

Wayne County, Ohio

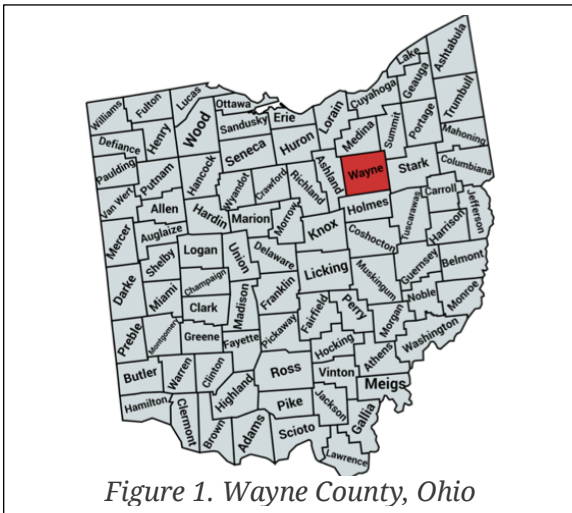


Figure 1. Wayne County, Ohio

Wayne County, Ohio is located in northeast Ohio encompassing approximately 557 square miles, the majority of which (approximately 71 percent) is flat, fertile farmland. The county seat and largest municipality in the county is Wooster.

Notably, Wayne County is also home to one of the largest Amish populations in the United States. According to the 2010 Religion Census, conducted by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, there were approximately 9,280 people described as “adherents” to one of a variety of Amish denominations living in Wayne, making it home to the fourth largest Amish population in the United States and the 11th largest Amish county as a percentage of total county population.

Table 1. Value-Added Agriculture Business Establishments

Category	Total Est.	Establishments by Number of Employee							
		1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999
Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm Product Warehousing and Storage	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm Supplies Merchant Wholesalers	8	4	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
food manufacturing	22	5	0	3	9	0	1	3	1
Grocery and Related Product Merchant Wholesalers	15	6	3	3	2	0	1	0	0
Grocery Stores	31	10	4	8	6	1	1	1	0
Nursery, Garden Center, and Farm Supply Stores	8	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Specialty Stores	8	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Support Activities for Crop Production	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warehouse Clubs and Supercenters	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Source: 2016 Census Bureau County Business Patterns

Table 2. Farm-to-School Programs

	Count	Percent
Total School Districts	6	-
With schools engaged in F2S activities	5	83.3
Not engaged in F2S, starting in 2014-15	1	16.7
Not engaged in F2S, but plan to in future	0	0.0
No plans for F2S	0	0.0
Total Schools	22	-
Schools Participating in F2S	20	90.9

Source: USDA 2015 Farm to School (F2S) Census

Table 3. USDA Local Food System Investments

Recipient	Year	Type	Amount
Wooster Local Foods Cooperative	2009	Grant	59,929
Wayne County Commissioners (Local Roots)	2011	Grant	99,500
Local Roots Market and Café	2014	Grant	98,280
Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center	2012	Grant	111,250
Ohio State University	2009	Grant	79,871
Total			448,830

Source: 2019 USDA Local Food Systems Compass¹

¹ See www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-sector/compass-map for more information.

Table 4. Principal Commodities (% of total sales)

Commodity	Year	Wayne	Ohio	U.S.
Cattle (Including Calves)	2007	14.3	8.0	20.6
	2012	13.9	6.9	19.4
	2017	11.1	7.3	19.9
Corn	2007	8.9	23.2	13.4
	2012	13.3	28.5	17.0
	2017	9.6	21.8	13.2
Other Field Crops (Including Hay)	2007	2.0	1.5	3.3
	2012	2.0	1.5	4.1
	2017	2.6	2.0	3.6
Grain	2007	16.4	47.5	26.0
	2012	22.7	58.0	33.2
	2017	17.5	48.7	27.5
Hogs	2007	4.5	8.1	6.1
	2012	5.8	7.8	5.7
	2017	6.1	10.8	6.8
Horticulture (Excluding cut trees, vegetable seeds, and transplants)	2007	2.2	6.3	5.6
	2012	1.6	4.3	3.7
	2017	2.2	5.2	4.2
Milk	2007	45.7	12.2	10.7
	2012	35.0	9.3	9.0
	2017	40.1	10.7	9.5
Poultry (Including Eggs)	2007	11.0	12.5	12.5
	2012	17.1	9.4	10.8
	2017	16.2	11.6	12.7
Soybeans	2007	5.9	21.2	6.8
	2012	8.1	26.9	9.8
	2017	6.8	25.0	10.4
Crop Totals	2007	23.4	58.1	48.3
	2012	27.2	65.6	53.8
	2017	24.8	58.1	49.8
Animal Totals (Including Products)	2007	76.6	41.9	51.7
	2012	72.8	34.4	46.2
	2017	75.2	41.9	50.2
Commodity Totals (\$1,000)	2007	247,258	7,070,212	297,220,491
	2012	381,000	10,064,085	394,644,481
	2017	327,890	9,341,225	388,522,695

Source: 2007, 2012, and 2017 Census of Agriculture.

*Dollar values are in non-inflation-adjusted dollars. **Includes only those products produced in quantities equal to or greater than 2 percent of total sales in Wayne County in at least one year.

Agriculturally, Wayne County is most notable for its milk production, which constituted 40.1 percent of total agricultural sales in 2017, with the next two largest commodity categories being grain and poultry/poultry products (Table 4). Unlike the nation-wide decreasing trend in the number of farm operations, the number of farms in Wayne County grew by nearly 14 percent between 2007 and 2017. The majority of this growth

was among farms selling less than \$100,000 in agricultural products per year. Moreover, while average net cash farm income among Wayne County farms grew slower than Ohio or the rest of the nation, average operating expenses among Wayne County farms also grew dramatically slower than average operating expenses among farms at large in either Ohio or nation-wide; 23.6 percent compared to 40 percent growth in expenses for Ohio and 46 percent nation-wide (Table 5).

Additionally, the County has over 100 business establishments positioned to provide value-added support to local farms (Table 1). Furthermore, 20 out of 22 schools in the County reported participating in farm-to-school activities in 2015. Finally, the County has received nearly \$500,000 in local food systems investments from the USDA.

Table 5. Farm Operation Characteristics

		Wayne	Ohio	U.S.	
Number of farms	2007	1,788	75,861	2,204,792	
	2012	1,928	75,462	2,109,303	
	2017	2,034	77,805	2,042,220	
	% Change 2007-2017	13.8	2.6	-7.4	
Average net cash farm income per farm (\$)	2007	34,540	27,423	33,827	
	2012	47,197	39,714	43,750	
	2017	36,744	29,674	43,053	
	% Change 2007-2017	6.4	8.2	27.3	
Average Operating expenses per farm (\$)	2007	109,541	71,973	109,359	
	2012	157,586	102,612	155,947	
	2017	135,366	100,745	159,821	
	% Change 2007-2017	23.6	40.0	46.1	
Farms by value of sales (%)	\$99,999 or less	2007	74.7	84.1	83.8
		2012	71.2	79.7	81.6
		2017	76.9	82.2	82.1
	\$100,000 to \$499,999	2007	19.8	11.8	10.9
		2012	20.4	14.2	11.0
		2017	14.9	12.3	10.7
	\$500,000 or more	2007	5.5	4.1	5.3
		2012	8.4	6.1	7.4
		2017	8.2	5.5	7.2

Source: 2007, 2012, and 2017 Census of Agriculture.

*Dollar values are in non-inflation-adjusted dollars.

Table 6. Principal Farm Operator Characteristics

	Wayne	Ohio	U.S.	
2007	Total Principal Operators (Count)	1,788	75,861	2,204,792
	Primary Occupation Farming (%)	52.1	43.1	45.1
	Female Principal Operators (%)	8.6	12.0	13.9
	Avg. age of principal operator (years)	52.3	55.7	57.1
2012	Total Principal Operators (Count)	1,928	75,462	2,109,303
	Primary Occupation Farming (%)	52.0	43.9	47.8
	Female Principal Operators (%)	7.2	11.5	13.7
	Avg. age of principal operator (years)	51.6	56.8	58.3
2017*	Total Primary Producers (Count)	NA	77,805	2,042,220
	Primary Occupation Farming (%)	NA	42.5	47.2
	Female Primary Producers (%)	NA	20.7	23.9
	Avg. age of primary producers (years)	NA	57.7	59.4

Source: 2007, 2012, and 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture

*Due to a terminology change for the 2017 Census, “principal operator” was replaced with the analogous term “Primary Producer.” However, data on primary producer characteristics is not yet available at the county level.

Notably, the average age of principal farm operators in Wayne County was 51.6, significantly lower than that of Ohio (56.8) or the rest of the nation (58.3) in 2012 (data for 2017 is not yet available at the county-level). Furthermore, a higher percentage of principal farm operators in Wayne County, compared to Ohio or the U.S. at large, report farming as their primary occupation (Table 6). However, the percentage of female principal farm operators remained below that both the state and the nation in 2007 and 2012.

Wayne County is a comparatively dense rural county, with an average of approximately 208 people per square mile (Average Ohio density is 282 people per square mile). However, nearly a quarter (23 percent) of Wayne County’s population is located within Wooster City. Thus, the average density of the County outside of Wooster is 165 people per square mile.

Both the County as a whole and Wooster City are predominantly Caucasian (96.5 and 92.8 percent respectively). The next most prominent racial groups, according to the 2016 American Community Survey, are Black/African American (2.3 percent of the population county-wide and 4.7 percent of the Wooster population) and Asian (1.2 percent of the population county-wide and 3.3 percent of the Wooster population).

The poverty rate in the County as a whole was lower than that of either Wooster City, the State of Ohio, or the nation as a whole across demographic groups. The exception to this trend was poverty among the Hispanic/Latino population, which comprised 1.8 percent of the county population and 2.2 percent of the population of Wooster in 2016.

Table 7. Population, Employment, Poverty, and Education

	Wayne	Wooster City	Ohio	U.S.	
Population (#)	115,747	26,773	11,586,941	318,558,162	
Unemployment (%)	4.3	4.5	7.2	7.4	
Poverty*	Total Pop.	12.7	19.3	15.4	
	Under 18 years	18.5	31.7	22.1	21.2
	Hispanic/Latino	28.7	7.7	27.1	23.4
	White	12.0	19.4	11.9	10.6
Edu.	High school+ (%)	85.4	90.1	89.5	87
	Bachelor's + (%)	21.5	28.7	26.7	30.3

Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

*Poverty Rate indicates the percent of people in each group reporting below poverty income in the previous 12 months.