

ALACHUA COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

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Highlights

Alachua County is the #1 ranked county in Florida in pecan acreage and tobacco production. It is #2 in goat inventory and #5 in horses and ponies. It is #4 in forage and grains (USDA, 2012 Census of Agriculture). Farm, forestry, and fisheries production generated industry output of \$161.9 million, and those sectors accounted for 4,439 direct jobs in 2015 (Hodges et al.).

Overall Economy

Indicator	2015 Level	2010-15 Change	Indicator	2015 Level	2010-15 Change
Population ¹	259,402	+5%	Gross Regional Product ⁴	\$11.9 billion	+15%
Total Employment ²	166,929	+8%	Median Household Income ¹	\$47,023	+16%
Employer Establishments ¹	6,068	+5%	Unemployment Rate ³	4.5%	-3.5%
Nonemployer Businesses ¹	18,043	+17%	Persons in Poverty ¹	21.1%	-4.2%

¹U.S. Census Bureau. ²U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. ³U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ⁴Implan Group, LLC.

Alachua County's population grew 5%, and economic indicators improved between 2010 and 2015. Total employment and the number of nonemployer and employer establishments increased. Median household income climbed to \$47,023 in 2015, while the unemployment rate fell to 4.5% and the poverty rate declined to 21.1%. Although Alachua County's unemployment rate is below the Florida average, its poverty rate is above the state average.

Farm Overview

Indicator	2012 Level	2007-12 Change	Indicator	2012 or 2015 Level	5-Year Change
Number of Farms ¹	1,662	+8%	Cash Receipts from Marketings (2015) ²	\$102,519,000	+10%
Farmland Acres ¹	187,985	+9%	Crop Receipts (2015) ²	\$65,877,000	-2%
Median Size of Farm ¹	22 acres	+5%	Livestock Receipts (2015) ²	\$36,642,000	+41%
Farms, ≥ 1000 Acres ¹	33 (2%)	-23%	Farm Earnings (2015) ²	\$32,217,000	+104%
Farms, < 10 Acres ¹	237	-4%	Average Net Cash Farm Income (2012) ¹	\$7,324	-26%
Farms, < \$250K Sales ¹	1,609	+8%	Primary Occupation Farming (2012) ¹	703 (42%)	+15%

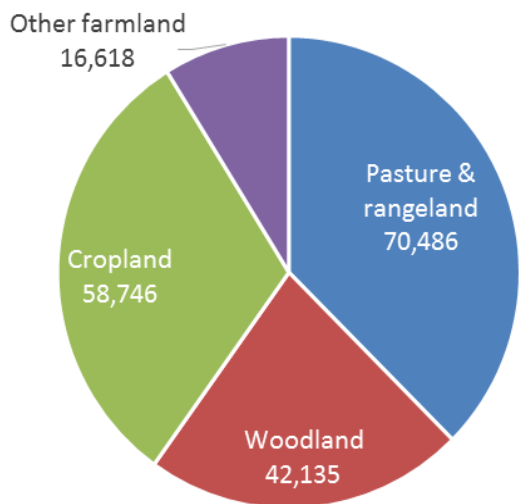
¹USDA Census of Agriculture. ²U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

In 2012 the USDA Census of Agriculture counted 1,662 farms and 187,985 acres of farmland in Alachua County. Median farm size was 22 acres. The number of farms, acres of farmland, and median size of farms all increased from the 2007 Census. Only 2% of farms had more than 1,000 acres, and a large majority of farms (97%) had annual sales of less than \$250,000. The percentage of farms in the smallest and largest acreage categories both decreased. Average net cash farm income was \$7,324, and farming was the primary occupation for 42% of principal farm operators. Total farm receipts were \$102.5 million, and total farm earnings were \$32.2 million in 2015. Farm receipts and farm earnings increased between 2010 and 2015.

Note: All 5-year changes are shown as percent change from starting point, except for unemployment rate and persons in poverty, which are calculated as the absolute difference in percentage.

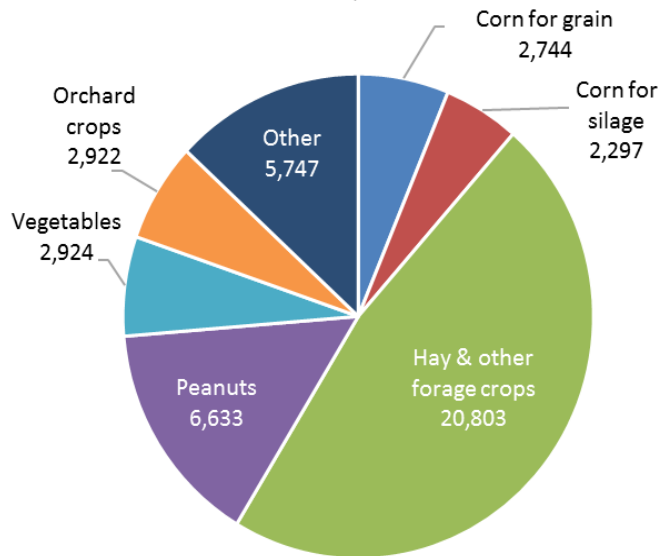
Farmland by Land Use

Acres, 2012



Harvested Cropland by Crop

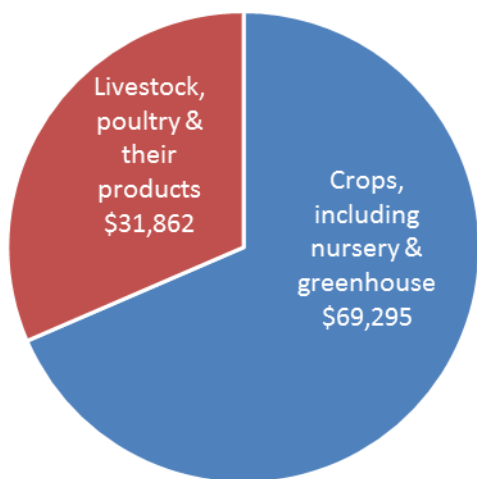
Acres, 2012



The largest portion of farmland in Alachua County is classified as pasture or rangeland, followed by cropland, then woodland. Farm woodland includes natural or planted woodlots and timber tracts associated with a farm, as well as pastured woodland, but does not include non-farm commercial timberland. Of the cropland harvested in 2012, hay and other forage crops accounted for the largest acreage (20,803 acres), followed by peanuts (6,633 acres), then corn for grain and silage (5,041 acres). In 2012, crops accounted for about two-thirds of the value of agricultural products sold. The fruit, tree nut, and berry category had the highest value among crops, followed closely by the nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod category.

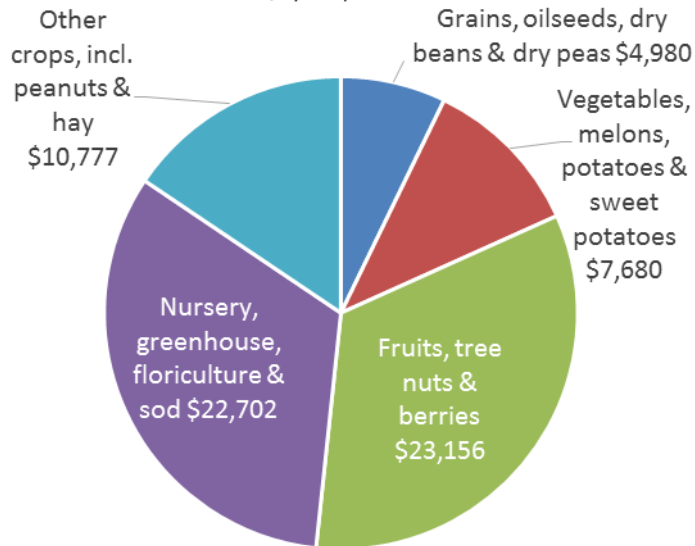
Farm Value of Ag Products Sold

\$1,000; 2012



Farm Value of Selected Crops Sold

\$1,000; 2012



Data source: USDA, 2012 Census of Agriculture. Some county data are withheld (nondisclosed).

Agricultural Land Use Trends, Acres

Agricultural Classification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5-Yr Change
Timberland	206,697	207,060	207,494	206,206	205,841	206,647	0%
Grazing Land	100,781	101,381	101,097	100,799	101,012	100,867	0%
Orchards or Groves	3,926	4,212	4,260	4,296	4,446	4,501	+15%
Cropland	26,317	25,859	25,540	25,250	25,215	25,752	-2%
Ornamentals	1,755	1,905	1,691	1,722	1,761	1,727	-2%
Poultry, Bees, or Tropical Fish	83	81	97	102	84	84	+1%
Dairies or Feedlots	4,358	4,590	4,714	4,738	4,869	4,777	+10%
Other	35	42	42	42	45	45	+29%
Total	343,952	345,131	344,934	343,154	343,274	344,400	0%

Data source: Florida Department of Revenue

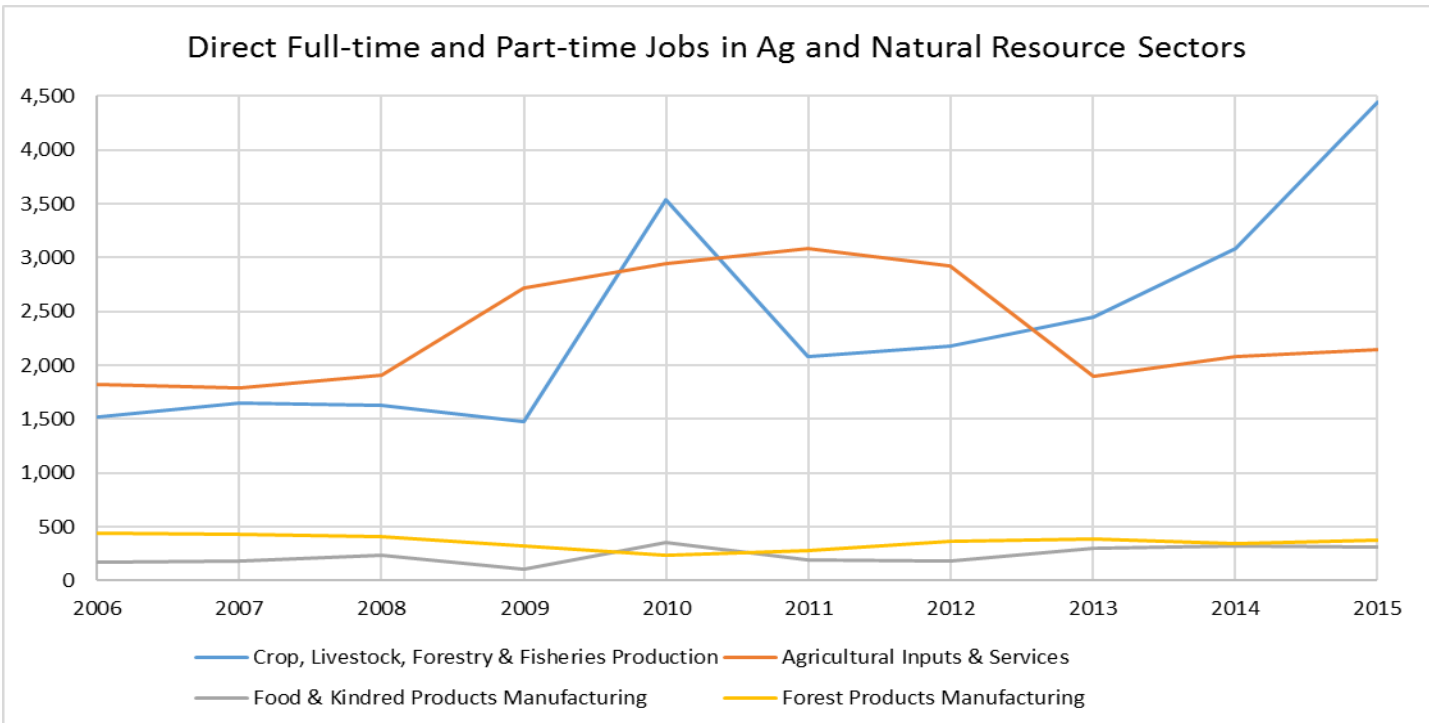
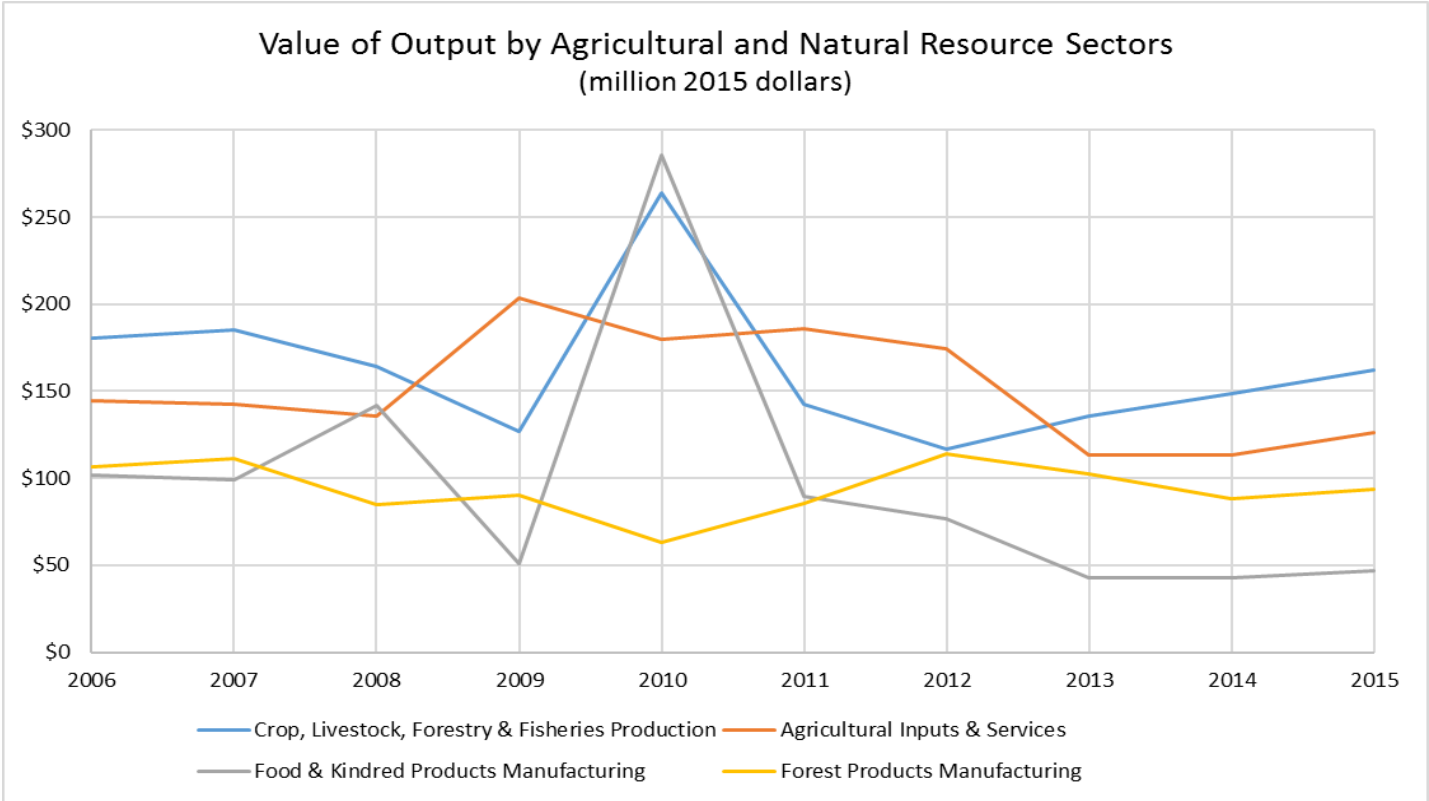
The county property appraiser tracks land-use classifications annually. More than 200,000 acres in Alachua County are in timberland, much of which is not counted as farmland by the Census of Agriculture. About 100,000 acres are classified as grazing land. Acreage in timberland and grazing land remained about the same during the 2010-2015 period. Among other agricultural land uses, the most noticeable trends were an increase in orchards and groves and an increase in dairies or feedlots.

Economic Contribution of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Food Industries, 2015

Sector	Direct Output (\$ million)	Value Added Impacts (\$ million)	Direct Jobs	Total Job Impacts
Fruit & tree nut farming	\$28.9	\$36.5	762	1,053
Greenhouse, nursery, & floriculture	\$25.7	\$26.6	294	483
Beef cattle ranching & farming	\$20.9	\$17.5	314	550
Other crop farming	\$18.9	\$23.1	679	907
Support activities for ag & forestry	\$13.6	\$9.6	550	677
Commercial fishing	\$13.3	\$28.6	1,351	1,608
Dairy cattle & milk production	\$11.1	\$11.6	61	168
Vegetable & melon farming	\$7.5	\$6.9	65	101
Commercial logging	\$6.8	\$3.8	147	172
Forestry, forest products, and timber production	\$6.0	\$9.1	114	321
Other animal production	\$4.7	\$3.5	72	92
Grain, tobacco, & cotton farming	\$4.3	\$5.9	29	104
Total Farm, Forestry, & Fisheries Production	\$161.7	\$182.7	4,438	6,236
Food & kindred products distribution	\$1,113.6	\$870.3	17,190	20,334
Mining	\$153.8	\$9.8	2,273	2,113
Agricultural inputs & services	\$126.2	\$91.6	2,148	2,502
Forest products manufacturing	\$93.4	\$52.5	374	698
Food & kindred products manufacturing	\$46.6	\$21.9	312	412
Nature-based recreation	\$6.1	\$3.2	131	146
Total Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Food	\$1,701.4	\$1,232.0	26,866	32,441

Data source: Hodges, A.W., M. Rahmani, & C.D. Court. 2017. Economic Contributions of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Food Industries in Florida in 2015.

The top three primary production sectors by economic output are fruit and tree nut farming; greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production; and beef cattle ranching. Total crop, livestock, forestry, and fisheries production output was valued at \$161.7 million with value-added impacts of \$182.7 million in 2015. These sectors accounted for 4,438 direct jobs and 6,236 total job impacts. The total economic contribution of agriculture, natural resources, and food industries in Alachua County amounted to \$1.2 billion in value added and 32,441 total job impacts. The number of jobs in crop, livestock, forestry, and fisheries production has increased substantially over the past 10 years. The trends in value of output have been relatively flat or declining, although a spike in logging and forest products occurred in 2010.



Data source: Hodges, A.W., M. Rahmani, & C.D. Court. 2017. Economic Contributions of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Food Industries in Florida in 2015.