

Cook County 2012 Ag Census Findings*

- 8,499 acres are farmed on 127 farms in Cook County.
- 2,613 acres are irrigated on 26 farms.
- 56 farmers have farming as their principal occupation with 71 farming part-time.
- 75% of principal operators are male, 25% are female.
- 79% of the county's annual agricultural sales comes from floriculture crops, including those grown in nurseries and greenhouses.
- 377 acres produce vegetables with 80 additional acres producing sweet corn and 71 acres producing pumpkins.
- 5 major "traditional" crops produced in the county include Corn, Soybeans, Oats, Silage, and Hay.
- Largest inventory of livestock reported in Cook County are horses and colonies of bees, with alpacas, beef cattle, chicken, goats, sheep, and rabbits also featured.

**These are the statistics from farmers that choose to return the survey in 2012. Some farmers decline to respond.*

Agriculture in Illinois

- Nearly 97% of Illinois farms are family farms.
- Number of farms in Illinois in 1910 - 253,000 (average farm acreage was 147 acres).
- Number of farms in Illinois in 2012 - 75,087 (average farm acreage was 418 acres).
- An acre is about the size of a football field.
- Farmers represent less than 2% of our workforce.
- The average age of a farmer is 58 years old.
- One in four jobs in Illinois depends on Illinois Agriculture.

Learn More at...

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localfarmproducts.org

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