

Snapshot of Gaston County's Local Food System

Production	County	North Carolina
Farms by size (by gross sales)*	Small family farms (<\$250k) 96% Large family farms (\$250k-\$499k) 0% Very large family farms (\$500k+) 1% Nonfamily farms 2%	Small family farms (<\$250k) 85% Large family farms (\$250k-\$499k) 3% Very large family farms (\$500k+) 8% Nonfamily farms 4%
Proportion of principal farmers younger than 35	2.3%	4.6%
Number of farms	520 (1.0% of NC farms)	50,218
Proportion of farms growing fruit & vegetables	6.0%	7%
Change in farmland acres 2007-2012	11.6%	-0.7%
Proportion of farms reporting positive net income	30.2%	43.2%
Proportion of farms with direct sales	12.1%	8.9%
Retail Infrastructure	County	North Carolina
Grocery stores/1,000 pop	0.16	0.19
Full service restaurants/1,000 pop	0.57	0.75
SNAP-authorized stores	235 (3% of SNAP-auth. stores in NC)	8,805
Farmers markets	4 (2% of NC farmers markets)	230
Consumption, Access, and Health	County	North Carolina
Proportion of population with inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption	81.8%	78.4%
Rates of diabetes and obesity	Diabetes (9%); Obesity (26.2%)	Diabetes (9.1%); Obesity (27.8%)
Proportion of children eligible for free/reduced price lunch	60%	56%
Waste Management	County	North Carolina
Estimated annual tons of residential food waste, commercial food waste (ICI), and municipal solid food waste (MSW)	Residential: 14437 (2.1% of NC total) ICI: 12207 (2.1% of NC total) MSW: 23848 (2.1% of NC total)	Residential: 673,362 ICI: 569,343 MSW: 1,112,308
Equity	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill**	North Carolina
Wages throughout the food system sectors	<u>Average annual wages:</u> farmworkers and laborers (\$22,590); animal slaughter and processing (\$23,140); food prep/service (\$20,830)	<u>Average annual wages:</u> farmworkers and laborers (\$20,320); animal slaughter and processing (\$23,750); food prep/service (\$20,130)

*"Farms by size" is 2007 Census of agriculture data. Data for 2012 will not be released until December 2014. All other production data uses 2012 Census data.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Metropolitan Region defined as: Anson, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union counties in NC, and York County in SC.

For more information on this county's agricultural statistics, visit its [2012 Census of Agriculture profile](#)

Copyright© 2013 ASAP (Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project)