

Hillsborough County Agriculture Sales Continue to Increase: 2005 Estimates

Hillsborough County Economic Development Department
Agriculture Industry Development Program

The Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service and Hillsborough County Agriculture Industry Development Program have released the agriculture sales and acreage estimates for 2005.

The 2005 sales of Hillsborough County agriculture products are estimated to be \$724,062,800, an increase of 9% from 2004. The total land area devoted to agriculture is estimated to be 253,229 acres.

Hillsborough County Agricultural Commodities - 2005

Commodity	Annual Sales	Acreage
Aquaculture	\$40,143,000	1,440
Beef Cattle/Pasture	\$16,072,576	96,962
Bees/Honey	\$595,000	N/A
Blueberries	\$3,000,000	300
Citrus	\$17,293,283	18,445
Dairy	\$9,736,095	1,750
Forestry	\$1,100,000	97,500
Goats	\$24,100	362
Hay	\$1,264,990	2,174
Ornamental Plants	\$220,300,000	3,841
Poultry	\$9,925,000	31
Sod	\$17,008,756	5,503
Strawberries	\$232,500,000	8,200
Vegetables	\$105,000,000	13,000
Miscellaneous	\$50,100,000	3,721
Total	\$724,062,800	253,229

The crop with the highest sales in Hillsborough County is strawberries (\$232,500,000), representing 32% of the total county agricultural sales value. Ornamental plants rank second (\$220,300,000) with 30% of the county's agricultural sales. Vegetable production is third (\$105,000,000), accounting for 14% of annual

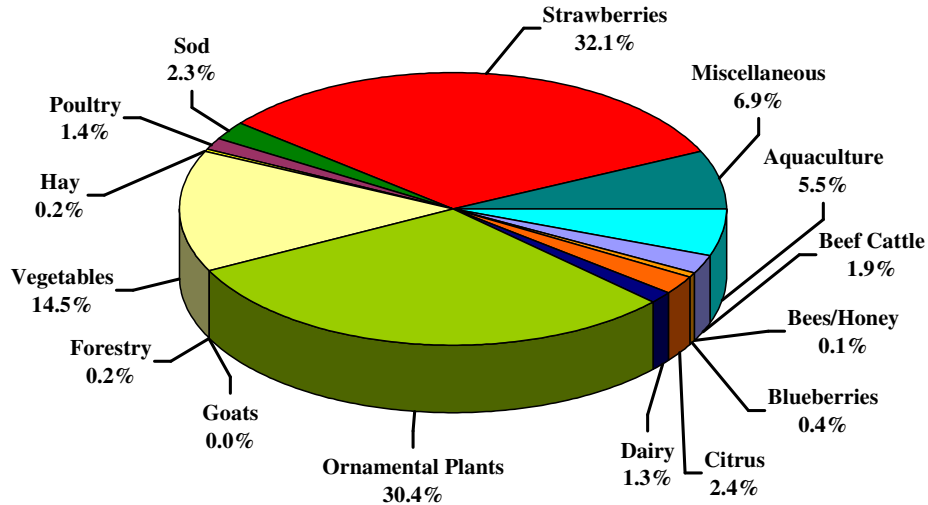
sales. Aquaculture is fourth (\$40,143,000) with almost 6% of annual sales. These four commodities together generate 83% of the agricultural sales in the county, utilizing only 10% of the acreage.

Hillsborough County has provided these estimates for several years, which indicate that although the amount of farmland is decreasing, the value of crops produced has increased. For instance, since 1997, the amount of farmland has decreased 15 percent, while the value of production has increased 46 percent. Most of the loss in farmland during this period has come from low-value-per-acre production activities – forestry and beef cattle/pasture – while gains were made in high-value-per-acre commodities – ornamental plants, strawberries, aquaculture, sod, blueberries and vegetable production. The end result is that the average sales per acre have increased since 1997. While these figures are impressive, even more significant to Hillsborough County is the total economic impact that agricultural sales generate.

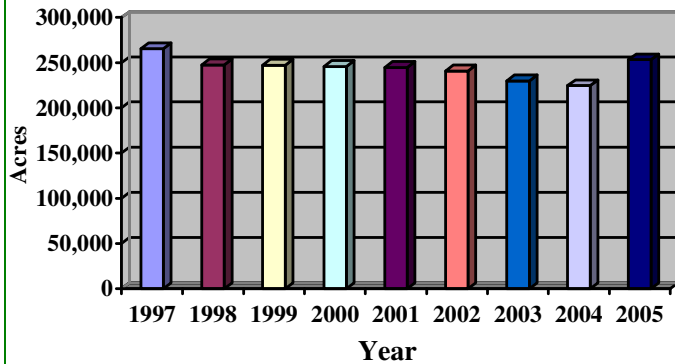
Local agriculture generates additional local economic impact by supporting related businesses such as banking, real estate, legal services, transportation, packaging, equipment, seed, agricultural suppliers and services, and marketing firms. According to a 2005 study completed on behalf of the Hillsborough County Agriculture Industry Development Program, the total economic impact of agricultural production and the businesses that support the industry is \$1.4 billion, providing 20,100 jobs with \$293 million in annual earnings.

Although often overlooked, these estimates show that agriculture is a viable industry in Hillsborough County and that agriculture remains a very important component of the local economy and community.

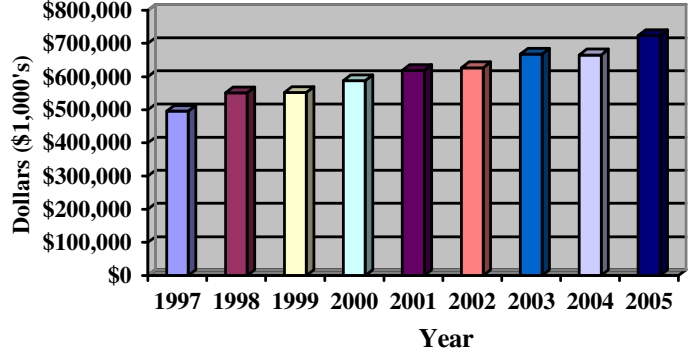
Percentage of Total Value By Commodity



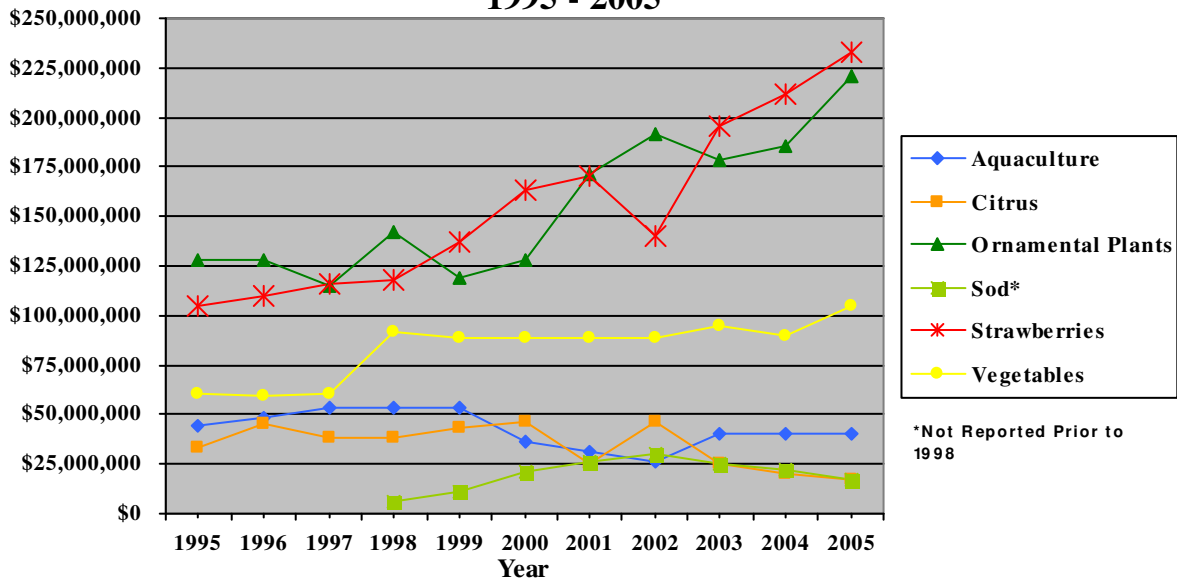
Agriculture Production Acreage



Value of Products Sold



Annual Sales - Top 6 Agriculture Commodities 1995 - 2005



This is a publication of the Hillsborough County Economic Development Department
Agriculture Industry Development Program
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