

Prompton Borough

Wayne County Agricultural Land Use/Land Cover Study

A study examining the change of agricultural land use and land cover
in Wayne County from 1959 to 2002

This is report M-21, Prompton Borough; in a series of reports examining land use and land cover change in Wayne County's 28 municipalities, particularly agricultural land between 1959 and 2002. For a detail of the study procedures, see the Project Narrative.

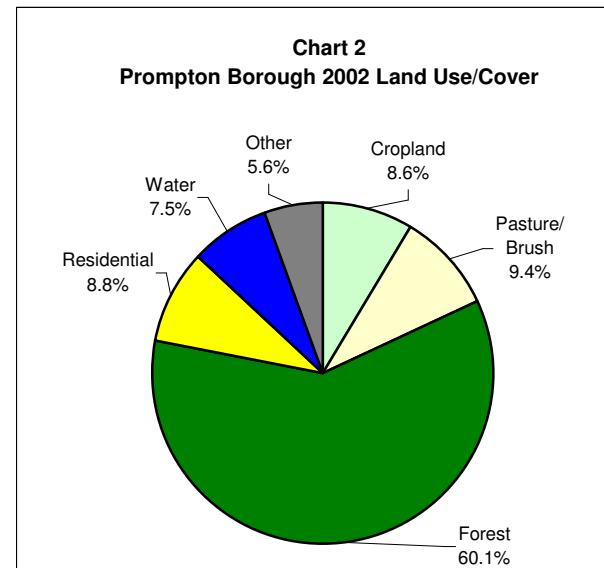
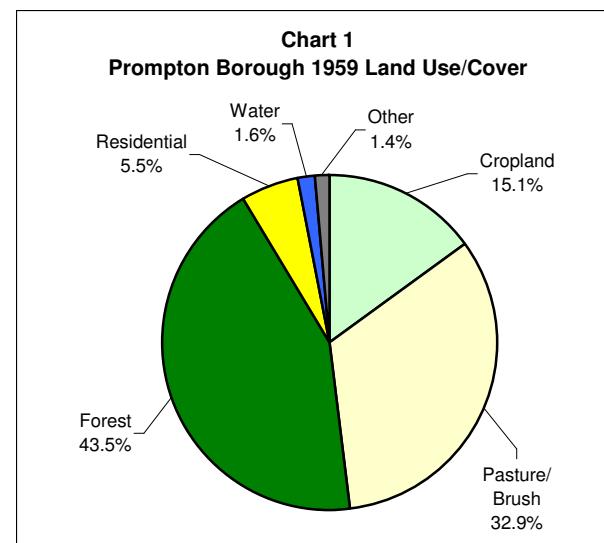


Overview

Prompton Borough is located in the central part of Wayne County. The Borough contains a flood control dam that was completed in 1960. The public lands and the reservoir associated with the dam had a major influence in the changes

that occurred in this municipality for the study period. Prompton Borough contains 1,070 acres or approximately 1.7 square miles. The amount of land utilized for agricultural purposes (cropland, farmsteads, and pasture/brush) was less in 2002 than in 1959 as can be seen in Table 1 {below} and Charts 1 and 2 {right}. It can also be seen that the acreage for forestland and residential land use/cover increased during this time. Additional changes in land use/land cover that occurred are covered in detail on the following pages.

The charts below show the percentage values for the land use/land cover categories in Prompton Borough for 1959 and 2002. The residential category includes farmsteads in each chart's total throughout this report, and the category "other" includes land uses that had a low value and would be difficult to see individually in a pie chart. The increase in "other" for 2002 mainly resulted from the addition of recreational land located around the Prompton Reservoir for the later study period.



Notice the obvious decrease in the amount of cropland and pasture/brush and the increase of forest cover and residential land use over this time period.

Table 1 – Prompton Borough Land Use/Land Cover

Land Use/Land Cover	Prompton 1959 Acres	Category Percent of Total	Prompton 2002 Acres	Category Percent of Total
Residential	50.18	4.7%	90.85	8.5%
Commercial	2.22	0.2%	3.82	0.4%
Industrial	-	0%	1.40	0.1%
Transportation	-	0%	-	0%
Utilities	-	0%	-	0%
Religious	1.21	0.1%	1.21	0.1%
Government/Institution	10.51	1.0%	12.46	1.2%
Recreational	1.04	0.1%	41.12	3.8%
Cropland	161.40	15.1%	92.53	8.6%
Farmstead	9.16	0.9%	3.08	0.3%
Pasture/Brush	351.61	32.9%	100.27	9.4%
Forest	465.19	43.5%	643.20	60.1%
Water	17.58	1.6%	80.16	7.5%
Mining/Extraction	-	0%	-	0%
Total	1,070.10	100.0%	1,070.10	100.0%

Cropland

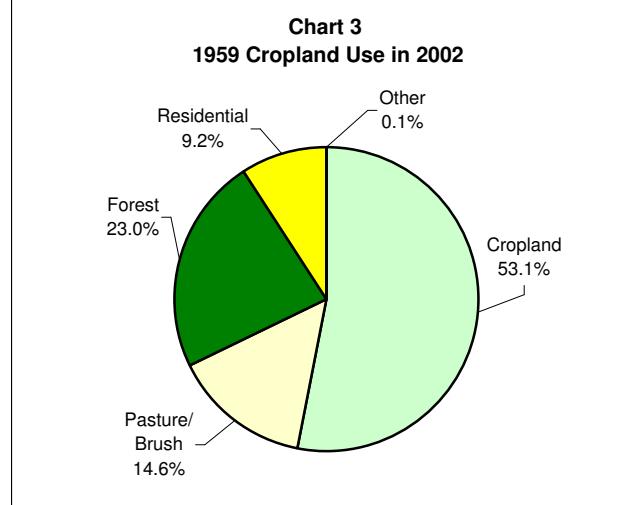
For this study, cropland includes areas containing a number of agricultural products including hay, corn, fruit and Christmas trees. In 1959 over 15% or 161 acres of Prompton Borough was cropland. By 2002, cropland was reduced to below 9% or 93 acres of the Borough. Table 2 {below} and Chart 3 {right} illustrate what became of the 1959 cropland.

Table 2 – 1959 Cropland Use in 2002

Land Use/Land Cover	1959 Cropland Classification in 2002	
	Acres	Percent
Residential	14.39	8.9%
Commercial	-	0%
Industrial	-	0%
Transportation	-	0%
Utilities	-	0%
Religious	-	0%
Government/Institution	-	0%
Recreational	-	0%
Cropland	85.71	53.1%
Farmstead	0.39	0.2%
Pasture/Brush	23.56	14.6%
Forest	37.17	23.0%
Water	0.18	0.1%
Mining/Extraction	-	0%
Total	161.40	100.0%

There was more than 161 acres of cropland in 1959 the majority of which, over 53% or 86 acres, remained as cropland in 2002. A large part of the 1959 cropland (almost 91% or 146 acres) remained undeveloped in 2002 when you take into account the percentage that remained cropland, the 23% or 37 acres that became forest and the almost 15% or 24 acres that became pasture/brush. Most of the remaining 1959 cropland, approximately 9% or 14 acres, became residential. Therefore, it should not be assumed that a decrease in cropland corresponds to a large amount of development of that area.

The United States Department of Agriculture classifies soil as prime agricultural soil, farmland of statewide importance or non-prime soil. Details of the three classifications can be found in the County summary. The following sections analyze soils from a prime verses non-prime perspective.



Prime Agricultural Soil

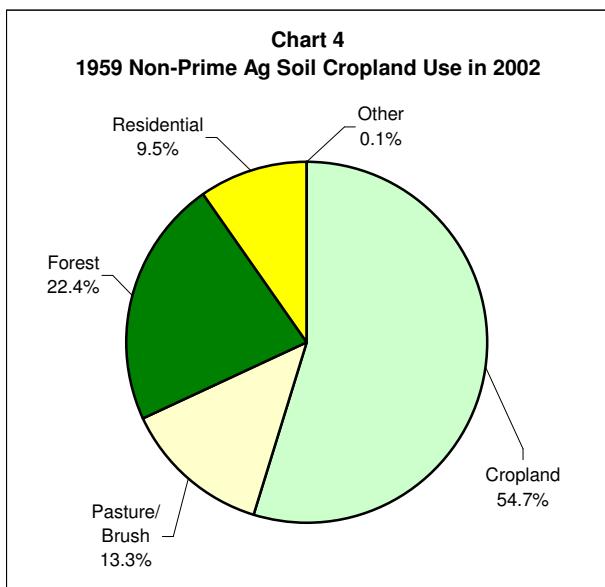
In 1959, approximately 9% or 14 acres of the cropland in the Borough was utilizing prime agricultural soil. In 2002, 36% or 5 acres remained cropland while almost 30% or 4 acres became forest, over 28% or 4 acres became pasture/brush, over 5% or 0.7 acres became residential and the remaining fraction of a percent became water. Table 3 {below} illustrates what became of 1959 cropland for both prime and non-prime soil by 2002.

Table 3 – Prime & Non-Prime Soil in Cropland

Land Use/Land Cover	Prime Ag Soil - Cropland Classification in 2002		Non-Prime Ag Soil - Cropland Classification in 2002	
	Acres	Percent	Acres	Percent
Residential	0.73	5.2%	13.66	9.3%
Commercial	-	0%	-	0%
Industrial	-	0%	-	0%
Transportation	-	0%	-	0%
Utilities	-	0%	-	0%
Religious	-	0%	-	0%
Government/Institution	-	0%	-	0%
Recreational	-	0%	-	0%
Cropland	5.03	36.0%	80.68	54.7%
Farmstead	-	0%	0.39	0.3%
Pasture/Brush	3.96	28.3%	19.60	13.3%
Forest	4.17	29.8%	33.00	22.4%
Water	0.09	0.6%	0.09	0.1%
Mining/Extraction	-	0%	-	0%
Total	13.98	100.0%	147.42	100.0%

Non-Prime Agricultural Soil

In 1959, approximately 91% or 147 acres of the cropland in Prompton Borough was utilizing non-prime agricultural soil. Chart 4 {below} shows what became of the 1959 non-prime agricultural soil. The majority, almost 55% or 81 acres, remained as cropland in 2002. Also, much of the additional cropland was still undeveloped in 2002 with over 22% or 33 acres becoming forest and over 13% or 20 acres becoming pasture/brush.



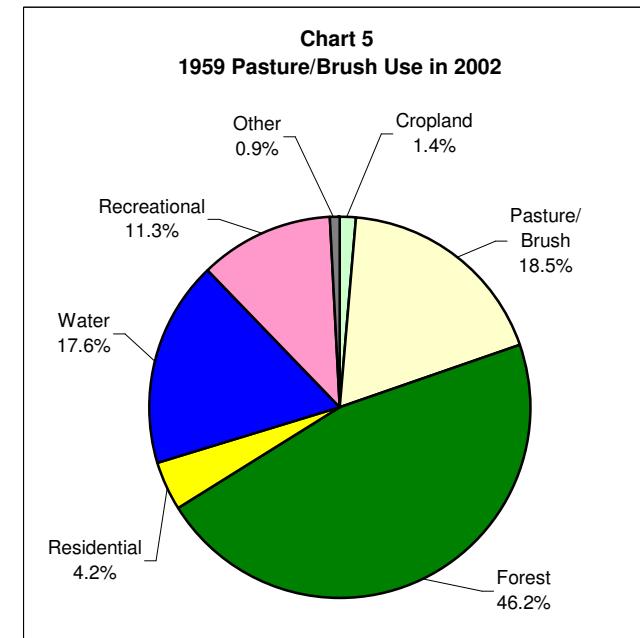
Pasture/Brush

In 1959, pasture/brush covered almost one-third or 352 acres of the Borough. By 2002, pasture/brush decreased to approximately 9% or 100 acres, which represents a decrease of over 23% of the total land area of the Borough {see Table 1}. Of the total area of pasture/brush in the Borough in 1959, approximately 18% or 65 acres remained as pasture/brush in 2002 {see Table 4 and Chart 5, right}. The majority of the pasture/brush, over 46% or 162 acres, converted to forest by 2002. Almost 18% or 62 acres became water and over 11% or 40 acres became recreational, which was attributable to the construction of the Prompton Dam and associated recreational land during this time period. Of the remaining pasture/brush about 4% or 15 acres became residential and 1% or 5 acres became cropland. Table 4 and Chart 5

{below} illustrate what became of the 1959 pasture/brush in Prompton Borough.

Table 4 – 1959 Pasture/Brush Use in 2002

Land Use/Land Cover	1959 Pasture/Brush Classification in 2002	
	Acres	Percent
Residential	14.63	4.2%
Commercial	1.06	0.3%
Industrial	1.16	0.3%
Transportation	-	0%
Utilities	-	0%
Religious	-	0%
Government/Institution	1.00	0.3%
Recreational	39.72	11.3%
Cropland	4.88	1.4%
Farmstead	0.10	0.0%
Pasture/Brush	64.93	18.5%
Forest	162.38	46.2%
Water	61.74	17.6%
Mining/Extraction	-	0%
Total	351.60	100.0%



Forest

As can be seen in Table 1, the area of the Borough covered by forest increased by almost 17% or 178 acres in the 43-year period between 1959 and 2002. In 1959, forest nearly covered 44% or 465 acres and by 2002 forest increased to over 60% or 643 acres. As can be seen in Chart 5 {above}, a significant amount of the

increase in forest is attributable to the area of the pasture/brush that matured into forest over this time period. This was a common type of change seen in many areas of the County over the study period. Table 5 {below} lists what use the 1959 forest became by 2002. Of the approximate 465 acres that were forest in 1959, about 94% or 438 acres remained forest in 2002. Nearly 3% or 13 acres changed to residential use and 2% or 9 acres became pasture/brush. Several insignificant changes accounted for the remaining area.

Table 5 – 1959 Forest Use in 2002

Land Use/Land Cover	1959 Forestland Classification in 2002	
	Acres	Percent
Residential	13.10	2.8%
Commercial	0.71	0.2%
Industrial	-	0%
Transportation	-	0%
Utilities	-	0%
Religious	-	0%
Government/Institution	0.99	0.2%
Recreational	0.46	0.1%
Cropland	0.57	0.1%
Farmstead	0.04	0.0%
Pasture/Brush	9.30	2.0%
Forest	437.93	94.1%
Water	2.09	0.4%
Mining/Extraction	-	0%
Total	465.19	100.0%

Residential

In 1959 approximately 5% or 50 acres of the total land area of the Borough was occupied by a residential use. Over the 43-year study period the area occupied by this use increased to over 8% or 91 acres. Of the 91 acres approximately 48% or 43 acres was also residential in 1959. Additionally, the 2002 residential acreage almost equally came from three other sources including over 16% or 15 acres from pasture/brush, almost 16% or 14 acres from cropland, and over 14% or 13 acres from forestland. The remaining change included approximately 5% or 4 acres from farmsteads and from several other sources containing insignificant acreages.

Commercial

Only a small area of the Borough, approximately 0.2% or 2 acres of the total land area in 1959 and approximately 0.4% or 4 acres in 2002 contained a commercial use. This use does not represent a significant area of the Borough in either time period.

Protected Agricultural land

Prompton Borough did not contain any land in the Agricultural Security Area Program by 2002. There were 36 acres with a preferential assessment under the Clean and Green Program. These 36 acres represent 6.3% of the taxable acreage in the Borough and this tax designation reduces the assessed value of the Borough by \$46,000 or 0.4%.

Summary

Changes that occurred over the 43-year study period resulted largely from the conversion of land utilized for active farming to forest and pasture/brush land. This can be seen in Tables 1, 2 and 4 on the previous pages. While there was a reduction in cropland from approximately 15% to 9% or from 161 acres to 93 acres, forestland increased from 43.5% (465 acres) to 60.1% (643.2 acres) of the Borough. Residential use increased from approximately 5% or 50 acres to 8.5% or 91 acres of the total land area in the Borough. Even with the increase in residential use, approximately 89% of the Borough or over 957 acres remained open area in 2002 as recreational, cropland, pasture/brush, forest and water land use/cover.

Wayne County Agricultural Land Use/Cover

This project was funded in part by the Wayne County Commissioners and by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. This study examines the change in agricultural land use/cover over 43 years (1959-2002). The base data is 1959 USDA aerial photos which were registered to the state plane coordinate system by Wilkes University's Center for Geographic Information Sciences. This enabled comparison with the 1997 aerial photos taken by Wayne County. To aid in the analysis of the data, local municipal volunteers worked with planning department staff members in reviewing the aerial photos and resulting land use maps. A complete list of those community volunteers who aided in the completion of this report can be found in the report summary.

Wayne County Department of Planning 2006
925 Court Street
Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-5970