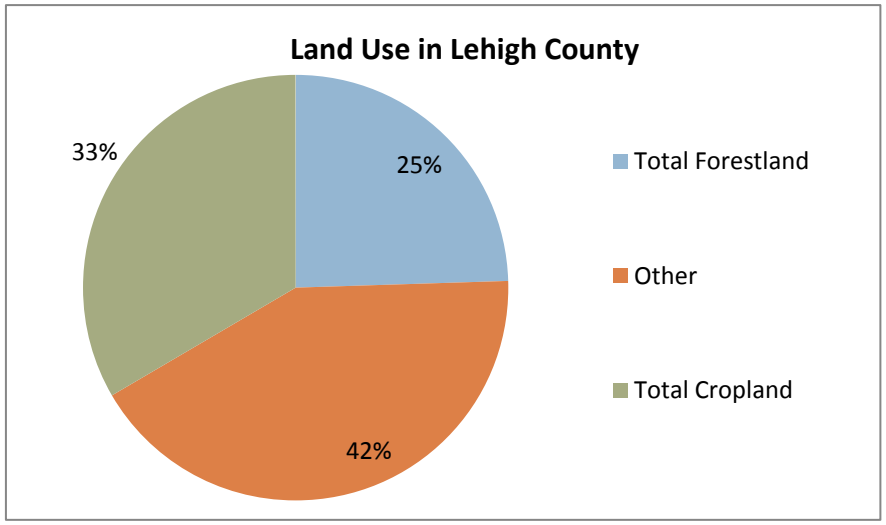
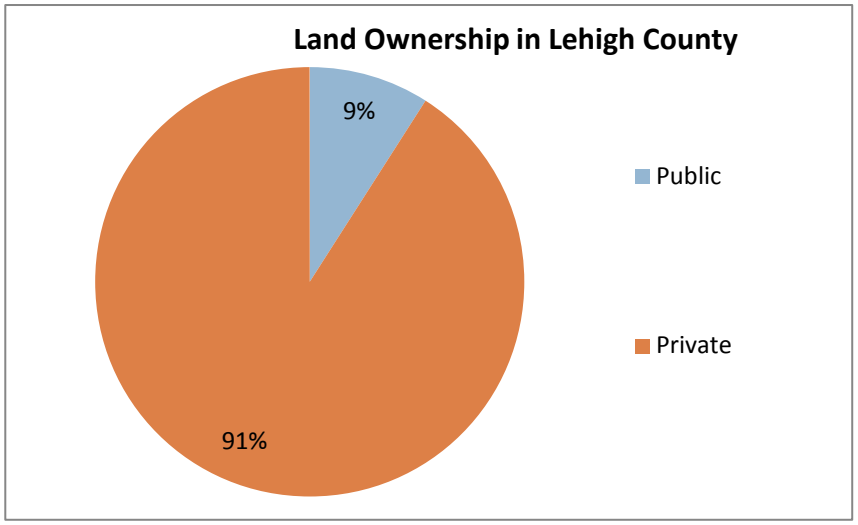
How important is forestry in Lehigh County?

Almost sixty percent (17 million acres) of Pennsylvania's 28 million acres is forested. The estimated half a million private forest landowners own about 12 million acres (70 percent) of the forest land. The timber and forest products industry is one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the state, employing over 80,000 workers in 2,500 firms. The value added contribution to the state's economy by the forest sector is over 5 billion dollars annually. For the agricultural production sector and processing sector value added is approximately $2 billion and $8 billion respectively. State wide there is over 86 billion board feet of standing timber valued at about $24 billion. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks number one in hardwood production and forest-based recreation in Pennsylvania is a large component of tourism, the state's second-largest industry. The following shows the importance of forestry to Lehigh County:





Lehigh County has 217529 acres of land. Forests cover 53260 acres.

Estimated number of private forestland owners in Lehigh county:	2,106
Number of forestry and wood products establishments:	35
Number of forestry and wood products establishments employees:	1,002
Estimated volume of standing timber (*mil bdft*):	400.258
Estimated value of standing timber (*million*):	$80.05
Annual economic contribution of forestry sector (*million*):	$39.93

How does forestry compare to agriculture in Lehigh County?

Annual economic contribution of agricultural production sector (*million)*	$21.49
Annual economic contribution of agricultural processing sector (*million*)	$267.60

Forests provide many other environmental and economic goods and services such as recreation, wildlife, water production, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and aesthetics. These benefits to Pennsylvania residents are not reported in this data set.

Prepared by Dr. Michael Jacobson and Mr. Kyle Kovach, Penn State, School of Forestry.

Sources: 2004 FIA Database, 2007 Penn State Timber Market Report; 2004 USDA Forest Service, Northeast Forest Experimental Station GTR NE-126; 2004 USDA Northeastern Forest Experimental Station GTR NE-136; USDA Census of Agriculture 2002; 2007 PA Department of Labor; Minnesota IMPLAN group, Inc. 2004 data.