000	-69%	0.1%	
Other crops	\$ 23,586,606	\$ 27,102,425	\$ 8,393,000		16%	
Total	\$ 62,254,274	\$ 62,708,565	\$ 52,691,000	-15%	100%	

Commodity Value per Farm (in 2007 \$)					
Agricultural Products	1997	2002	2007	Percentage	
				Change*	of Total
Milk and other dairy products from cows	\$ 574,510	\$ 438,611	\$ 473,640	-18%	
Poultry and eggs	\$ 68,399	\$ 67,529	\$ 34,434	-50%	
Fruit, tree nuts, and berries	\$ 52,113	\$ 57,095	\$ 45,851	-12%	
Cattle and calves	\$ 8,436	\$ 10,832	\$ 9,943	18%	
Cut Christmas trees and short term woody crops	\$ -	\$ 32,822	\$ 43,130	31%	
Other crops and hay	\$ -	\$ 6,205	\$ 4,191	-32%	
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	\$ -	\$ 3,958	\$ 5,491	39%	
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	\$ -	\$ 12,475	\$ 30,000	140%	
Sheep, goats, and their products	\$ -	\$ 2,777	\$ 2,235	-20%	
Hogs and pigs	\$ 3,094	\$ 1,670	\$ 597	-64%	
Total	\$ 35,271.54	\$ 39,291.08	\$ 25,079.01	-29%	

*Percentage change is between 2002 and 2007 when there is no 1997 data.

Notes: Sources are the 2002 and 2007 Census of Agriculture which compares new year to prior year totals. Thus, 2002 Census compared 2002 and 1997 Census totals, and the 2007 Census compared 2007 and 2002 totals.

The total farms with sales of specified products may exceed total farms with sales, not specified, because farms may sell more than one product. Anomalies in 1997 may be expected as this is the first year USDA took over the Census of Agriculture. (Wendy Vance, USDA, Olympia, May 23, 2012).

Reviewing the 1997 Census, the categories were differently titled and led to "not available" or "-" information when 1997 information was reported in the 2002 Census. The total farms with sales in 1997 was originally reported as 1,175, whereas in the 2002 Census the number of farms in 1997 was reported as 1,765.

Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service; BERK, 2012.

- Many Clark County farms have livestock of some sort.
 - Cattle and calves are the agricultural product found on the largest number of Clark County farms. [2624%](#) of Clark County farms produce cattle and calves.
 - The number of farms with Poultry and egg products has more than doubled since 1997 and make up [1514%](#) of the total number of Clark County farms.
- Fruit, tree nuts, and berries and cut Christmas trees make up the largest non-livestock portion of Clark County farms.
 - The number of Clark County farms growing fruit, tree nut, and berry products has doubled since 1997, while the number of farms growing cut Christmas trees and short term woody crops has grown by 50%.
- Milk products make up the greatest commodity totals of Clark County farms.
 - Despite making up only 1% of Clark County's farms, farms that produce milk and other dairy products from cows brought in almost \$12 million, or 22% of 2007 commodity totals.
 - The total is down substantially from 1997, though there were seven additional farms producing milk. The commodity total figure has grown slightly from 2002 when there was the same number of farms.
- Other livestock-related products brought in approximately 36% of Clark County's commodity totals in 2007.
 - Poultry and eggs led the way with more than \$10 million, or 20% of 2007 commodity totals (and make up only 15% of farms), following by cattle and calves at just over \$5 million, or 10% of 2007 commodity totals (despite making up 26% of Clark County farms).
- Fruit, tree nuts, and berries and cut Christmas trees bring in a greater proportion of commodity totals than their numbers would suggest.
 - In addition to growth in the number of farms producing these products, their share represented some of the greatest growth in commodity totals produced by Clark County farms.

UPDATED INFORMATION – 2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The results of the 2012 Census of Agriculture were not available as of the time the Rural Lands Study Situation Assessment was being developed. However, the 2012 data is available now. The Exhibit on the following page provides 2012 information on number of farms in comparison to 2007 and prior year information.

Clark County, Number of Farms Selling Agricultural Products, 1997-2012

Agricultural Products	Number of Farms				Percentage Change 2007 and 1997, except 2007 and 2002, where there is no 1997 data		Percentage Change 2007 and 2012 Percentage of Total	
	1997	2002	2007	2012	2007 Percentage of Total	2012 Percentage of Total	2012 Percentage of Total	
Cattle and calves	838	502	547	476	-35%	24%	-13%	23%
Crops and hay	-	284	429	368	51%	19%	-14%	18%
Poultry and eggs	113	120	309	260	173%	14%	-16%	13%
Fruit, tree nuts, and berries	103	117	215	217	109%	9%	1%	11%
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	-	142	167	112	18%	7%	-33%	5%
Sheep, goats, and their products	-	105	153	108	46%	7%	-29%	5%
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	-	45	104	176	131%	5%	69%	9%
Nurseries, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	-	140	98	107	-30%	4%	9%	5%
Other animals and animal products (specialty animal)	-	55	83	72	51%	4%	-13%	3%
Cut Christmas trees and short term woody crops	-	46	69	58	50%	3%	-16%	3%
Hogs and pigs	38	49	62	68	63%	3%	10%	3%
Milk and other dairy products from cows	32	25	25	9	-22%	1%	-64%	0%
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	-	17	15	25	-12%	1%	67%	1%
Aquaculture	-	4	7	2	75%	0%	-71%	0%
Total Farms with Sales - Specified Products	1,124	1,651	2,283	2,058	38%		-10%	
Total Farms with Sales Not Specified	1,765	1,596	2,101	1,929	32%		-8%	

Notes: Sources are the 2002, 2007, and 2012 Census of Agriculture which compares new year to prior year totals. Thus, 2002 Census compared 2002 and 1997 Census totals, and the 2007 Census compared 2007 and 2002 totals. **Red Text** – The 2012 Census comparing 2012 and 2007 indicated “not available” for these categories in 2007 even though they were reported in the 2007 Census. 2007 Census information is retained.

The total farms with sales of specified products may exceed total farms with sales, not specified, because farms may sell more than one product. Anomalies in 1997 may be expected as this is the first year USDA took over the Census of Agriculture. (Wendy Vance, USDA, Olympia, May 23, 2012).

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Data is sorted by 2007 number of farms, highest to lowest. In 2012, the order is generally the same except that “vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes” appeared to increase above “sheep, goats, and their products.”