

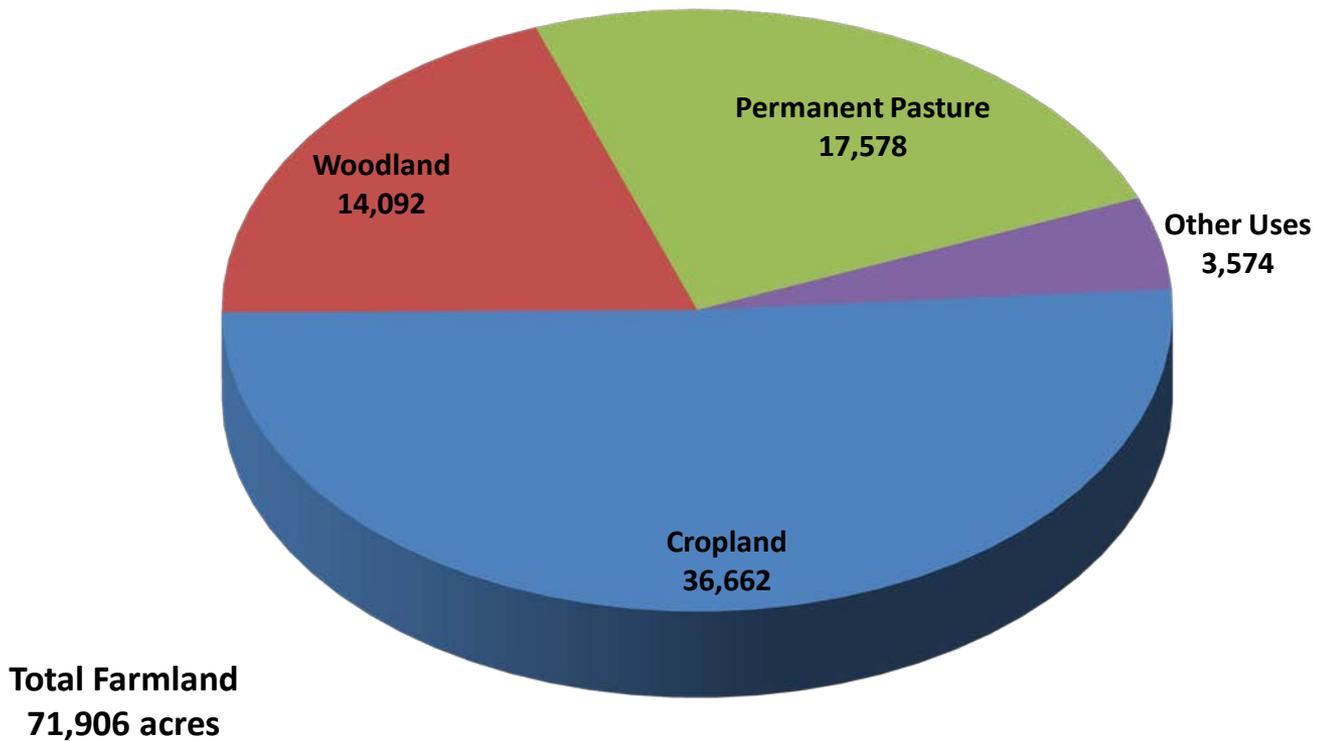
*Catawba County Farm and Food Sustainability Plan*

# Agricultural Background

May 24, 2012

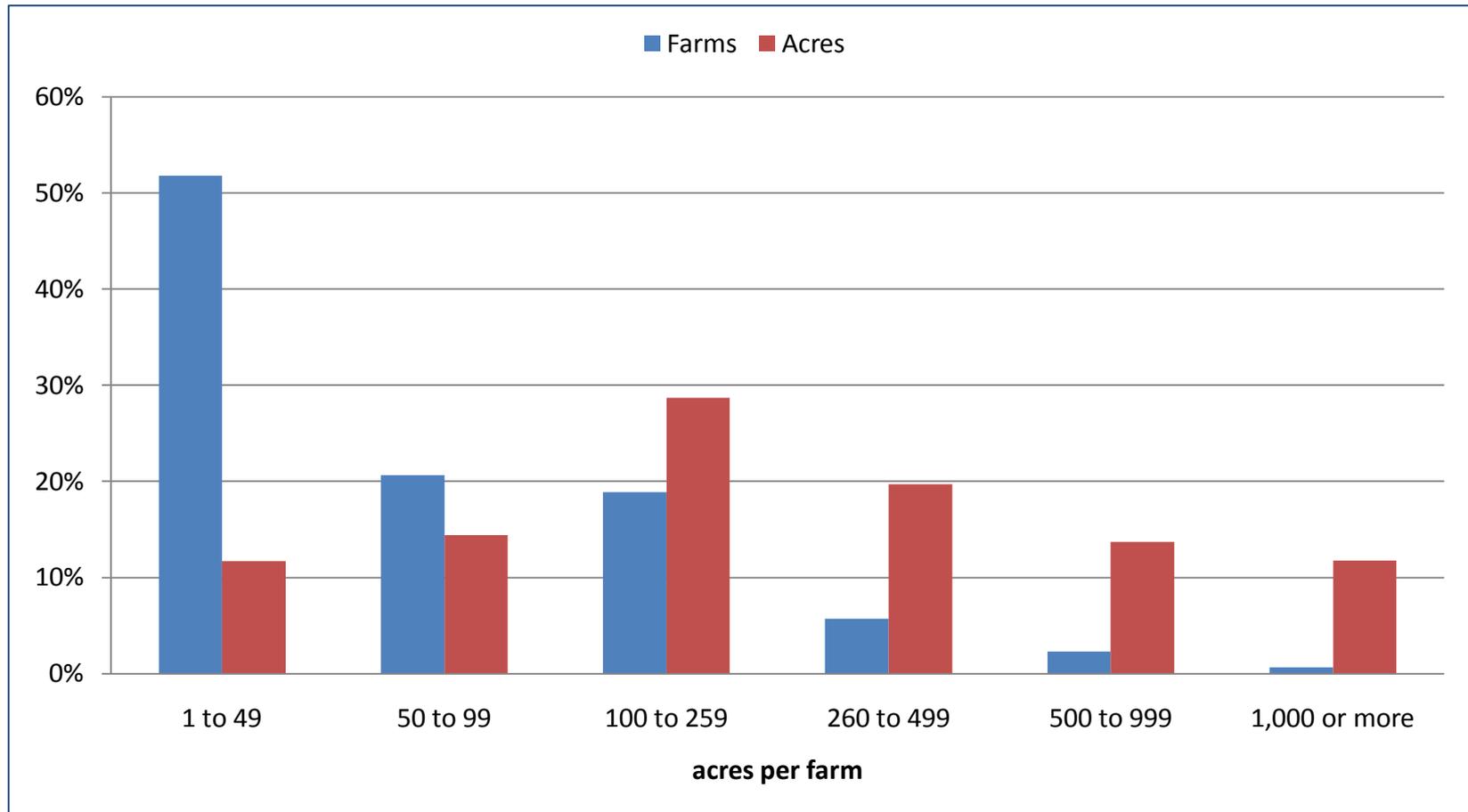
John Bonham  
Agricultural Economic Consultant

# Farmland by Land Use, 2007



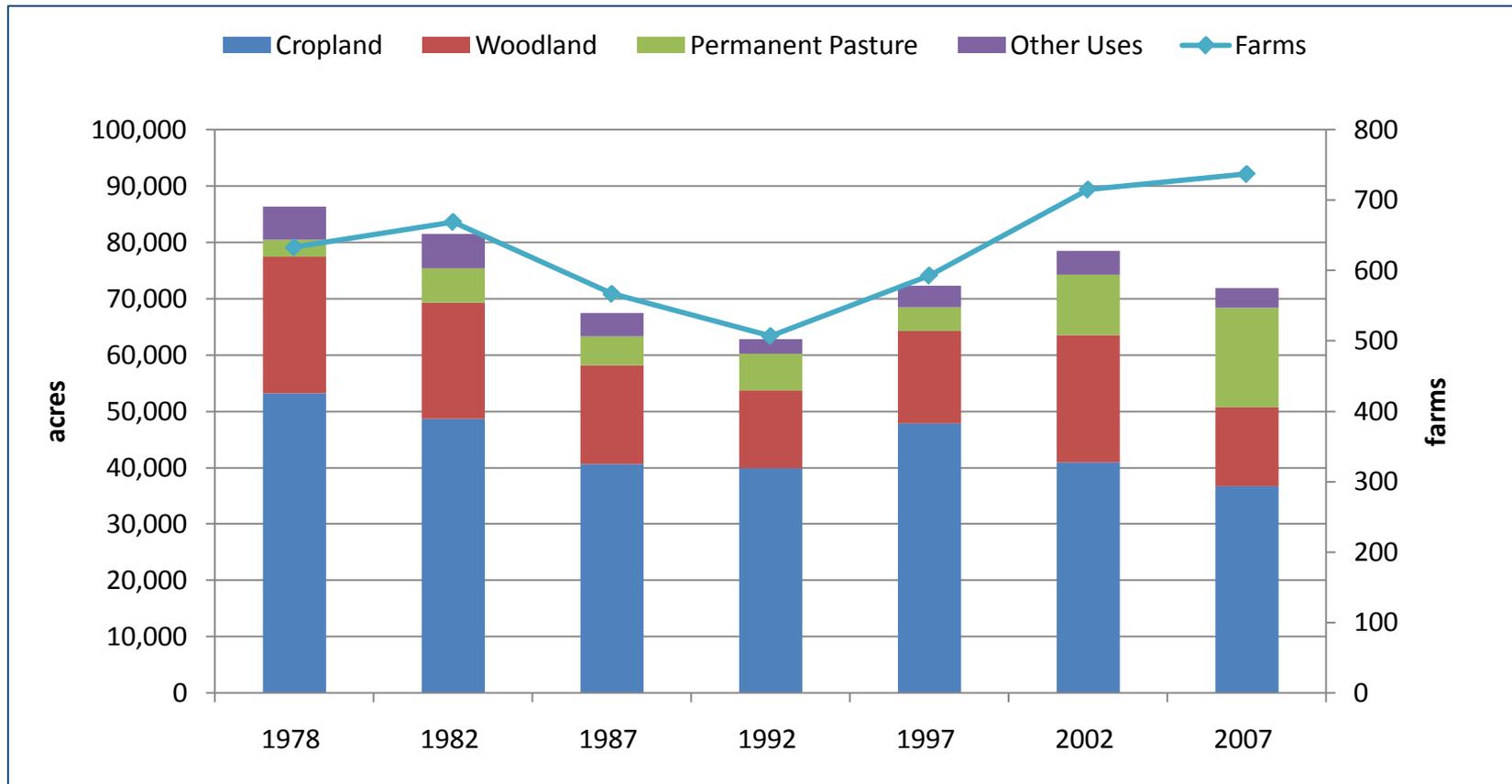
Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

# Distribution of Farms & Farmland by Farm Size, 2007



Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

# Farms & Farmland by Land Use, 1978-2007



Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

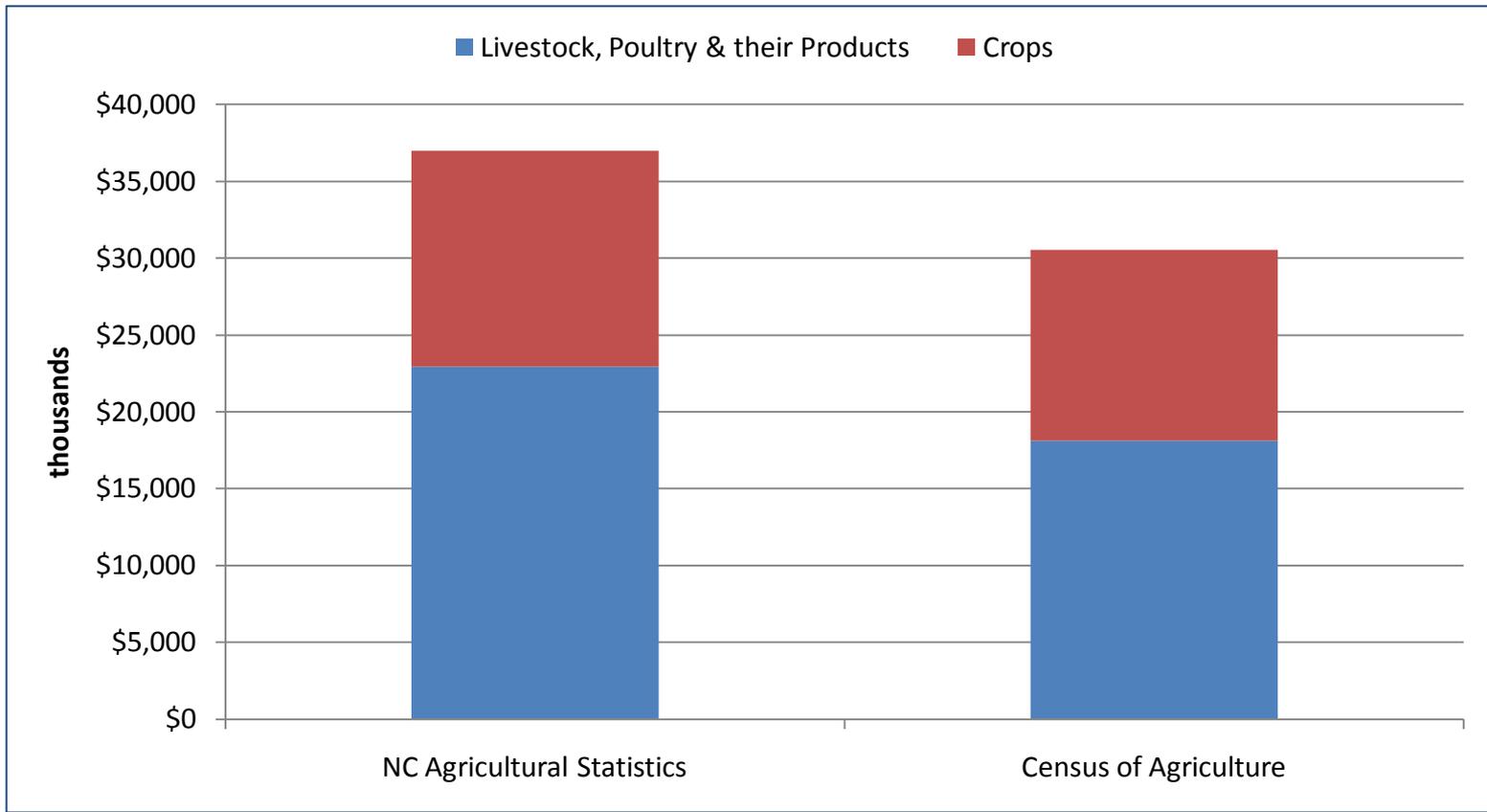
# Leading Production Activities, 2007

| Crop Activities | Farms | Acres  |
|-----------------|-------|--------|
| Forage          | 367   | 13,477 |
| Soybeans        | 54    | 9,049  |
| Wheat           | 36    | 4,773  |
| Corn for grain  | 30    | 1,789  |
| Corn for silage | 7     | 901    |

| Livestock & Poultry Activities | Farms | Number  |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Cattle & Calves                | 342   | 13,356  |
| Horses                         | 250   | 1,837   |
| Goats                          | 96    | 1,603   |
| Layers                         | 61    | 51,903  |
| Broilers                       | 20    | 665,043 |

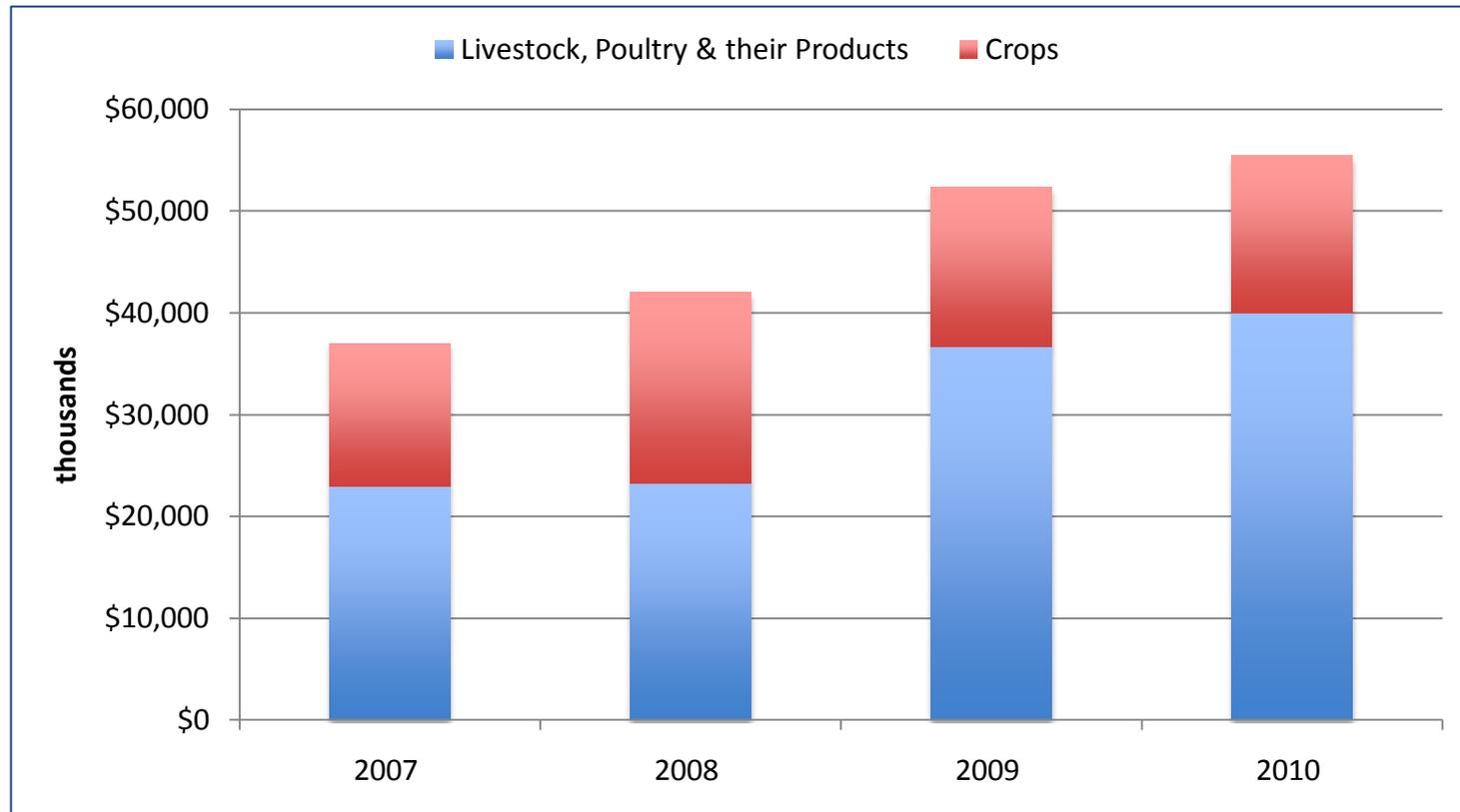
Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

# Sales of Agricultural Products, 2007



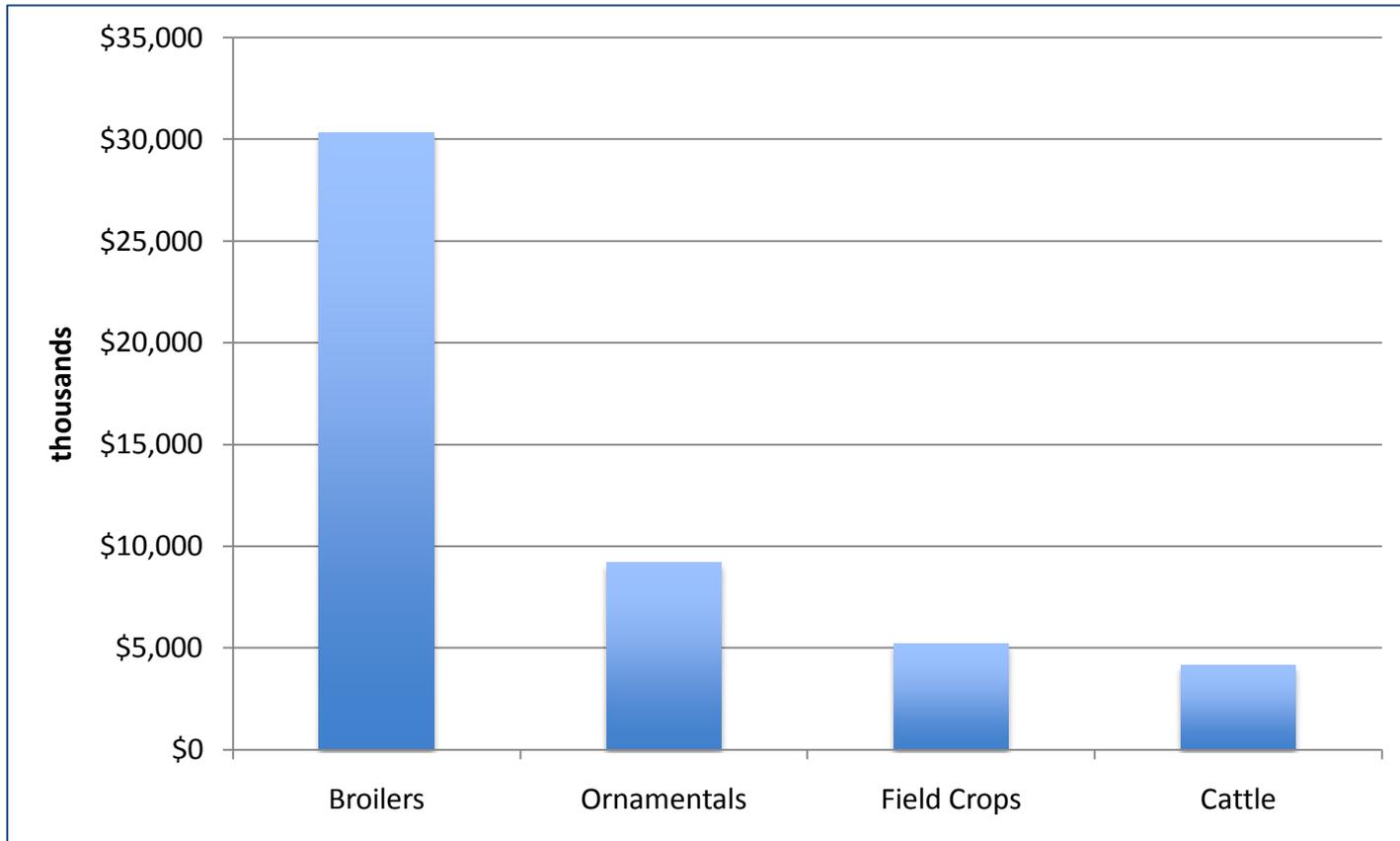
Source: Census of Agriculture, NC Agricultural Statistics

# Sales of Agricultural Products, 2007-2010



Source: NC Agricultural Statistics

# Leading Sales Products, 2010



Source: NC Agricultural Statistics

# Distribution of Farms & Sales by Sales Category, 2007



Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

# Net Cash Farm Income, 2007

|                                | Operations | Operators |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Net cash farm income (\$1,000) | 2,377      | -49       |
| Average per farm (dollars)     | 3,226      | -67       |
| Farms with net gains           | 228        | 223       |
| Average gain (dollars)         | 34,396     | 24,771    |
| Total gains (\$1,000)          | 7,842      | 5,524     |
| Farms with net losses          | 509        | 514       |
| Average loss (dollars)         | 10,736     | 10,843    |
| Total losses (\$1,000)         | 5,465      | 5,573     |

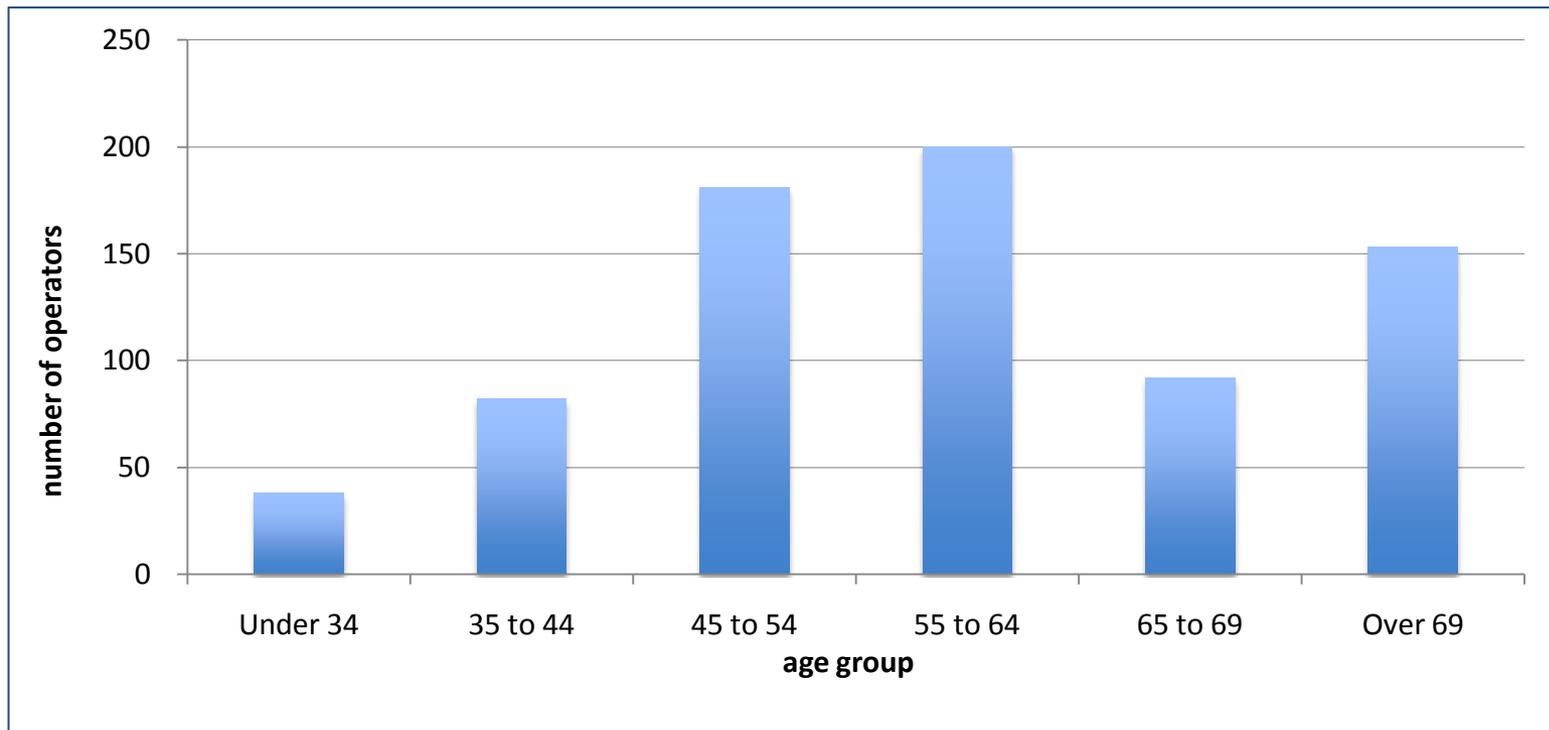
Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

# Farm Typology, 2007

| Farm Typology                   | Farms | Acres  | Avg. Acres |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| Small Family Farms              |       |        |            |
| Limited-resource                | 115   | 7,020  | 61         |
| Retirement                      | 160   | 14,841 | 93         |
| Residential/lifestyle           | 313   | 24,029 | 77         |
| Farming occupation/lower sales  | 100   | 8,842  | 88         |
| Farming occupation/higher sales | 7     | 1,270  | 181        |
| Small Family Farms - Total      | 695   | 56,002 | 81         |
| Large family farms              | 9     | 4,864  | 540        |
| Very large family farms         | 19    | 6,124  | 322        |
| Nonfamily farms                 | 14    | 4,916  | 351        |

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

# Age of Principal Farm Operators, 2007



Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

# Economic Value Added from Farming and Agribusiness, 2008

| Agriculture/Food Industries | Dollars     | Pct. of County |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Farming                     | 42,102,258  | 0.7%           |
| Manufacturing               | 85,194,943  | 1.4%           |
| Wholesaling/Retailing       | 233,960,618 | 3.8%           |
| Total                       | 361,257,819 | 5.8%           |

*Source: Dr. Michael Walden, NCSU Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics*