

Draft Analysis - Does Humboldt County have enough land to grow food for the people in the County?*

There are 130,000 people in Humboldt County (2005)

How much food is currently produced in Humboldt County? (Data from 2003)

Arable acres: 33,000-50,000 acres prime farmland, 273,000 acres range land

Approx 800 farms: Organic farms (2002) 75 on 300 acres, Dairy farms - 19,000 cows on 133 farms

Beef cows: Approx 50,000 cow/calves on 500 farms. Humboldt County ranchers harvest about 33,000 cows / year

Sheep: 4,500 sheep on 83 farms, Pigs: 800 hogs on 30 farms

How Much Food & Land Does Humboldt County need to be well nourished?

This daily diet for one person table was developed to estimate how much land it would take to nourish and feed the 130,000 people in Humboldt County. There are no claims taken sanctioning this diet, but we believe it would keep most people alive. The estimates are meant to be representative. Integrated agriculture, edible landscaping and eating from sea and river would reduce the amount of acreage necessary.

Daily diet for one person	Calories	Assumptions regarding food needs for 130,000 people in the County	Land Production Estimates	Acreage needed
2 cups fruit (1 lb.)	200	At 1 lb/day 130,000 people for 365 days/yr, need 47,450,000 lbs fruit/year	300 trees/acre & dependable yearly avrg of 100 lbs. fruit/tree/year (~ 4 trees/person)	1,500 prime acres
2 1/2 cups vegetables (1 lb.)	200	At 1 lb/day 130,000 people for 365 days, need 47,450,000 lbs vegetables/year	Estimate vegetable production to be similar to fruit or 30,000 lbs/acre	1,500 prime acres
2 eggs	160	230 eggs / chicken / year; 50 sq. ft. / chicken**	Need 412,600 chickens on 475 acres	475 acres
2 cups milk (cheese, ice cream, yoghurt)	300	Need 5,931,000 gal/year for 130,000 people.	At 8 gals/cow/day for 365 days we need 2,045 cows. Approx 2 acres / cow	5,000 prime acres
6 oz. meat/person	450	Need 17,793,750 lbs./year for 130,000 people	At 500 lbs. meat/cow, need about 35,600 cows. Cow needs approx. 10 acres range land / each cow	356,000 acres range land
3 tbsp butter / oil	300	Consider this raised in with the other production		
1 tbsp honey/beet sugar	100	Consider raised in with fruit & vegetables		
2 cups oats / wheat (12 oz. grain)	1,100	35,587,500 lbs needed for 130,000 people	If grains on avrg. produce 3,000 lbs./acre	12,000 prime & range acres
Totals	2,810			376,475 acres

*Data from UC Cooperative Extension, and the County of Humboldt, **data estimated

by Susan Ornelas, Humboldt Peak Oil Action Group