

## NASSAU COUNTY'S AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMY

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### Highlights

Nassau County has more than 200,000 acres of timberland and about 40,000 acres of farmland (Florida DOR). Farm, forestry, and fisheries production generated industry output of \$60 million, and those sectors accounted for 835 direct jobs in 2015. Forest products manufacturing has been increasing, generating output of \$635 million and accounting for 1,019 direct jobs in 2015 (Hodges et al.).

### Overall Economy

		5-Yr Change			5-Yr Change
Population (2015) <sup>1</sup>	78,470	+7%	Gross Regional Product (2015) <sup>4</sup>	\$2.1 billion	+11%
Total Employment (2015) <sup>2</sup>	31,099	+16%	Median Household Income (2015) <sup>1</sup>	\$55,707	-3%
Employer Establishments (2015) <sup>1</sup>	1,742	+9%	Unemployment Rate (2015) <sup>3</sup>	5.0%	-5.6%
Nonemployer Businesses (2015) <sup>1</sup>	5,798	+15%	Persons in Poverty (2015) <sup>1</sup>	10.8%	-0.5%

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

Nassau County's population is increasing steadily, reaching more than 78,000 people in 2015. The number of nonemployer and employer establishments increased over the past five years. Total employment has increased steadily, and the unemployment rate has fallen each year, down to 5.0% in 2015. Median household income declined slightly to \$55,707 in 2015. The poverty rate increased from 2010 to 2013, but has declined since then. Nassau County's median household income is above the Florida average, and its unemployment and poverty rates are below the state average.

### Farm Overview

		5-Yr Change			5-Yr Change
Number of Farms (2012) <sup>1</sup>	444	-1%	Cash Receipts from Marketings (2015) <sup>2</sup>	\$9.4 million	+32%
Farmland Acres (2012) <sup>1</sup>	39,335	+26%	Crop Receipts (2015) <sup>2</sup>	\$1.2 million	+14%
Median Size of Farm (2012) <sup>1</sup>	20 acres	0%	Livestock Receipts (2015) <sup>2</sup>	\$8.2 million	+35%
Farms, ≥ 1000 Acres (2012) <sup>1</sup>	6 (1%)	+200%	Farm Earnings (2015) <sup>2</sup>	\$3.7 million	+241%
Farms, < 10 Acres (2012) <sup>1</sup>	81(18%)	-13%	Average Net Cash Farm Income (2012) <sup>1</sup>	-\$1,422	+55%
Farms, < \$250K Sales (2012) <sup>1</sup>	n/a	n/a	Primary Occupation Farming (2012) <sup>1</sup>	200 (45%)	+16%

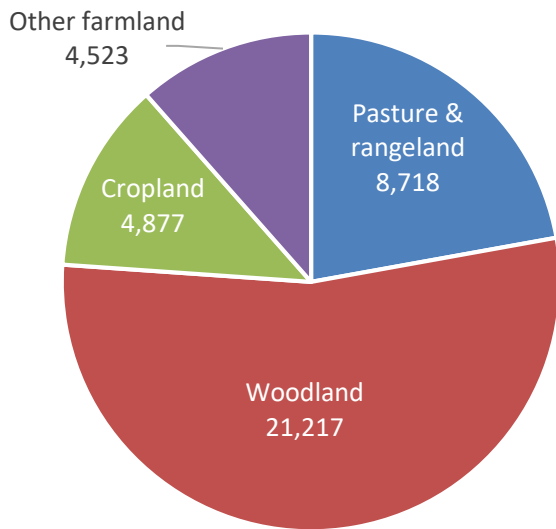
<sup>1</sup>USDA Census of Agriculture. <sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

In 2012 the USDA Census of Agriculture counted 444 farms and 39,335 acres of farmland in Nassau County. Median farm size was 20 acres. Although the number of farms declined slightly, farmland acreage increased from the 2007 Census. Only 1% of farms were larger than 1,000 acres, and 18% were smaller than 10 acres. Total farm receipts in 2015 were \$9.4 million with \$8.2 million from livestock and \$1.2 million from crops. Farm proprietors' and farm labor income totaled \$3.7 million. Although 45% of farms reported farming as their primary occupation, average net cash farm income of operations was negative in 2012. Cash receipts, farm earnings, and average net income all trended upward over the five-year (2007-2012) interval.

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.

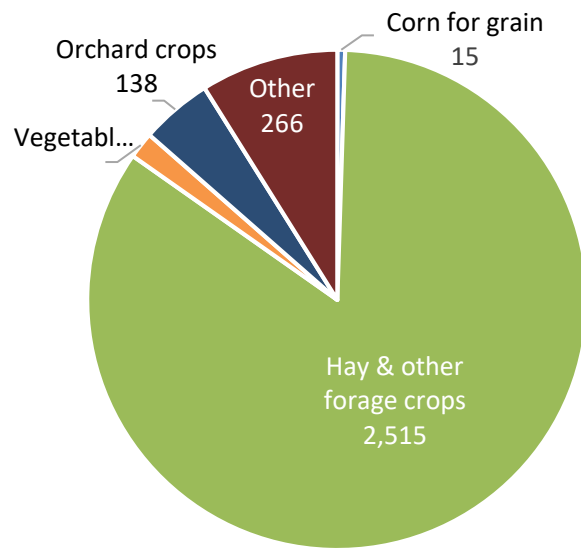
### Farmland by Land Use

Acres, 2012



### Harvested Cropland by Crop

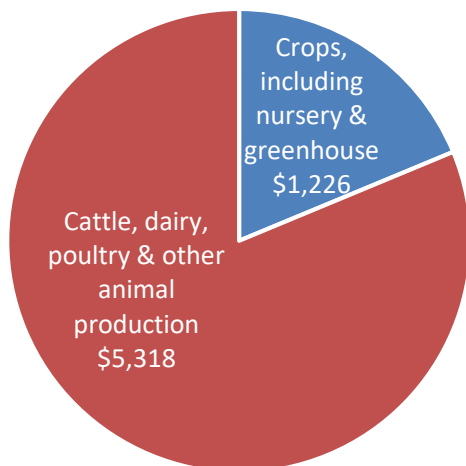
Acres, 2012



The largest portion of farmland in Nassau County is woodland (21,217 acres), which includes natural or planted woodlots and timber tracts associated with a farm (USDA). It may include pastured woodland, but does not include non-farm commercial timberland. The USDA counted 8,718 acres of pasture or rangeland and 4,877 acres of cropland in the 2012 census. Of the cropland harvested in 2012, hay and other forage crops accounted for the largest acreage (2,515 acres). Cattle, dairy, poultry, and other animal production accounted for more than 80% of the total farm value of agricultural products sold in 2012. Among crops, the fruit, tree nut, and berry category had the highest value, followed by the nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod category.

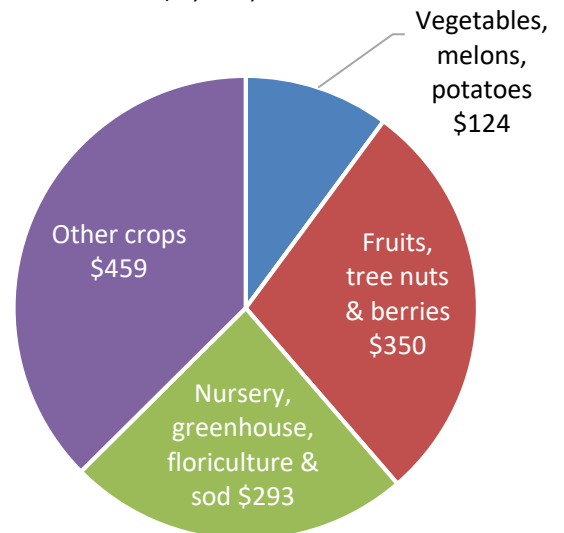
### Farm Value of Ag Products Sold

\$1,000; 2012



### Farm Value of Selected Crops Sold

\$1,000; 2012



## Agricultural Land Use Trends, Acres

Agricultural Classification	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5-Yr Change
Timberland	228,928	229,911	232,064	236,558	240,205	240,073	+5%
Grazing Land	5,253	5,298	5,641	6,490	6,384	7,061	+34%
Orchards or Groves	0	0	15	15	17	17	+∞
Cropland	951	951	961	1,098	959	966	+2%
Ornamentals	11	0	0	28	30	20	+82%
Poultry, Bees, or Tropical Fish	38	38	38	28	28	28	-26%
Dairies or Feedlots	108	108	108	105	105	5	-95%
Improved Agricultural	40,464	39,883	39,668	34,853	32,710	32,035	-21%
Total	275,754	276,190	278,496	279,175	280,438	280,205	+2%

Data source: Florida Department of Revenue

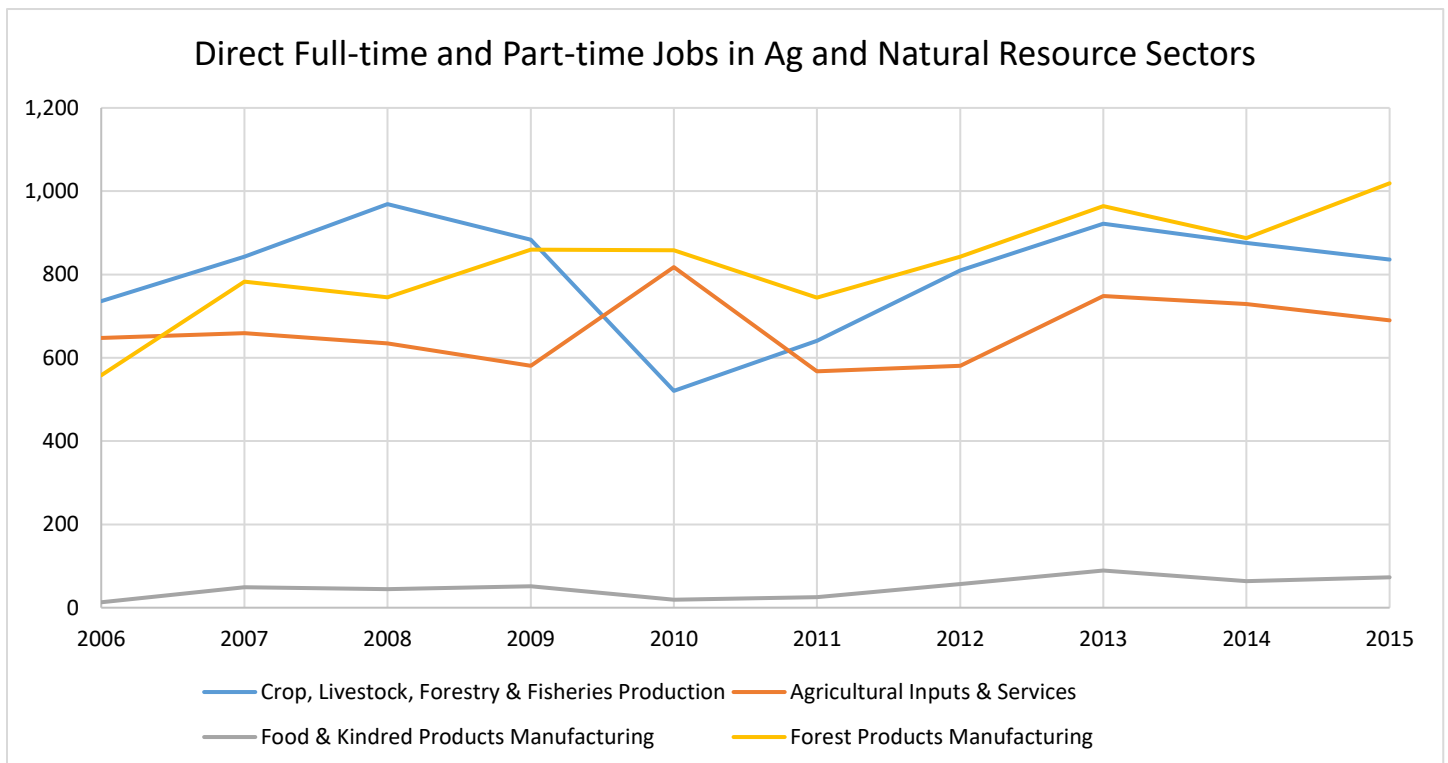
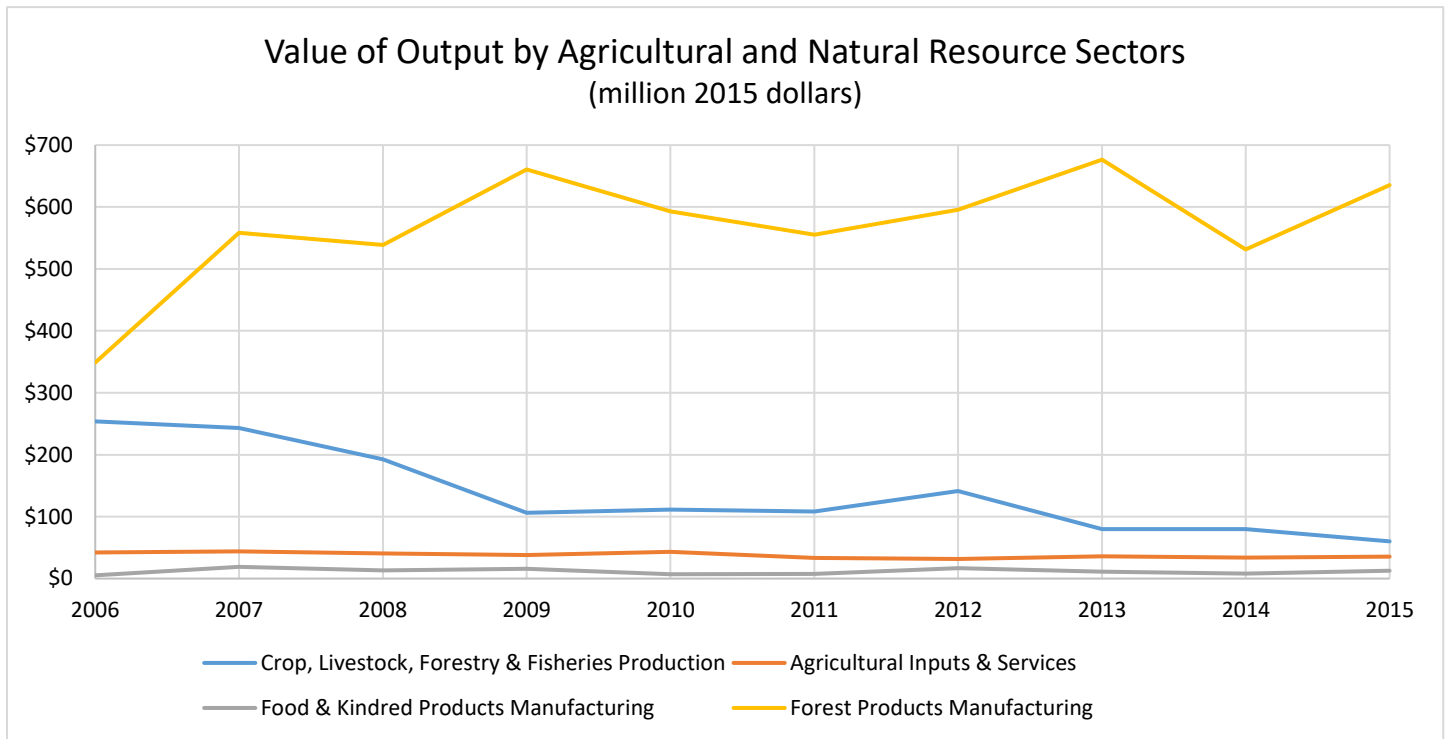
The county property appraiser tracks land-use classifications annually. More than 200,000 acres in Nassau County are in commercial timberland, which increased 5% between 2010 and 2015. Much of the commercial timberland may not be counted as farmland by the USDA. Grazing land increased by 34% in Nassau County between 2010 and 2015. Land classified as improved agricultural; dairies or feedlots; and poultry, bees, or fish declined over the 2010-2015 period.

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

Sector	Direct Output (\$ million)	Value Added Impacts (\$ million)	% of GRP	Direct Jobs	Total Job Impacts
Commercial logging	\$24.0	\$20.6	1.0%	221	261
Support activities for ag & forestry	\$10.5	\$17.6	0.9%	79	171
Forestry, forest products, and timber production	\$8.1	\$16.1	0.8%	36	124
Beef cattle ranching & farming	\$7.0	\$4.7	0.2%	241	350
Dairy cattle & milk production	\$5.2	\$4.2	0.2%	44	80
Fruit farming	\$2.1	\$1.7	0.1%	85	89
Poultry & egg production	\$0.7	\$0.2	0.0%	3	5
Other crop farming	\$0.7	\$0.5	0.0%	56	61
Commercial fishing	\$0.6	\$1.0	0.0%	47	54
Other animal production	\$0.4	\$0.2	0.0%	15	13
Greenhouse, nursery, & floriculture	\$0.3	\$0.2	0.0%	4	4
Tobacco farming	\$0.2	\$0.2	0.0%	3	5
Vegetable & melon farming	\$0.1	\$0.1	0.0%	2	2
<b>Total Farm, Forestry, &amp; Fisheries Production</b>	<b>\$60.0</b>	<b>\$67.2</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>1,221</b>
Forest products manufacturing	\$635.3	\$575.7	28.7%	1,019	6,424
Food & kindred products distribution	\$252.3	\$172.1	8.9%	3,778	4,197
Agricultural inputs & services	\$35.5	\$27.1	1.4%	690	810
Food & kindred products manufacturing	\$12.7	\$4.6	0.2%	73	88
Nature-based recreation/golf courses	\$11.3	\$12.3	0.6%	180	268
Mining	\$1.4	\$1.3	0.1%	8	20
<b>Total Agriculture, Natural Resources, &amp; Food</b>	<b>\$1,008.5</b>	<b>\$860.4</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>6,583</b>	<b>13,027</b>

Data source: Hodges, A.W., M. Rahmani, & C.D. Court. 2017. Economic Contributions of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Food Industries in Florida in 2015. Note: the sum of each sector in the table may not match totals exactly because of rounding.

Commercial logging, forestry, and timber production represent the largest primary production sector, generating \$32 million in direct output, \$37 million in value-added impacts, 257 direct jobs, and 385 total jobs in 2015. Beef cattle ranching generated \$7 million in direct output and 350 total jobs. Forest products manufacturing generated \$635 million in direct output and 6,424 total jobs. In total, agriculture, food, and natural resource industries generated \$1.0 billion in direct output, \$860 million in value-added impacts, 6,583 direct jobs, and 13,027 total jobs. Since 2006, the combined crop, livestock, forestry, & fisheries production sector has declined, while forest products manufacturing has increased.



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