

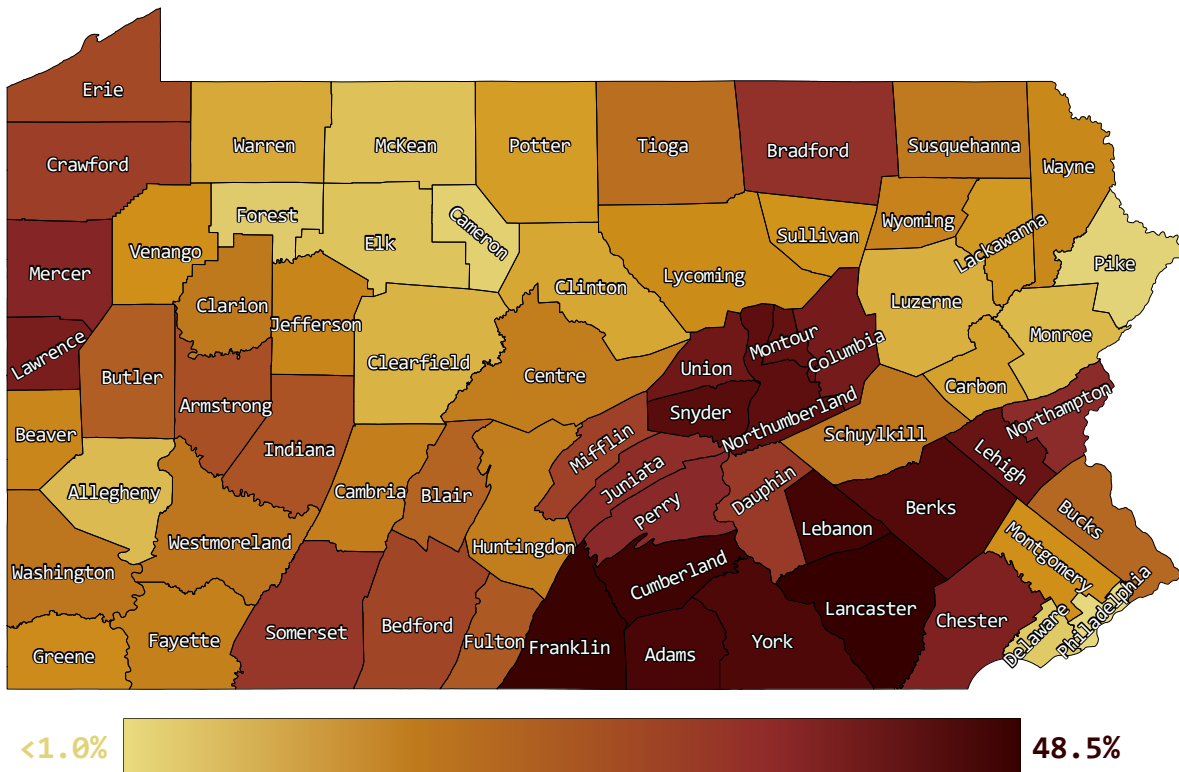
Harvested Cropland and Vegetables in the Commonwealth

HARRISBURG – Earlier this year the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the 2017 Census of Agriculture, providing statistics at a variety of geographic levels including state and county. In celebration of Fall, we explore data on the acreage of harvested cropland and vegetables in Pennsylvania during 2017.

Pennsylvania’s Harvested Cropland

Pennsylvania had nearly 4 million acres of harvested cropland as of 2017, which represented approximately 13.7% of Pennsylvania’s total land area. Lancaster County had both the largest acreage of harvested cropland (over 290,000 acres) as well as the highest percentage of total land area devoted to harvested croplands (48.5%) [Figure 1].

Figure 1. Harvested cropland as a percent of total land area per county in 2017.



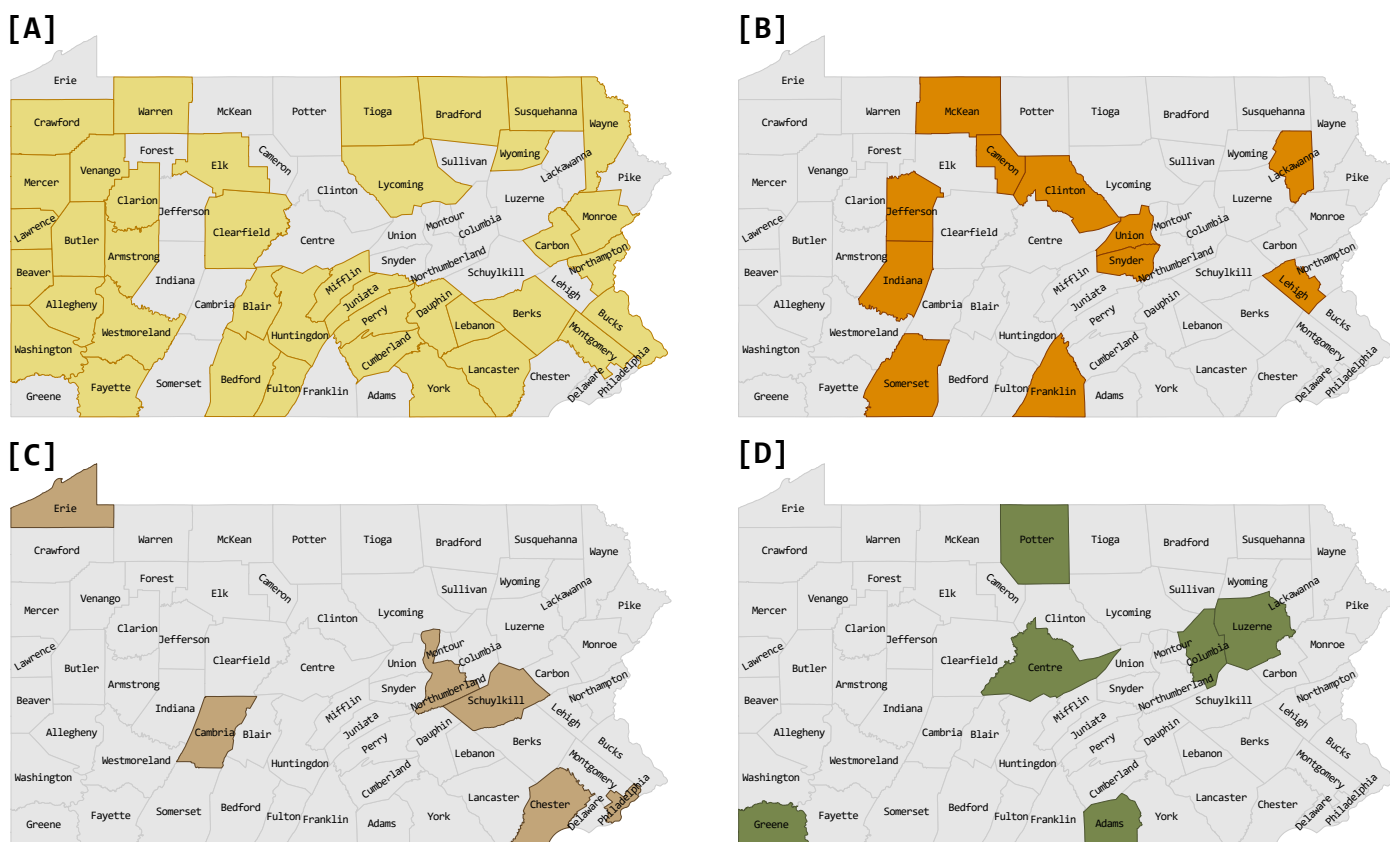
Franklin County ranked second for both its acreage of harvested cropland (over 196,000 acres) and the percentage of land area devoted to harvested cropland (39.8%). York County had the third largest acreage of harvested cropland (over 184,000 acres) while Cumberland County ranked third for the percentage of land devoted to harvested cropland (37.0%).

A Variety of Vegetables

Over 48,000 acres of vegetables were harvested in 2017 according to the Census of Agriculture, or roughly 1.2 percent of all harvested cropland. Sweet corn accounted for the largest acreage at over 11,000 total acres, or 24.0% of the state’s harvested vegetable cropland.

Potatoes (over 7,600 acres, 15.9%), beans (over 6,900 acres, 14.4%), and pumpkins (over 6,800 acres, 14.3%) were all highly harvested vegetables. Altogether, sweet corn, potatoes, beans, and pumpkins accounted for over two-thirds (68.5%) of Pennsylvania’s harvested vegetables. Other widely harvested vegetables included cabbage, melons, peppers, and squash, of which each had over 1,000 acres harvested.

Figure 2. Vegetable with the most harvested acres in 2017 by county including [A] Sweet Corn, [B] Pumpkins, [C] Potatoes, and [D] Beans. Not pictured: Peppers were the most harvested vegetable in Delaware and Forest Counties while Melons were the most harvested vegetable in Montour County.



Sweet corn was the most harvested vegetable in 40 counties in Pennsylvania during 2017 [Figure 2]. Pumpkins were most harvested vegetable in 11 counties while beans and potatoes were tied as being the most harvested vegetable in six counties. Peppers were the most harvested vegetable in just two counties, while melons were the most harvested vegetable in a single county.

Lancaster County was the largest grower for 22 of the 26 vegetables included in this analysis. For a full list of these vegetables, see the end of the report. For the remaining vegetables, Columbia County harvested the largest acreage of beans (1,843 acres), Franklin County harvested the largest acreage of peppers (143 acres) and cucumbers (90 acres), and Erie County harvested the largest acreage of potatoes (1,247 acres).

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. 2017 Census of Agriculture.

Vegetables in analysis included: ASPARAGUS, BEANS, BEETS, BROCCOLI, BRUSSELS SPROUTS, CABBAGE, CARROTS, CAULIFLOWER, CELERY, CUCUMBERS, EGGPLANT, GARLIC, GREENS, LETTUCE, MELONS, ONIONS, PEAS, PEPPERS, POTATOES, PUMPKINS, RADISHES, RHUBARB, SPINACH, SQUASH, SWEET CORN, SWEET POTATOES, TOMATOES, and TURNIPS.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at **717.948.6336** or online at **pasdc.hbg.psu.edu**.