

Sales of Selected Crops

As a proportion of total Virginia crop sales in 1997, the crops reported in Tables 15 and 16 are as follows: corn 9 percent, wheat 6 percent, soybeans 10 percent, cotton 5 percent, tobacco 24 percent, hay 4 percent, vegetables 6 percent, fruit 4 percent, and nursery/greenhouse 21 percent. Tobacco is the number one crop in terms of sales in Virginia, but it should be noted that sales of tobacco make up only 8 percent of all agricultural sales. Most commodities did not change very much in terms of their proportion of total crop sales from 1992-97. However, nursery/greenhouse sales grew at a rapid pace. Sales were 66 percent higher in 1997 than in 1992, and the number of farms producing nursery/greenhouse products was 64 percent higher.

Table 15. Sales of Selected Crops by Extension District

Extension District	Corn for Grain (\$1,000)	Wheat (\$1,000)	Soybeans (\$1,000)	Cotton (\$1,000)	Tobacco (\$1,000)
Central	1,842	3,903	4,111	95	141,921
Northeast	27,557	17,908	26,171	1,403	808
Northern	12,632	3,808	12,553	0	102
Northwest	7,336	1,502	3,480	0	0
Southeast	19,628	18,622	31,246	38,938	9,479
Southwest	1,280	140	49	0	34,576
Virginia	70,480	47,953	77,911	42,342	187,358

Table 15. Sales of Selected Crops by Extension District (continued)

Extension District	Hay, Silage & Seeds (\$1,000)	Veg., Sweet Corn & Melons (\$1,000)	Fruits, Nuts & Berries (\$1,000)	Nursery & Greenhouse (\$1,000)	All Crops (\$1,000)
Central	6,840	1,189	651	10,889	175,592
Northeast	2,293	9,661	264	23,907	126,931
Northern	8,628	2,540	7,909	27,084	85,622
Northwest	7,876	1,131	20,108	18,920	61,593
Southeast	781	25,472	410	43,171	241,901
Southwest	7,163	3,232	2,095	21,568	71,793
Virginia	34,306	45,704	34,606	166,411	780,099

Table 16. Sales of Selected Crops by Planning District

Planning District	Corn for Grain (\$1,000)	Wheat (\$1,000)	Soybeans (\$1,000)	Cotton (\$1,000)	Tobacco (\$1,000)
Central Virginia	253	427	319	0	5,128
West Piedmont	773	1,403	511	0	49,853
Southside	408	1,405	2,142	95	66,238
Piedmont	667	696	1,188	0	23,554
Richmond Regional	5,937	4,735	7,214	796	808
Northern Neck	9,258	5,871	8,424	250	0
Middle Peninsula	11,943	7,157	10,335	357	0
Peninsula	419	145	198	0	0
Northern Virginia	2,365	762	2,333	0	0
Rappahanock-Rapidan	4,692	582	4,097	0	0
Thomas Jefferson	859	283	336	0	102
Radco	4,716	2,181	5,787	0	0
Fifth	57	38	0	0	0
Central Shenandoah	4,639	913	1,783	0	0
Lord Fairfax	2,640	551	1,697	0	0
Crater	4,060	3,993	7,378	9,214	9,479
Southeastern Virginia	10,755	5,441	14,318	29,441	0
Accomack-Northampton	4,813	9,188	9,550	283	0
Lenowisco	106	0	0	0	12,946
Cumberland Plateau	21	0	0	0	5,680
Mount Rogers	429	47	0	0	13,090
New River Valley	465	65	0	0	8

Table 16. Sales of Selected Crops by Planning District (continued)

Planning District	Hay, Silage & Seeds (\$1,000)	Veg., Sweet Corn & Melons (\$1,000)	Fruits, Nuts & Berries (\$1,000)	Nursery & Greenhouse (\$1,000)	All Crops (\$1,000)
Central Virginia	1,612	177	367	2,348	11,853
West Piedmont	2,638	851	955	4,217	61,747
Southside	1,179	622	17	5,094	77,875
Piedmont	1,889	253	13	1,003	31,017
Richmond Regional	1,792	3,563	151	17,562	45,403
Northern Neck	127	3,064	16	3	39,632
Middle Peninsula	320	2,486	52	4,092	40,391
Peninsula	54	548	45	2,250	1,505
Northern Virginia	2,355	604	395	10,433	19,519
Rappahanock- Rapidan	3,541	292	2,660	12,188	36,158
Thomas Jefferson	1,919	433	4,807	3,190	12,278
Radco	813	1,211	47	1,273	17,667
Fifth	943	325	1,329	1,865	4,845
Central Shenandoah	4,292	356	2,648	12,524	27,724
Lord Fairfax	2,641	450	16,131	4,531	29,024
Crater	461	260	57	457	40,519
Southeastern Virginia	276	2,494	317	36,565	139,100
Accomack- Northampton	44	22,718	36	6,149	62,282
Lenowisco	1,001	212	54	507	15,322
Cumberland Plateau	685	24	8	198	6,919
Mount Rogers	3,600	2,107	1,040	6,365	27,312
New River Valley	1,399	175	292	12,725	15,340

Central District had 23 percent of all Virginia crop sales in 1997; 81 percent of its crop sales were tobacco; and its tobacco sales were 76 percent of all Virginia tobacco sales. The district also produced 20 percent of Virginia hay sales. Across the planning districts, tobacco made up 86 percent of crop sales in West Piedmont, 85 percent in Southside, and 76 percent in Piedmont. Nursery/greenhouse sales made up 20 percent of crop sales in Central Virginia, 4 percent in West Piedmont, 7 percent in Southside, and 3 percent in Piedmont. This region had only 7 percent of state sales of nursery/greenhouse products.

Sales of crops in Northeast District comprise only 16 percent of Virginia crop sales. However, Northeast District sales were very important as a proportion of total Virginia sales for several commodities: corn (39 percent), wheat (37 percent), soybeans (34 percent), vegetables (21 percent), and nursery/greenhouse (14 percent). Sales of these crops form the following percentages of Northeast District sales: corn (22 percent), wheat (14 percent), soybeans (21 percent), vegetables (8 percent), and nursery/greenhouse (19 percent). Across the district, the importance of cash grains versus nursery/greenhouse and vegetables varies widely. The Northern Neck and the Middle Peninsula Planning Districts had 59 percent and 73 percent, respectively, of their crop sales from cash grains, with only small percentages of sales in nursery/greenhouse and vegetables. On the other hand, the Richmond Regional Planning District had 39 percent of its sales from cash grains and an equal proportion of its sales from nursery/greenhouse.

Northern District crop sales equaled only 11 percent of Virginia crop sales in 1997. The district produced 23 percent of Virginia fruit sales and 25 percent of Virginia hay sales. The district also produced 16 percent of Virginia nursery/greenhouse sales. Nursery/Greenhouse produced 32 percent of total district crop sales, and was the only commodity sector to produce more than 15 percent of extension district sales. The region is very diverse, encompassing many very rural areas as well as highly urban counties. The importance of commodities varies widely across the district. For example, cash grains formed only 12 percent of Thomas Jefferson Planning District sales, but 72 percent of Rappahanock-Rapidan sales. Sales of fruit form 39 percent of Thomas Jefferson sales, but less than 10 percent in all other planning districts. Sales of fruit made up 43 percent of Albemarle County crop sales and 70 percent of Nelson County crop sales. Nursery sales were very important in Northern Virginia (53 percent), Rappahanock-Rapidan (34 percent), Thomas Jefferson (26 percent), while forming only 7 percent of Radco crop sales.

Sales of crops in Northwest District comprised only 8 percent of Virginia crop sales in 1997, and only sales of hay (23 percent) and fruits (58 percent) made up a sizable proportion of Virginia sales in their respective commodity areas. Within the district, sales of fruit were 33 percent and nursery/ greenhouse products were 31 percent of total crop sales in the district. Nursery/greenhouse stood out as the predominant commodity in the Fifth and Central Shenandoah planning districts, making up 38 percent and 40 percent of all crop sales, respectively. Fruit is dominant in Lord Fairfax Planning District (56 percent), and particularly dominates in the traditional fruit-producing counties of Clark (47 percent), Frederick (74 percent), and Shenandoah (47 percent).

Crop sales in Southeast District were 31 percent of Virginia crop sales in 1997. Farms in the region are well diversified in terms of crops produced, and sales of the reported commodities are important components of total Virginia agricultural sales. As a proportion of Virginia crop sales, Southeast District produced 20 percent of corn sales, 39 percent of wheat sales, 40 percent of soybeans sales, 92 percent of cotton sales, 56 percent of vegetables sales, 26 percent of nursery sales, and (although not reported here) virtually all of the peanut sales. Within the region, only peanut sales make up more than 20 percent of crop sales. In Crater Planning District, tobacco is the major crop, but it makes up only 21 percent of crop sales for its planning district. In Southeast Virginia, cash grain sales are 22 percent, cotton is 22 percent, nursery is 26 percent, and peanuts are 23 percent of planning district crop sales. Accomack-Northampton Planning District has the least diversified crop economy, relying on vegetables for 36 percent of sales, grains for 38 percent of sales, and nursery/greenhouse for 10 percent of sales. Southampton County (ranked fifth in Virginia agricultural sales) is less diversified than other counties/cities in the district. Peanuts and cotton make up 38 percent and 44 percent of county crop sales, respectively. Southampton produced approximately 1/3 of Virginia's peanut sales and 44 percent of Virginia's cotton sales.

Crop sales in Southwest District are only 9 percent of 1997 Virginia crop sales. However, the district forms an important part of Virginia crop sales in tobacco (18 percent), hay (21 percent), and nursery/greenhouse (13 percent). These three commodity sectors produced 48 percent, 10 percent, and 30 percent of the district's crop sales. Tobacco production dominates crop sales in counties of the district, principally in Lee (85 percent), Scott (87 percent), Russell (91 percent), Smyth (74 percent), Washington (73 percent), and Patrick (41 percent) counties. Nursery/greenhouse dominates crop production in the New River Valley. In Floyd County, 94 percent of crop sales are nursery (Christmas trees), and this county's industry produces 50 percent of Southwest District nursery/greenhouse sales and 7 percent of all Virginia nursery/greenhouse sales.