

# MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURE



## *The Hub of Western Pennsylvania Agriculture*

Since the first settlement of Mercer County, agriculture has been an economic strength of Mercer County. Agriculture is the oldest industry in Mercer County. Mercer County's strong infrastructure, commitment to agriculture, land availability, and climate are just a few of the qualities that contribute to the economic strength of agriculture in the county. Mercer County has many resources to support the agriculture community. By just taking a short drive in any direction in Mercer County, one can see the county's continuous commitment to agriculture.

### **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The Mercer County Agricultural Development Council was created on December 5, 1983 to promote agricultural development and rural conservation in Mercer County. The members are appointed by the county commissioners. The group meets monthly to identify and address important issues of recent developments in agriculture. The Council's vision is to promote agriculture in a positive manner to increase the understanding of citizens and decision makers of the continuing importance of agriculture to the county, region and state.

### **AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Mercer County Agricultural Society  
Mercer County Sheep & Wool Growers  
Mercer County Farm Bureau    Mercer County Grange  
Mercer County Holstein Club  
Mercer-Northwest Guernsey Breeders' Association  
Northwest Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association  
Mercer County Farmers Union  
Western Pennsylvania Jersey Breeders Association  
Mercer County Pork Producers  
Mercer County Woodland Owners Association

### **RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR AG PRODUCERS**

Mercer County offers the largest variety of resources available for ag producers in the western Pennsylvania area.

Livestock Auctions	Farm Markets
Large Dairy Processor	Feed Dealers
Produce Auction	Buying Station
Dairy and Food Processors	
Equipment Dealers and Repair Services	
Equine Related Businesses	
Ag Financial Service Providers	

### **FORESTRY IN MERCER COUNTY**

Mercer County has 432,000 acres of land. Of this, woodlands cover roughly 167,800 acres. There are approximately 6,500 private forest landowners in Mercer County. Educational support to landowners is provided by the Mercer County Woodland Owners Association ([mcwoa.org](http://mcwoa.org)) which hosts numerous events throughout the year in cooperation with DCNR Bureau of Forestry and Penn State Extension. Over 32 forestry related businesses are located within the county. The annual economic contribution of forestry in Mercer County has been estimated to be \$5.39 million. Forests contribute incalculable environmental, cultural and social value which enhances the quality of life in Mercer County.

## MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURE FACTS

- Dairy industry leads the county's agricultural sector.
- Mercer County has 1210 farms and 171,860 acres in farmland.
- Average farm size is 142 acres.
- The county has over a dozen century-farms for over 100 years owned and operated by the same family.
- There are two bicentennial farms.
- Mercer County ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the state for oats production.
- Mercer County ranks 18<sup>th</sup> for all forage.
- The farm real estate value per acre for Mercer County in 2007 was \$3190.

## PA AGRICULTURE FACTS

- Agribusiness is Pennsylvania's number one industry.
- Dairying is Pennsylvania's number one agriculture industry.
- Agriculture and its related industries provide 1 out of every 5 jobs.
- Pennsylvania leads the nation in farmland preservation. In 2006 there were 2,750 farms in preservation with a total of over 300,000 acres.
- 58,105 farm families in Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania ranks number one in hardwood production.
- The farm real estate value per acre for Pennsylvania in 2003 was \$3100.

## CLIMATE

Four Full Seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

A humid, continental climate provides Mercer County with warm summers, long cold winters, and a plentiful supply of precipitation. Lengthy periods of abnormally cold, hot, wet, or dry weather are rare. Precipitation is normally well distributed throughout the year. The growing season is normally from mid-May through September.

Average July Temperature	81.1
Average January Temperature	32.0
Mean Annual Precipitation	34.1
Average No. of Growing Days	140

## SOIL TYPES

The main soil types found in Mercer County are Frenchtown, Ravenna, Canfield, and Chenango soils. These soils are the most extensive in the county. The parent material of the soils in Mercer County was deposited by glacial ice and water.

## SIZE OF FARMS

UNDER 10 ACRES	65
10 TO 49 ACRES	291
50 TO 179 ACRES	591
180 TO 499 ACRES	209
500 TO 999 ACRES	37
1000 TO 1999 ACRES	10

## TOP COMMODITIES

Dairy Products  
Nursery and greenhouse crops  
Cattle and Calves  
Corn for grain  
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds

## MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD

Total Value of all agricultural products sold  
**\$60,655,000**

Value of livestock and products sold  
**\$38,013,000**

Value of all crops sold  
**\$22,642,000**

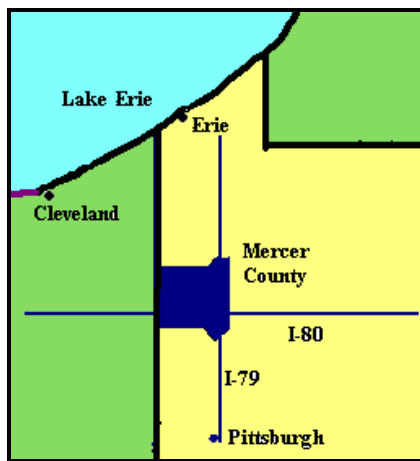
## AVERAGE VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS

Average Value per Farm  
**\$453,118**

Average Value per Acre  
**\$3,190**

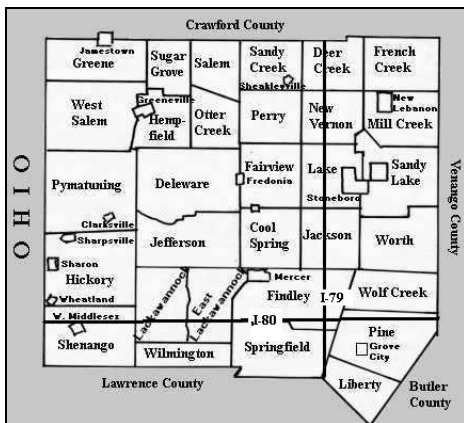
**M**ercer County is located in Northwestern Pennsylvania. The first settlers created Mercer County on March 12, 1800, naming the county in honor of Hugh Mercer. Today this is one of the more exciting areas of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Growth is rising and population is increasing. The educational systems, vast country community, friendly people, and copious recreational areas entice visitors to become residents of Mercer County.

### LOCATION



#### Distance to Cities

Pittsburgh	65	Philadelphia	363
Harrisburg	262	Cleveland	90
Columbus	196	Buffalo	159
New York City	368	Toronto	265
Washington DC	304	Baltimore	305
Richmond	401	Charlotte	505



Area- Mercer County 672 Square Miles  
51.9% Urban and 48.1% Rural Population

### TRANSPORTATION

#### Interstate Highways

- Interstate I-79
- Interstate I-80
- PA Route 60

#### Local Airports

- Grove City Airport
- Greenville Municipal Airport
- Youngstown Warren Regional Airport
- Venango Regional Airport

#### Commercial Air:

- Pittsburgh International Airport
- Cleveland Hopkins International Airport

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Newspapers:

- The Record Argus
- Sharon Herald
- Allied News
- Youngstown Vindicator
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

#### Radio Stations:

- WPIC (790)
- WGGY (95.1)

#### Television Stations:

- WFMJ
- WKBN
- WYFX
- WYTV

### UTILITIES

**Electric:** Pennsylvania Power Company

**Gas:** National Fuel Gas  
Peoples

**Phone:** AT&T  
Windstream  
Verizon

**Cable:** Comcast Cable, Armstrong

**Waste:** Tri-County Industries  
Waste Management

### COMMUNITIES

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Farrell    | Sandy Lake     |
| Fredonia   | Sharon         |
| Greenville | Sharpsville    |
| Grove City | Stoneboro      |
| Hermitage  | Transfer       |
| Jamestown  | West Middlesex |
| Mercer     | Wheatland      |

## **MAJOR EMPLOYERS**

Dean Dairy Products Company  
Duferco Farrell Corporation  
First National Bank of Pennsylvania  
General Electric Company  
Grove City College  
Horizon Hospital System, Inc.  
John Maneely Co.  
Sharon Regional Health System  
Sharon Tube Company  
U.S. Investigation Services Inc.  
Wal-Mart Associates, Incorporated

## **LABOR FORCE ESTIMATED**

Pennsylvania Unemployment Rate	8.1%
Mercer County Unemployment Rate	9.6%
Labor Force of Mercer County	51,477
Labor Force Employed	47,255
Labor Force Unemployed	4,222

## **INCOME**

Median Household Income, 2008	\$40,573
Per Capita Income, 1999	\$17,636

## **EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Mercer County has a well-developed education system from the primary level to the college level. There are 12 public school districts and a number of private and parochial schools in the county. The Mercer County Career Center has technical and vocational programs for high school students.

At the college level, there are both four and two year programs. The programs can be found at many colleges in the area which include Penn State Shenango, Thiel College, Grove City College, Slippery Rock University, and Westminster College. Butler County Community College has a site in Hermitage.

The educational program in the county is committed to providing the students with a quality education.

## **HEALTH CARE**

For the residents of Mercer County there are three hospitals that provide medical, surgical, and rehabilitative care. The hospitals are UPMC Horizon Hospital System, Sharon Regional Health System, and Grove City Medical Center.

## **RECREATION**

12 Public Golf courses, 4 campgrounds, Mercer Raceway Park, Sundance Arena, Pymatuning State Park, Shenango River Lake, Mahoning Valley Scrappers, Maurice K. Goddard State Park, and more!

## **POINTS OF INTEREST**

Premium Outlets with over 130 shops  
Mercer County Courthouse  
The Winner Department Store  
Kidd's Mill Covered Bridge  
Mae & Harry Beringer Caldwell One Room School  
Canal Museum  
Greenville Railroad Park & Museum  
Daffin's Chocolate Factory  
Reyer's World's Largest Shoe Store  
Marietta Roth House Museum

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information on Agriculture or Mercer County please contact:

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In Mercer County  
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