

### Field Crops:

Field crops are also important in Oswego County Agriculture. The primary crops are corn, hay and small grains, some of which are not sold, only used on the farm. The combined value of these crops is \$13.9 million dollars

**Table 4. Value of Field Crop Production**

	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Value of Crop</b>
Corn	11,000	\$3,200,000
Hay/Haylage	20,500	10,000,000
Small Grains	3,118	787,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13.9 million</b>

### Honey and Maple Syrup:

- There are also approximately 286 colonies of bees in Oswego County producing 22,000 lbs of honey, with a value of \$100 thousand dollars.
- 2,103 gallons of maple syrup were produced in Oswego County in 2007, with a value of \$70 thousand dollars.

### Christmas Trees:

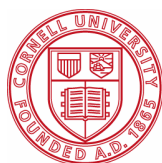
There are 713 acres of Christmas trees. Twelve thousand eight hundred six trees were cut in 2007 with a value of \$256 thousand dollars.



### Summary:

The combined annual revenue from dairy and livestock, fruit and vegetables is \$31.5 million dollars. These sectors are by no means the only important ones in Oswego County agriculture. There is also a thriving commercial horticulture industry that produces greenhouse crops (bedding plants, vegetable transplants, perennials and holiday crops like Easter lilies and poinsettias), and nursery crops. The annual value of revenue generated by this sector is at least an additional \$3.5 million.

The magnitude and health of the agricultural industry in Oswego County means that it is an important factor in the local economy. The presence of this multi-million dollar industry means not only jobs, tax revenue and investment in the community, it means that allied industries like feed and fertilizer, equipment and other input dealerships can thrive. Since our beginning, agriculture in Oswego County has been a major player in the economy, and it will continue to grow and prosper!



**Cornell University**  
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## **The Economic Impact Of Agriculture In Oswego County**



Highlights of the Agriculture Industry in Oswego County based on 2007 agriculture statistics by USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. There are 639 farms in Oswego County with 100,195 acres of farmland in production.

- Providing 5,140 jobs;
- Generating \$ 31.5 million in annual revenue;
- Total sales average \$46,226 per farm with the leading products sold being vegetables, dairy products, nursery & greenhouse, fruits, hay and other crops; and,
- Contributing \$1.7 million to the tax base.
- According to the 2007 Ag District Review Report, Oswego County farms invested on average \$65,000 in capital improvements since the year 2000.

**Vegetables:**

Oswego County is famous for its muck vegetable industry. “Muck” soils are high organic matter soils that are ideal for the production of onions and other crops.

The muck farm operations are by nature very capital intensive, and produce a very high value crop. Annual revenue from muck vegetables is around \$12.9 million dollars. The majority of the muck vegetables grown in the county are exported to other parts of the state and country. The presence of the muck crop industry has led to spin-offs like packing and shipping operations. This means job and tax revenue for Oswego County. There are also vegetable crops produced on upland soils in Oswego County. These include potatoes, cabbage, sweet corn, green peppers, tomatoes, squash and pumpkins. The combined annual revenue of vegetable crops in Oswego County is \$15.2 million.

**Table 1. Acres & Annual Revenue from Vegetable Crops**

Crop	Acres	Value of Sales
Onions	2,575	\$11,900,000
Potatoes	382	\$1,300,000
Sweet Corn	308	\$800,000
Peppers, Lettuce, Squash, and Others	315	1,200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$15.2 million</b>



**Fruit:**

Oswego County has a healthy and growing tree fruit and berry industry. Apples are the number one tree fruit, with pears in second place. The climate in Oswego County is borderline for stone fruit production, and we have only about 50 acres of peaches, plums and cherries. Berry crops in Oswego County include cranberries, strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries.



Oswego County is number one for cranberry production in NYS and number four for blueberry production.

Fruit crops, like vegetable crops, are very labor and capital intensive to produce, but extremely high in value. Annual revenues from fruit crops in Oswego County are around \$3.7 million. Oswego County apple growers use the latest high-density planting systems, and produce the vast majority of their fruit for fresh market sales.

**Table 2. Acres and Annual Revenue from Fruit Crops in Oswego County**

Crop	Acres	Value of Annual Sales
Apples	471	\$2,600,000
Pears	37	120,000
Cherries, Peaches, Plums	50	70,000
Blueberries, Strawberries, Raspberries, Cranberries	272	2,375,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5.2 million</b>

**Dairy and Livestock:**

There are approximately 62 commercial dairies shipping milk in the county. There are about 3,000 dairy cows in the county. On average each cow produces 15,900 pounds of milk, which is 1,848.8 gallons of milk. These 62 farms generate approximately an annual income of \$6.9 million dollars from the sale of milk.

Livestock production is another important sector in Oswego County Agriculture. Beef cattle, sheep, sows and feeder pigs, goats, elk, alpacas, and poultry are raised on Oswego County farms. It is difficult to assess an annual value of production from these animals, but the combined value of the animals themselves is about \$7.6 million.

**Table 3. Livestock Animals in Oswego County**

	Number	Value
Beef Cows, Replacement Heifers & Steers	6,000	\$6,000,000
Ewes & Lambs	338	44,000
Sows & Feeder Pigs	991	150,000
Deer	603	200,000
Goats	677	66,000
Poultry	2,908	15,000
Other Livestock		1,200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$7.6 million</b>

There are also approximately 1,204 horses being raised in Oswego County. The value of investment in land and improvements for these animals is approximately \$9.6 million.

