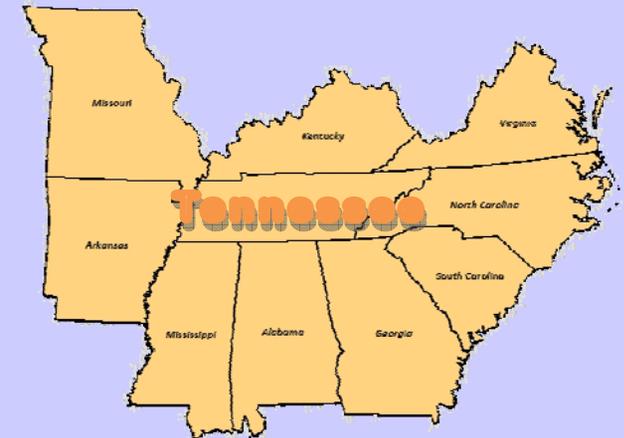




## Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

***Information Flyer Set 5  
for  
Strategic Planning for Tennessee Agriculture***



Prepared by Dr. Harwood Schaffer, Agricultural Policy Analysis Center (APAC)



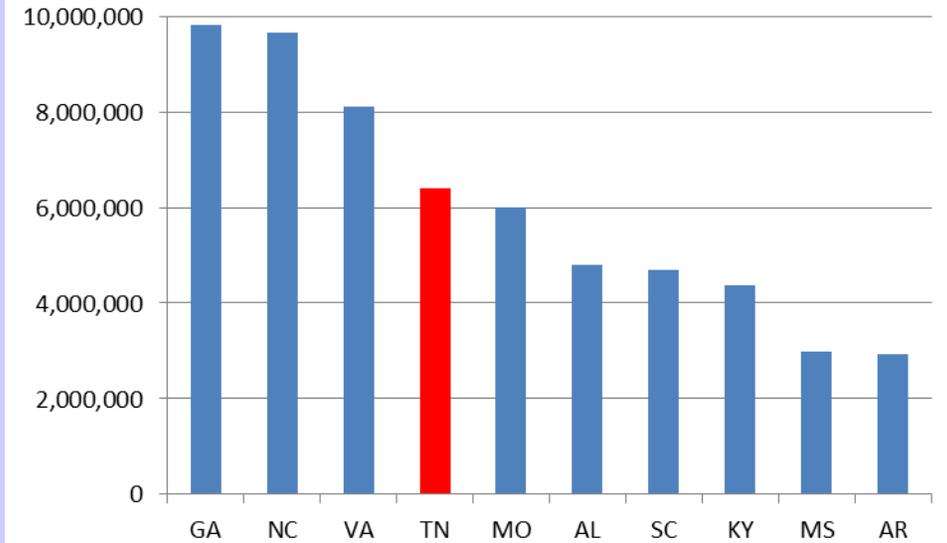
# Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

**The purpose of this information flyer is to foster strategic planning discussion about Tennessee's demographics in comparison with those of other surrounding states and how these differences may impact agricultural & forestry industries.**

## State Populations for 2011 and 30-Year Change in Population

| State            | Population       | 30 Year Change |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Alabama          | 4,802,740        | 123.3%         |
| Arkansas         | 2,937,979        | 128.5%         |
| Georgia          | 9,815,210        | 179.7%         |
| Kentucky         | 4,369,356        | 119.4%         |
| Missouri         | 6,010,688        | 122.2%         |
| Mississippi      | 2,978,512        | 118.2%         |
| North Carolina   | 9,656,401        | 164.2%         |
| South Carolina   | 4,679,230        | 149.9%         |
| <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>6,403,353</b> | <b>139.5%</b>  |
| Virginia         | 8,096,604        | 151.4%         |

## State Population



Of the eight states that border it plus South Carolina, Tennessee is the fourth most populous state with 6.4 million residents in 2011. Between 1980 and 2011, Tennessee's population grew by 39.5 percent, the fifth fastest growing state among the ten states in this analysis. The fastest growing state among Tennessee's neighbors was Georgia which grew by 79.7 percent while Mississippi was the slowest with an 18.2 percent increase in population.



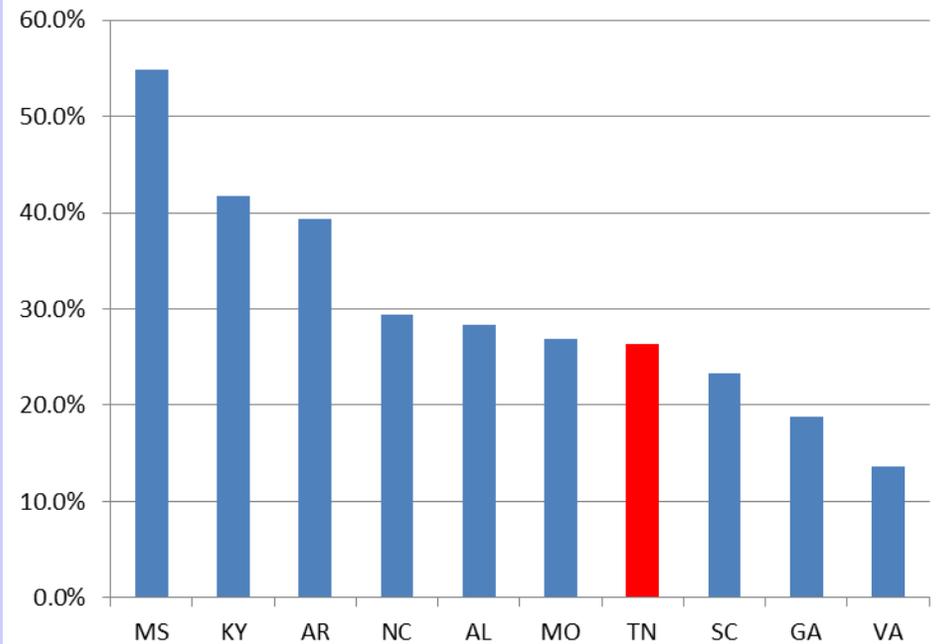


# Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

## Proportion of Population in Urban and Rural Counties

| State            | Rural        | Urban        |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Alabama          | 28.4%        | 71.6%        |
| Arkansas         | 39.4%        | 60.6%        |
| Georgia          | 18.8%        | 81.2%        |
| Kentucky         | 41.7%        | 58.3%        |
| Missouri         | 26.9%        | 73.1%        |
| Mississippi      | 54.8%        | 45.2%        |
| North Carolina   | 29.4%        | 70.6%        |
| South Carolina   | 23.3%        | 76.7%        |
| <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>26.4%</b> | <b>73.6%</b> |
| Virginia         | 13.7%        | 86.3%        |

## Percentage of Population Living in Rural Counties



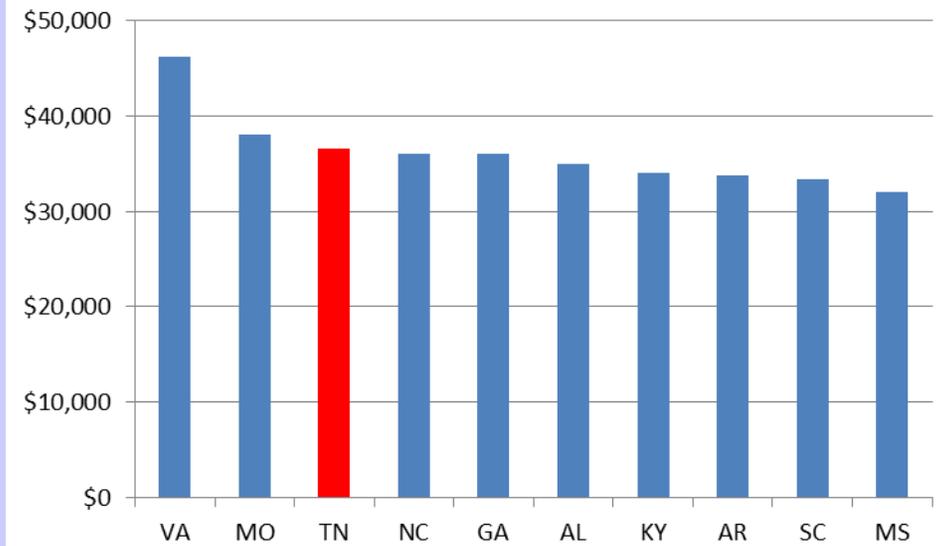
Of the ten states in this analysis, Tennessee has the fourth lowest percentage of its population living in rural counties with a rural population of 26.4 percent. The state with the highest percentage of its population living in rural areas is Mississippi with 54.8 percent. The state with the smallest proportion of its population living in rural counties is Virginia with 13.7 percent.



# Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

In 2011, Tennessee had the third highest state-level per capita income of the ten states in this study with a per capita income of \$36,568. Because of a number of northern counties in Virginia lie within the Washington, DC metropolitan area, Virginia's state-level per capita income is \$9,540 above Missouri, the state with the next highest income among the ten. As we have previously seen, Virginia is the least rural state in the study. Excluding Virginia, the 2011 state-level per capita income of the remaining nine states fall within a \$5,968 range.

State Level Per Capita Income, 2011



Per Capita Income , 2011

| State            | Rural           | Urban           | State           | U-R            |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Alabama          | \$30,473        | \$36,627        | \$34,879        | \$6,154        |
| Arkansas         | \$30,002        | \$36,167        | \$33,739        | \$6,165        |
| Georgia          | \$27,915        | \$37,844        | \$35,979        | \$9,929        |
| Kentucky         | \$28,767        | \$37,718        | \$33,988        | \$8,951        |
| Missouri         | \$30,873        | \$40,574        | \$37,968        | \$9,701        |
| Mississippi      | \$29,550        | \$34,965        | \$32,000        | \$5,415        |
| North Carolina   | \$30,877        | \$38,173        | \$36,028        | \$7,296        |
| South Carolina   | \$30,304        | \$34,323        | \$33,388        | \$4,019        |
| <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>\$29,376</b> | <b>\$39,145</b> | <b>\$36,567</b> | <b>\$9,769</b> |
| Virginia         | \$31,883        | \$48,371        | \$46,107        | \$16,488       |

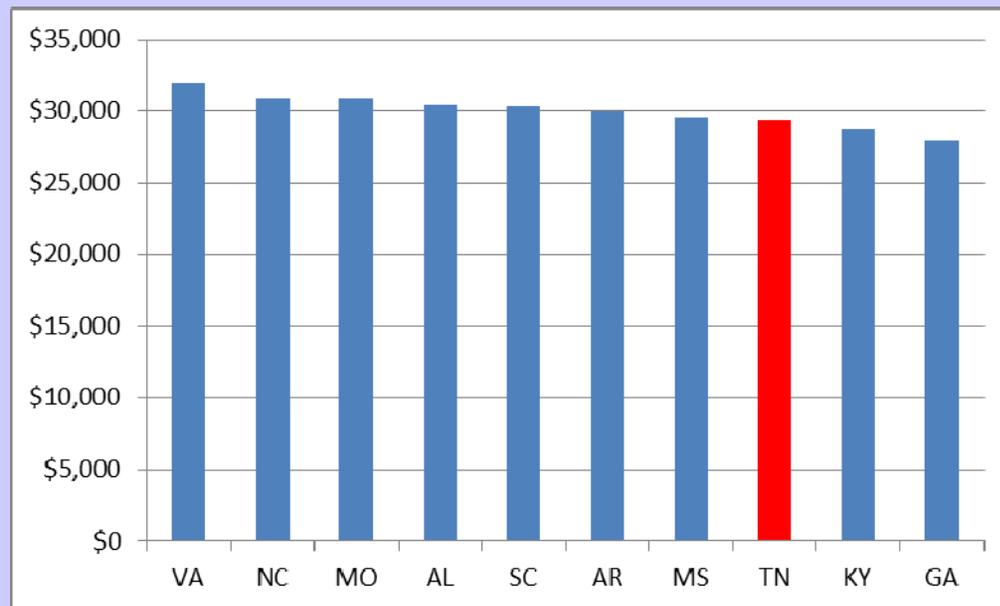


# Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

At \$29,376, Tennessee's 2011 per capita income for rural counties is third from the smallest among the ten states in this analysis. The gap between 2011 per capita income in rural and urban counties in Tennessee is \$9,769. In 2011, the per capita income for Tennessee's rural counties is 75 percent of the per capita income for its urban counties.

While the range of the 2011 state-level urban per capita income among the ten states is \$14,048, the range for rural counties is much smaller at \$3,968.

Per Capita Income for Rural Counties



Per Capita Income , 2011

| State            | Rural           | Urban           | State           | U-R            |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Alabama          | \$30,473        | \$36,627        | \$34,879        | \$6,154        |
| Arkansas         | \$30,002        | \$36,167        | \$33,739        | \$6,165        |
| Georgia          | \$27,915        | \$37,844        | \$35,979        | \$9,929        |
| Kentucky         | \$28,767        | \$37,718        | \$33,988        | \$8,951        |
| Missouri         | \$30,873        | \$40,574        | \$37,968        | \$9,701        |
| Mississippi      | \$29,550        | \$34,965        | \$32,000        | \$5,415        |
| North Carolina   | \$30,877        | \$38,173        | \$36,028        | \$7,296        |
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| <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>\$29,376</b> | <b>\$39,145</b> | <b>\$36,567</b> | <b>\$9,769</b> |
| Virginia         | \$31,883        | \$48,371        | \$46,107        | \$16,488       |



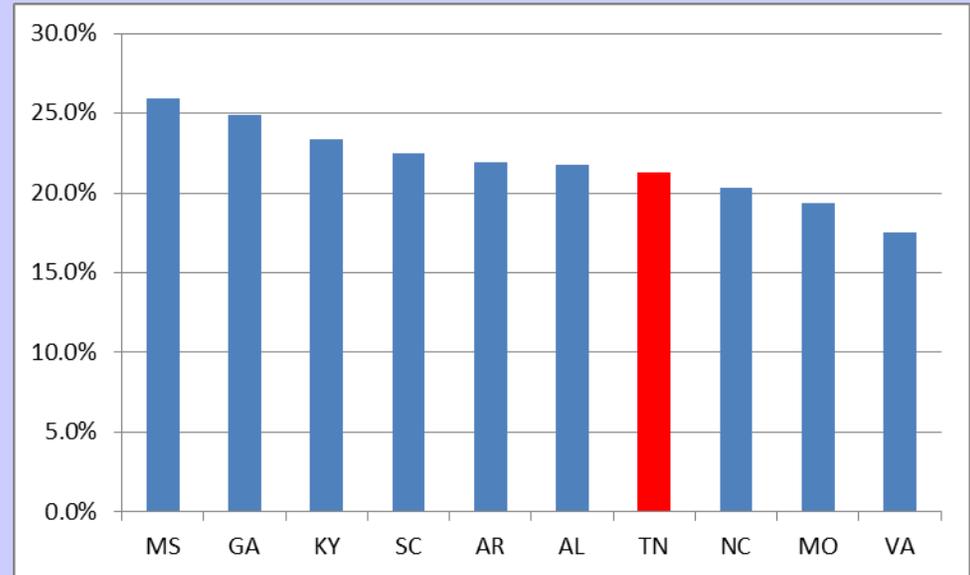


# Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

## Poverty Rate, 2011

| State            | Rural        | Urban        | State        |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Alabama          | 21.8%        | 18.1%        | 19.1%        |
| Arkansas         | 21.9%        | 17.5%        | 19.3%        |
| Georgia          | 24.9%        | 18.0%        | 19.2%        |
| Kentucky         | 23.4%        | 16.0%        | 19.1%        |
| Missouri         | 19.4%        | 14.5%        | 15.8%        |
| Mississippi      | 25.9%        | 19.1%        | 22.8%        |
| North Carolina   | 20.3%        | 16.7%        | 17.8%        |
| South Carolina   | 22.5%        | 17.7%        | 18.8%        |
| <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>23.3%</b> | <b>17.3%</b> | <b>18.4%</b> |
| Virginia         | 17.5%        | 10.7%        | 11.6%        |

## Rural Poverty Rate, 2011



Tennessee had the fourth lowest level of poverty among the ten states in the study with a poverty rate of 21.3 percent. Though Tennessee's per capita income for rural counties was third from the lowest among the ten states, that low level of income was not fully reflected in the state's rural poverty rate. The range of poverty rates among the states was from 25.9 percent to 17.5 percent. Tennessee's rate was close in range with Arkansas and Alabama.

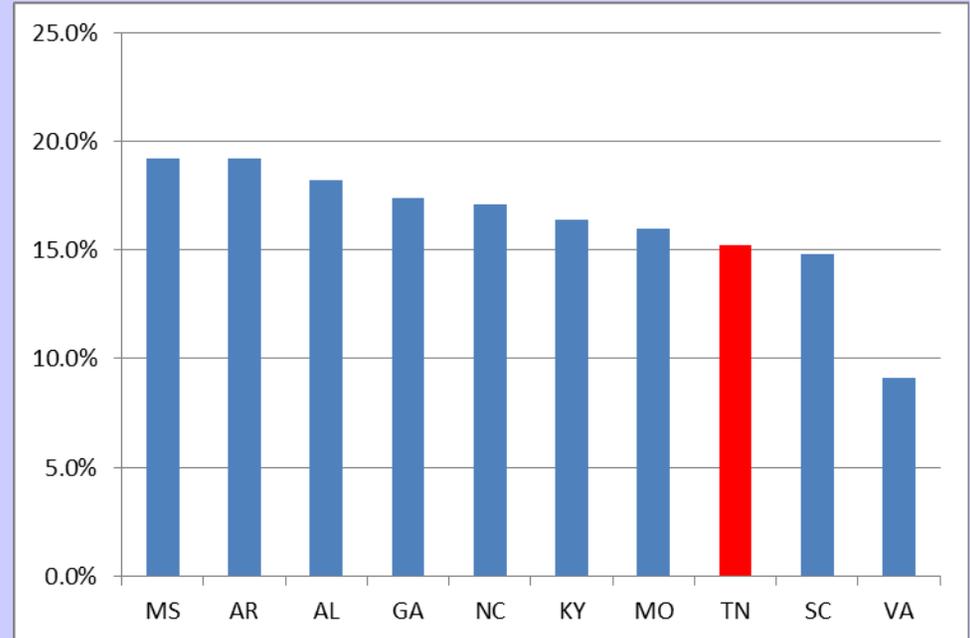


# Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

## Food Insecure Households, 2009-2011 Average

| State            | Insecure     | Ins+VL       |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Alabama          | 18.2%        | 25.3%        |
| Arkansas         | 19.2%        | 26.8%        |
| Georgia          | 17.4%        | 23.8%        |
| Kentucky         | 16.4%        | 23.0%        |
| Missouri         | 16.0%        | 22.7%        |
| Mississippi      | 19.2%        | 26.3%        |
| North Carolina   | 17.1%        | 22.9%        |
| South Carolina   | 14.8%        | 19.2%        |
| <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>15.2%</b> | <b>21.6%</b> |
| Virginia         | 9.1%         | 12.3%        |

## Food Insecure Households, 2009-2011



Tennessee had the third lowest level of food insecure households for the 2009-2011 period and appears to be reflective of the relatively low rural poverty rate.

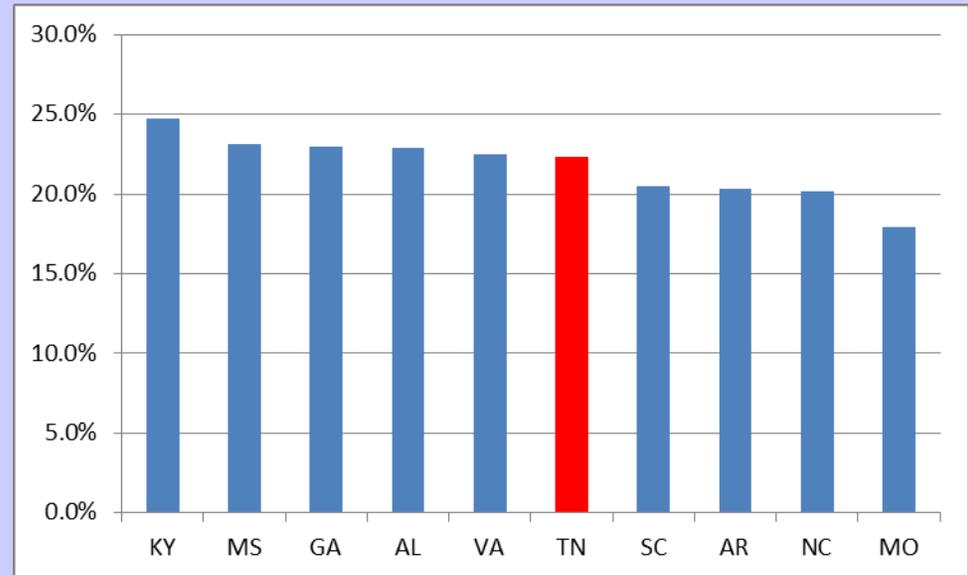


# Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

## Not Graduated from High School, Education

| State            | Rural        | Urban        |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Alabama          | 22.9%        | 16.1%        |
| Arkansas         | 20.3%        | 15.3%        |
| Georgia          | 23.0%        | 14.3%        |
| Kentucky         | 24.7%        | 13.6%        |
| Missouri         | 17.9%        | 11.4%        |
| Mississippi      | 23.1%        | 15.4%        |
| North Carolina   | 20.2%        | 14.0%        |
| South Carolina   | 20.5%        | 15.1%        |
| <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>22.3%</b> | <b>14.7%</b> |
| Virginia         | 22.5%        | 11.8%        |

## Not Graduated from High School, Rural, 2007- 2011



In every state except Missouri, over one-fifth of adults 25 and over lacked a high school education. Tennessee was in the middle of the pack at fifth from the lowest percentage of adults who are without a high school education. Because the poll of high school graduates in any year is small relative to the pool of adults 25 and over it will take a sustained effort in rural education to bring Tennessee's percentage of adults not graduating from high school down to the level of Missouri.

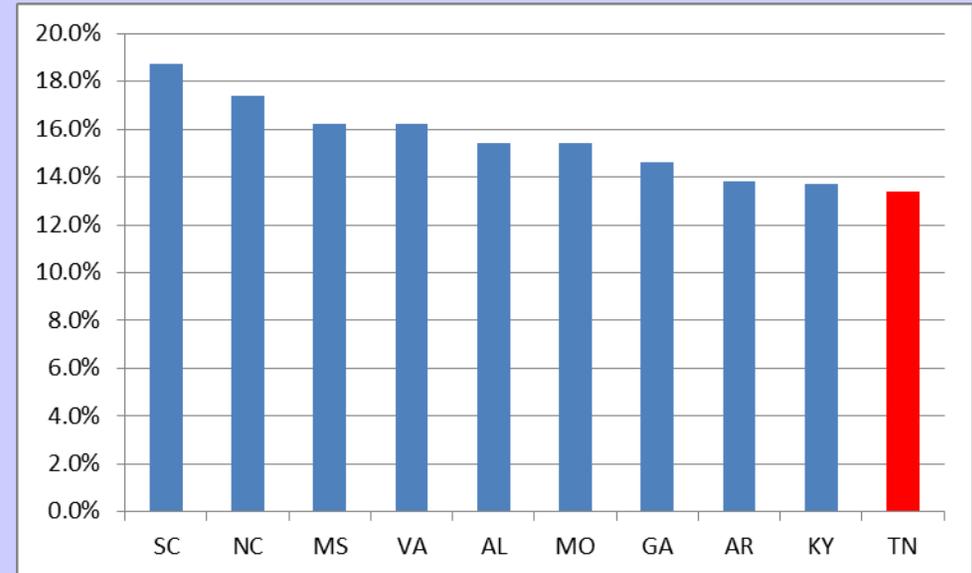


# Demographics: Tennessee & Our Neighbors

## College Graduates, Education Level 2008-2011

| State            | Rural        | Urban        |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Alabama          | 15.4%        | 24.7%        |
| Arkansas         | 13.8%        | 23.6%        |
| Georgia          | 14.6%        | 30.6%        |
| Kentucky         | 13.7%        | 25.8%        |
| Missouri         | 15.4%        | 29.1%        |
| Mississippi      | 16.2%        | 24.0%        |
| North Carolina   | 17.4%        | 30.6%        |
| South Carolina   | 18.7%        | 25.9%        |
| <b>Tennessee</b> | <b>13.4%</b> | <b>26.7%</b> |
| Virginia         | 16.2%        | 37.5%        |

College Graduates, Rural, 2007-2011



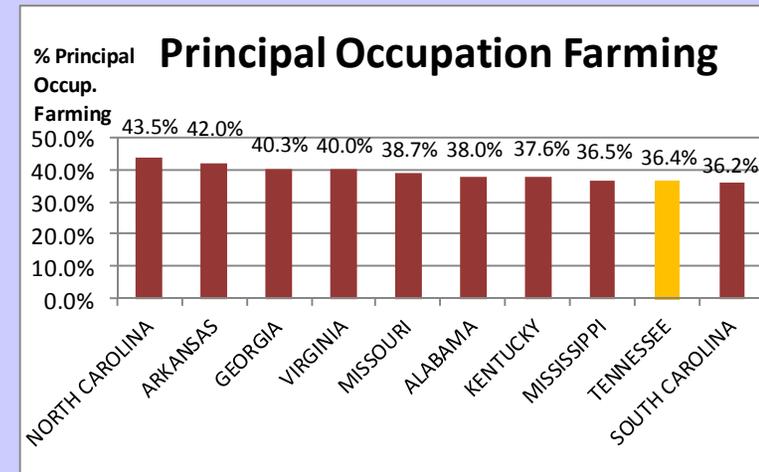
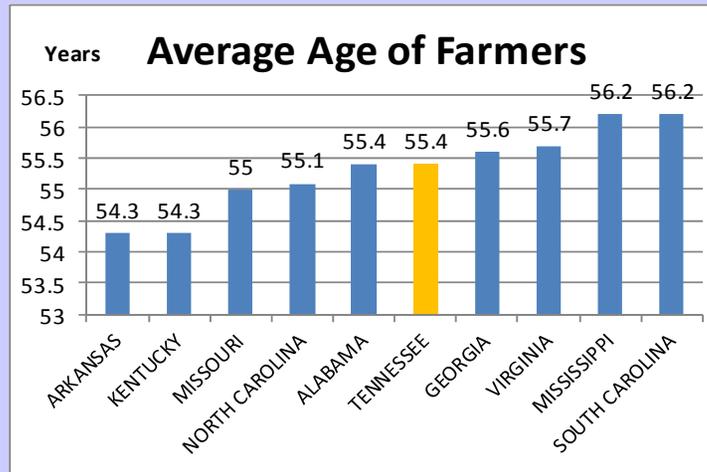
Tennessee ranked lowest among the ten states in the percentage of residents of rural counties who had graduated from college. By way of contrast Tennessee ranks fifth highest in the percentage of urban residents with a college degree. That would suggest that job opportunities for Tennessee's college graduates are limited, relative to the other nine states.



## Farmer Demographics

### Average Age of Farmers, 2007

| State            | Age in Years |
|------------------|--------------|
| ARKANSAS         | 54.3         |
| KENTUCKY         | 54.3         |
| MISSOURI         | 55           |
| NORTH CAROLINA   | 55.1         |
| ALABAMA          | 55.4         |
| <b>TENNESSEE</b> | <b>55.4</b>  |
| GEORGIA          | 55.6         |
| VIRGINIA         | 55.7         |
| MISSISSIPPI      | 56.2         |
| SOUTH CAROLINA   | 56.2         |



### Percent of Farmers with Farming As Principal Occupation, 2007 Census

| State            | Percent      |
|------------------|--------------|
| NORTH CAROLINA   | 43.5%        |
| ARKANSAS         | 42.0%        |
| GEORGIA          | 40.3%        |
| VIRGINIA         | 40.0%        |
| MISSOURI         | 38.7%        |
| ALABAMA          | 38.0%        |
| KENTUCKY         | 37.6%        |
| MISSISSIPPI      | 36.5%        |
| <b>TENNESSEE</b> | <b>36.4%</b> |
| SOUTH CAROLINA   | 36.2%        |

