

**By: Allen McReynolds
County Director**



Agriculture & Natural Resources.....\$172,586,670

The agriculture and natural resources industry continues to be the driving force for the Wayne County economy. Revenue from agriculture and natural resources contributed about \$172,586,670 in 2008/2009. Several thousand residents' incomes were influenced by some type agriculture and natural resources commodity.

TOP AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMODITIES

Poultry.....\$135,585,717

The more than 236 poultry farmers (Broilers & Eggs) contributed more than \$135,585,717 to the economy of Wayne County in 2008/2009. Poultry farmers continue to face environmental regulations both federal and state that could hinder this prosperity. Most of these issues relate to waste management of poultry by-products. The average poultry farmer now has an estimated investment of \$ 1,260,000 plus.

Forestry.....\$33,014,195

Wayne County Forestry valued at \$33,014,195 in 2008/2009. Standing value (landowner money) was \$ 19,510,961. Logging and transportation sector value estimate \$13,503,234. Severance tax collections totaling \$94,951 was documented. A total of 20% (\$18,990) was returned to Wayne County. A total of 80% (\$75,961) went to the Forest Resource Development Program (FRDP).

Beef Cattle.....\$1,434,258

Production cost continues to sky rocket for beef cattle farmers. Fuel, fertilizer, feed and other cost continue to reduce their profit margin. Calf prices were moderate to low during the past year, however input cost has risen. Average prices on 300lbs=\$1.10 per lb, 400lbs=\$1.05 per lb, 500lbs =\$.98 per lb, 600lbs=\$.90 per lb, and 700lbs=\$.85 per lb.

Commercial Horticulture & Other Crops.....\$2,552,500

The largest commercial horticulture crop in Wayne County is the Blueberry Industry. The Blueberry industry is the 3rd highest valued Agriculture Commodity in Wayne County following poultry, and timber. This year 800,000 pounds of fresh berries were shipped from Wayne County at an average of \$2.25 per pound or 1.8 million dollars. More than 125,000 pounds of frozen berries were market at \$1.00 per pound or \$125,000. Total value of fruit marketed \$ 1,925,000. Wayne County has approximately 26 growers with approximately 500 plus acres.

Potential Commodities: Soybeans, Peanuts, Wheat, Blueberries/Other Fruits, Vegetables, and Corn