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## **Long Island's First Industry, Farming Continues to be Important Today**

Since the earliest days of Long Island's settlement more than 300 years ago, agriculture has been an important industry, providing fresh vegetables and fruit, fiber, seafood, poultry, and a variety of horticultural products for our residents. Today's



farming activities also help to preserve wildlife habitats and the natural aesthetic beauty of our fair island. Long Island farmland provides an important buffer against urban sprawl, protects the water supply and helps maintain the traditional rural character of the wonderful East End of Long Island.

*[Join us in preserving the rural way of life.](#)*

Farming is also an economic force: Agri-businesses employ well over 10,000 people in the region, with a multiplier effect that generates jobs for tens of thousands more. Long Island agriculture is a billion-dollar-a-year industry and generates billions of dollars more for the Island's largest industry, tourism, travel and hospitality.



Long Island agriculture provides the scenic vistas desired by our visitors and close proximity to farm markets, where visitors and year-round residents enjoy the advantage of locally produced fruits, vegetables, poultry, fish, flowers, herbs, specialty products, ornamental horticultural products, and the best varieties of wine from local wineries.

Every year, millions of tourists come to take in Long Island's rural sights, shop at regional farmstands, visit more than two dozen wineries on the North and South Forks, gather up pumpkins at harvest time, and enjoy the best that Long Island has to offer, all centered on agricultural.

Long Island's agricultural industry is centered in, but not exclusive to, Suffolk County - the eastern two-thirds of physical Long Island. Bounded on the North by the Long



Island Sound, between the twin forks by the Peconic Bay and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean, Suffolk County has a high water-to-land ratio that provides for moderate temperatures, mild winters, an average of 42 inches of rainfall annually, and extended growing seasons. It is one of the best growing areas in the world!

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With excellent, well drained soils, more sunshine than any other area in New York State, abundant fresh water and nearness to wholesale and retail markets, it is not surprising that Long Island is one of the most important agricultural regions in the state. However, it does surprise many people to learn that Suffolk County is New York's leading county in the wholesale dollar value of local agricultural products. Out of 56 New York counties in 1999, Suffolk ranked near the bottom for number of acres in farmland and in the middle for number of farms, but was ranked 1st in market value, with \$168 million of agricultural products sold.

With over 100 different crops grown, Long Island growers and producers are proud to offer an agricultural diversity that few other areas in the state can match. Long Island farmers continue their commitment to provide abundant, high quality commodities, such as vegetables and potatoes, fruits, wine and grapes, poultry and livestock, nursery and floriculture products and seafood.



**Highlights:**

Agricultural Products from the Traditional Long Island Farm and from the Sea

- 5,000+ acres in production on LI
- Wide variety of traditional and organically-grown products of the land
- \$50 million value at wholesale

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