

Agriculture Insights

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A FREE RESOURCE FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Lancaster Chamber of

Commerce and Industry has announced the release of the third edition of the Lancaster County Farming Facts brochure. This

Lancaster County FARMING FACTS

3rd Edition

Lancaster County holds the distinction of being the MOST PRODUCTIVE non-irrigated farming county in the United States.

LANCASTER COUNTY KEY FACTS

- 257,100 total workforce, 10,499 jobs in farming & 51,420 jobs (1 in 5) in the agriculture industry
- Every \$1 of products leaving Lancaster's farms boosts our economy by \$5.88, a value over \$4 Billion per year
- Over 99% of Lancaster farms are family owned
- Lancaster's farmland & culture is the primary reason that 7 million tourists spend \$1.3 billion per year
- 55,000 acres of preserved farmland in Lancaster (15% of total farmland), ranked #1 in the U.S.
- Between 1994 & 2001 For every 1 acre lost to development, 2 acres have been preserved



WATER FACTS

The Lancaster County water supply is primarily from rain.

- Farmland collects 34 Million gallons of ground water from rain
- Cows & family use 1 Million gallons of water

Nearly 33 Million gallons of ground water contributed

- The housing development collects at least 1/3 less ground water from rain
- 300 families use over 16 Million gallons of water
- 26 Million fewer gallons of ground water contributed

IMPACT OF LAND USE:

- Residential services use: \$1.30
- Commercial services use: \$0.15
- Industrial services use: \$0.10
- Farm services use: \$0.07

EACH YEAR LANCASTER FARMERS FEED:

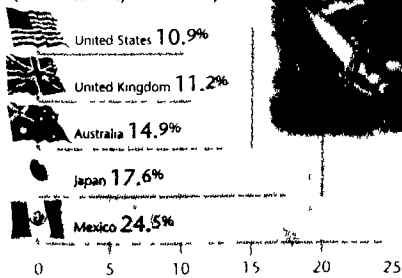
- 11.9 Million people EGGS
- 9.9 Million people MILK
- 4.8 Million people CHICKEN
- 1.9 Million people PORK
- 454,000 people BEEF

LANCASTER'S VALUE TO PA AGRICULTURE:

	Lancaster County	Total PA Agriculture
Number of farms	5,910	159,000
Average farm size: ...	71 acres	131 acres
Total acres of farmland: ...	421,000	7.7 Million
% of land in farmland	65%	28%
Value of farmland per acre	\$6,137	\$2,720
Cash receipts of crops	\$.582 Million	\$1.2 Billion
Cash receipts of livestock	\$.644 Million	\$2.9 Billion
Total cash receipts	\$.726 Million	\$4.1 Billion

WORLD FOOD AFFORDABILITY GRAPH

Food is most affordable in the U.S. (% of income spent on food)



been 40,000 copies of the prior editions of the brochure distributed, with many success stories.

Here are just a few of the responses from people who have found this brochure useful:

"The farming facts brochure is a great resource to convey the importance of agriculture as it relates to our community and is very useful when communicating with local government officials or the nonfarm public." — Daniel Heller, Flintrock Farms.

"When speaking to family and friends that are unfamiliar with agriculture, this brochure provides the foundation for your message. Plus, people can take the brochure home with them. It's written in a format that people can relate to." — Lowell Fry, Fulton Bank.

"We use the Farm Facts when groups visit our facility, or conduct meetings and ensure that all employees receive a copy which we refer to at various meetings. Why? We have discovered that most individuals have no idea of the scope and impact of agriculture in regards to the economic contribution, the labor force and its positive effect on the environment such as ground water replenishment." — Jamie Rowley, Wenger's Feed Mill Inc.

The new edition points out of our most noted traits — as being

the most productive nonirrigated farming county in the U.S. I'm sure most of us have heard this many times before, but it is important to remind ourselves of the important role agriculture plays in our community, which should never be underestimated.

In creating the third edition of the Farm Facts, our goal was to convey new areas of information that are becoming important issues in Lancaster County or have a significant value that many may not realize.

A new feature on the brochure is the correlation between agriculture and the tourism industry, of which the success and growth has been traditionally based on the beauty and culture of our farming community.

A unique study highlighted on the brochure is a gauge of the amount of farmland lost to development vs. the amount of farmland preserved. With the recent drought and dis-

cussion of water use, we included statistics of an average farm's contribution to ground water and then compared that to the same farm becoming developed into houses.

Another interesting study highlighted on the brochure is the impact of land use, which compares agriculture to residential, commercial and industrial uses and examines the cost of services

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