

Northern New York Agricultural Census Data 2002-2017

This quick snapshot of selected data shows the scope and importance of agriculture in NNY.

In August 2019, New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli’s “A Profile of Agriculture in New York State,” states that “the north country consisting of Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and Hamilton counties, ranked second highest in agriculture sales out of all regions in 2017, the most recent data available, at \$776.56 million.” (*Watertown Daily Times, August 24, 2019*)

NNY’s Top Ten Rankings for Sales by NY Counties (2017 Census of Agriculture)

NNY counties hold 23 top 10 rankings, 26 top 15 rankings, and rank 8th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 26th, and 49th of all NY counties for total sales/ag products sold.

Clinton County:

- #1 Poultry and eggs
- #5 Number of Maple Farms
- #6 Fruits, tree nuts and berries
- #8 Other crops and hay
- #11 Total sales/agricultural products sold

Jefferson County:

- #2 Other crops and hay
- #5 Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops
- #8 Milk from cows
- #9 Poultry and eggs
- #12 Total sales/agricultural products sold

St. Lawrence County:

- #1 Number of Maple Farms
- #3 Other crops and hay
- #3 Livestock, poultry and products
- #3 Milk from cows
- #7 Cattle and calves
- #8 Total sales of agricultural products sold

Essex County:

- #49 Total sales/agricultural products sold

Franklin County:

- #9 Aquaculture
- #9 Number of Maple Farms
- #10 Hogs and pigs sales
- #26 Total sales/agricultural products sold

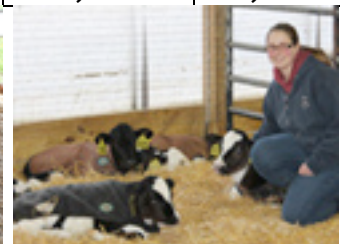
Lewis County:

- #1 Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops
- #2 Number of Maple Farms
- #5 Other crops and hay
- #6 Cattle and calves
- #6 Milk from cows
- #7 Livestock, poultry and products
- #15 Total sales/agricultural products sold



Farm Numbers

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2002	604	236	532	1,028	721	1,451	4,572
2007	590	243	604	885	616	1,330	4,268
2012	603	261	688	876	634	1,303	4,365
2017	588	285	636	792	625	1,253	4,179



Young Farmers (<35 years old)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	77	56	149	100	160	150	692

Farms with New & Beginning Producer (# farms/# producers with fewer than 10 years of farming experience)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	187 • 276	120 • 176	215 • 352	213 • 334	180 • 293	380 • 587	1,295 • 2,018

Paid Employees

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2002	1,827	355	651	944	855	1,428	6,060
2007	933	343	645	939	713	1,313	4,886
2012	1,244	257	646	1,024	813	1,401	5,385
2017	1,132	311	571	705	787	1,279	4,785

Farm Employee Payroll (in millions)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2007	\$14.8	\$2.6	\$5.4	\$12.4	\$6.9	\$10.8	\$35.5
2012	\$21.2	\$2.2	\$6.75	\$16.5	\$9.7	\$10.7	\$67.1
2017	\$21.205	\$3.807	\$8.284	\$14.749	\$13.181	\$18.261	\$79.487

Farm Labor (unpaid worker #)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	715	395	684	815	1,050	1,516	5,175

Land in Farms (acres)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2002	168,536	55,022	138,236	330,561	196,774	403,364	1,292,493
2007	142,219	50,266	130,852	262,331	222,415	347,246	1,162,289
2012	147,229	54,837	145,023	290,811	181,741	358,909	1,176,550
2017	161,605	57,622	140,717	247,456	182,457	342,595	1,136,631

Average # Acres/Farm

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	Ave.
2002	279	233	260	322	273	278	274
2007	207	253	217	261	296	272	251
2012	244	210	211	332	287	275	270
2017	275	202	221	312	292	273	271.98

Farm Distribution by Size (acres, 2017) (Note: ~61.5% 179 acres or smaller)

Acres	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
1-9	70	47	40	61	64	49	331
10-49	93	69	124	149	85	160	680
50-179	207	90	262	272	186	550	1,567
180-499	138	48	166	108	105	360	1,125
500-999	46	15	23	58	54	85	281
1000 & +	34	16	21	44	31	49	195

Farm Sales: Market Value (product, *in millions)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2002	\$78.437	\$8.632	\$48.003	\$99.542	\$72.178	\$99.715	\$406.507
2007	\$124.20	\$11.459	\$68.097	\$139.242	\$112.629	\$140.151	\$595.778
2012	\$148.99	\$11.709	\$84.166	\$183.567	\$137.040	\$187.363	\$752.844
2017	\$167.78	\$13.178	\$86.384	\$165.056	\$153.073	\$191.077	\$776.557

Average Value Farm Sales (product, in dollars)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence
2002	\$129,882	\$36,578	\$90,231	\$96,830	\$100,108	\$68,722
2007	\$210,508	\$47,156	\$112,743	\$157,335	\$182,839	\$105,377
2012	\$247,096	\$44,862	\$122,334	\$209,551	\$216,151	\$143,793
2017	\$285,356	\$46,239	\$135,823	\$208,404	\$244,917	\$152,495

Dairy Farms

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2002	160	35	204	325	318	445	1,452
2007	120	23	158	231	257	262	1,028
2012	109	22	155	205	237	319	1,047
2017	76	23	123	145	207	285	859



Cow Numbers: Dairy

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2002	18,970	1,983	17,404	32,736	26,440	38,018	133,568
2007	18,145	1,726	14,857	30,065	27,120	31,525	121,712
2012	17,794	1,586	15,146	28,430	27,235	33,604	123,795
2017	16,554	1,402	15,461	27,982	27,127	35,134	123,660

Farms Raising Beef

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2012	128	61	155	192	78	318	932
2017	141	72	171	178	132	350	1,044

Cow Numbers: Beef

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2007	2,208	561	2,776	3,165	890	5,092	14,692
2012	1,354	853	1,762	2,935	1,102	4,071	12,077
2017	1,723	1,108	2,448	4,231	1,542	4,541	10,203

Sheep Numbers

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2007	287	85	629	1,212	116	2,065	4,394
2012	285	256	2,056	1,743	200	1,433	5,973
2017	297	831	497	1,629	501	1,601	5,356

Swine Numbers

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2007	306	183	472	448	186	850	2,445
2012	491	171	481	647	484	1,253	3,527
2017	465	678	877	1,065	1,452	1,601	6,138

Poultry Numbers

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2007	n/a	1,925	4,729	n/a	1,423	5,036	13,113+
2012	372+	4,991	5,469	1,198+	3,224	5,469	20,723+
2017	523+	8,767	84,650	996+	3,757	9,237	107,930+

Harvested Cropland (acres)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2002	69,124	18,644	60,827	181,464	97,402	173,033	600,494
2007	62,157	16,033	59,079	147,726	82,977	146,838	514,810
2012	74,012	20,024	74,818	158,317	88,248	172,116	587,535
2017	67,019	18,500	61,482	143,762	94,878	150,423	536,064

Acres in Corn (Grain & Silage)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2012	24,600	1,856	18,760	42,132	29,258	39,615	156,221
2017	23,518	1,579	16,217	38,703	31,111	39,425	150,553



Farms with Honey Sales (# farms/sale)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	9/\$59,000	6/\$4000	8/\$8,000	18/\$268,000	12/n/a	28/\$101,000	81/\$440,000

Vegetable Farms

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2012	45	33	48	60	29	122	337
2017	37	38	38	53	39	102	307

Land in Vegetable Production (acres)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2012	511	210	1063	315	76	484	2,659
2017	613	214	984	271	97	341	2,520

Vegetable* Crop Value (in 1000s)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	\$1,637	\$1,419	\$2,733	\$829	\$281	\$1,608	\$8,507

* Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes

Orchards (farm numbers)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	33	28	23	48	11	39	224

Land in Orchards (acres)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	3,314	142	35	238	59	86	3,874

Berry Farms (farm numbers)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	33	21	23	14	24	57	172

Land in Berry Production (acres)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	120	26	21	11	29	28	235

Maple Farms

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2002	69	28	33	44	135	125	406
2007	55	22	36	26	112	96	325
2012	67	27	47	41	108	92	382
2017	74	34	57	39	96	108	408



Maple Production (gallons)*

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2012	46,642	7,575	9,879	5,493	27,465	15,876	112,930
2017	73,953	13,890	17,741	15,435	41,506	64,371	226,896

* Note: Former Cornell University NNY Maple Specialist Mike Farrell estimated the NNY maple industry in 2019 at a value in excess of \$12 million. His earlier research had predicted that the region's \$5 million annual value could easily double.

Organic Production (farm numbers)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	8	10	42	30	12	75	177

Organic Production (product sales in millions)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	\$3.063	\$.962	\$8.469	\$6.151	\$.736	\$10,510	\$26.828

Land Use Practices (% of farms, 2017)

Practice	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
No-till	10	8	10	5	12	8	53
Reduced till	6	9	8	8	11	8	50
Cover crop	5	9	15	11	7	8	55

Producer Profile by Gender (male/female) (Note: ~63% male, 37% female)

Year	Clinton	Essex	Franklin	Jefferson	Lewis	St. Lawrence	TOTAL
2017	655 • 321	288 • 210	644 • 385	877 • 487	706 • 416	1338 • 819	4508 • 2638

Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture