

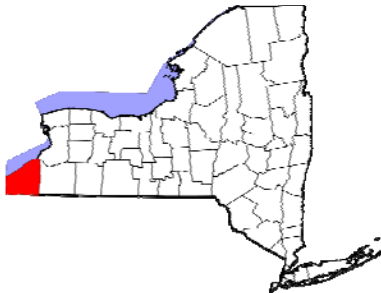
## General Information about Agriculture in Chautauqua County:

Chautauqua County is in the far western corner of New York. It is bounded on the north by Lake Erie and on the west and south by the State of Pennsylvania.

Chautauqua County has a total land area of 680,000 acres, or about 1,062 square miles.

Chautauqua County is one of the more important agricultural counties in New York State. The county has a diverse farm production sector, a strong farm input sector and a significant food processing and value-added output economy. While farm production is dominated by dairy and grape production, the county also has significant sales of cattle, vegetables, fruits, timber, and maple products.

Many elements contribute to Chautauqua County's agricultural industry. The county has diverse natural resources in its soils, climates, water ecology, and landscapes. The success of the agricultural industry in Chautauqua County is the product of many far thinking, progressive farmers. Their diversity in management styles, farm sizes, and enterprises contributes to the stability of the agricultural industry.



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension

# Chautauqua County Farm FACTS



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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY  
*Providing Equal Program and Employment Opportunities*

# Chautauqua County, New York Agricultural Facts

(from the 2007 Census of Agriculture)

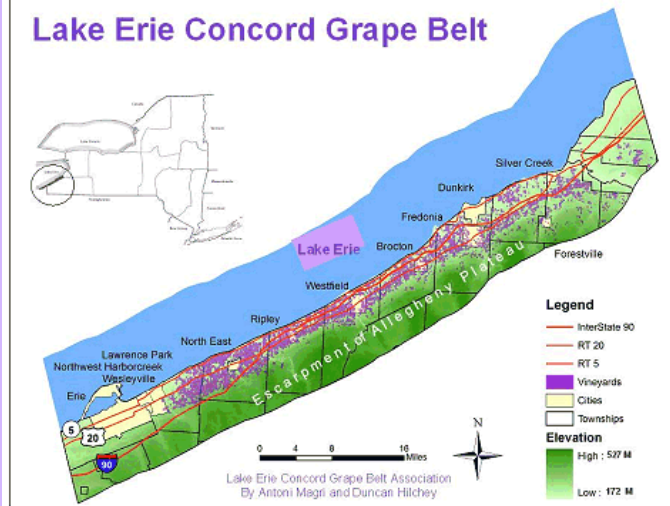
- There are 235,858 acres in farms, 35% of the county's total acreage.
- The average size of a farm is 142 acres.
- There are 1,648 farms.
- Livestock sales account for \$80,768,000 or 58% of the total agricultural sales.
- Crop sales account for \$57,810,000 or 42%.
- The average sales per farm is \$83,581.
- For every dollar of income created by the agricultural industry, \$2.29 is generated in the community. The total of this is \$317,436,620.
- There are 887 principal operators of farms.

Top 5 Sales Items	Value of Sales	State Rank
	\$	
Milk and Other Dairy Products	\$69,704,000	12
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	\$41,001,000	3
Cattle and Calves	\$9,674,000	14
Vegetables, melons, and potatoes	\$4,895,000	18
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	\$2,940	25

## Chautauqua County is:

- #1 in the State for number of farms.
- #6 in the State for number of dairy farms.
- #13 in the State for number of milk cows.
- #10 in the State for market value of agricultural products sold.

## Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt



### A Closer Look at the Grape Industry:

The 22,276 acres of grapes grown on the Lake Erie Plain make Chautauqua County the leading grape producing county in the state. Most of the grapes raised here are of Concord variety, which are native to America. Other varieties include Niagara, Catawba, Delaware, Elvira, Seyval Blanc, and Chardonnay.

Concord grapes require a 180-day frost-free growing season and a 40-day rest period brought on by freezing weather. These two requirements eliminate most of the geographical regions of the U.S.

- Each year, about 800 growers produce 150,000 tons or more of grapes.
- Value added products like juices, jellies, and dozens of other products, are processed locally and sold across the U.S. and exported around the world.
- The local wine industry is undergoing rapid expansion, creating opportunities for increased tourism in Chautauqua County.
- It is estimated that the Grape industry in the Lake Erie Grape Belt region supports about 2,000 jobs, contributes upwards of \$300 million in economic impact, and supports a fruit and vegetable processing industry that employs over 5,000 jobs.

### A Closer Look at the Dairy Industry:

Chautauqua County dairy farmers each year produce enough milk to meet the dairy needs of nearly 700,000 people. While much of New York's excess milk production moves east to meet the demands of New York City, Boston, and other east coast cities, more than two-thirds of Chautauqua County's milk moves westward to processing plants in Erie, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and other facilities. Milk is one of Chautauqua County's export products, bringing millions of dollars in the county's economy.

Dairy farmers are paid a dollar amount per hundred pounds of milk, or per hundredweight (\$/cwt.). The milk price changes fairly rapidly from month to month, and there is a cyclical nature from year to year. As you can see from the chart below, there is a dip in price about every three years. Input prices also vary each year, changing the dairy farmers' profit margins each year.

In New York State, and in Chautauqua County, the dairy industry is showing fewer dairy farms, fewer milk cows, more milk produced per cow, more milk produced per farm and more total milk production. Increased productivity has more than offset declines in farm numbers.

- In 2007, the average per cow income (with appreciation) was \$1,559.
- The cost of producing milk is about \$16.00 per hundredweight.

