

# Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



## Adair County

### Number of Farms

There were 792 farms counted in Adair County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Adair County decreased by 11 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 44 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

#### 1. Number of farms.

Year	Adair County	State
1997	792	90,792
1992	891	96,534
1987	970	105,180
1982	1,065	115,413
1978	1,134	121,339
1974	1,261	126,104
1969	1,423	140,354

### Average Farm Size

Farms in Adair County averaged 424 acres in 1997, 81 acres more than the state's average.

#### 2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Adair County	State
1997	424	343
1992	369	325
1987	364	301
1982	334	283
1978	312	274
1974	291	262
1969	261	239

### Farm Land Use

Adair County had 335,756 total acres in farmland in 1997, 2 percent more than in 1992.

#### 3. Land in farms (acres), Adair County.

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	335,756	283,563	6,934	45,259
1992	328,970	273,975	6,931	48,064
1987	353,365	297,992	6,835	48,538
1982	355,269	290,532	8,656	56,081

\* Includes land in house lots, ponds, etc., and non-crop and non-woodland pasture.

Of the acres harvested in Adair County in 1997, 85 percent were either corn or soybean acres. This was lower than the 93 percent statewide average.

#### 4. Corn and soybean acres as percentages of total acres harvested.

Year	Adair County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	44	41	50	43
1992	51	32	55	36
1987	47	34	50	39
1982	50	28	53	33
1978	50	25	54	32

### For more information:

#### The Adair County Extension Office

**Debbie Hall**, County Extension  
Education Director  
202 S. First Street Suite B  
Greenfield, Iowa 50849-1470

Phone: (641) 743-8412  
Fax: (641) 743-0023  
E-mail: [adair@exnet.iastate.edu](mailto:adair@exnet.iastate.edu)

#### Your Extension community development specialist

**Alan D. Jensen**  
105 West Adams Street, Suite B  
Creston, Iowa 50801-3104

Phone: (641) 782-8426  
Fax: (641) 782-7213  
E-mail: [adjensen@iastate.edu](mailto:adjensen@iastate.edu)

#### Your Extension farm management specialist

**Dennis Thomas**  
608 Market Street  
Audubon, Iowa 50025-1013

Phone: (712) 563-4239  
Fax: (712) 563-4230  
E-mail: [x1thomas@exnet.iastate.edu](mailto:x1thomas@exnet.iastate.edu)

# Livestock Profile

## Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Adair County decreased 55 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 61 percent. Statewide, the number of farms with hog and pig sales decreased 46 percent while the number of hogs and pigs sold increased 2 percent.

### 5. Farms selling hogs and pigs and number of hogs and pigs sold, Adair County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	141	61,504
1992	316	156,365
1987	395	152,345
1982	543	171,719
1978	657	183,462
1974	780	197,060
1969	996	217,286

## Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Adair County selling fattened cattle decreased 23 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold increased 15 percent. Statewide, farms selling decreased by 22 percent and cattle sales dropped by 16 percent over those five years.

### 6. Farms selling fattened cattle and number of fattened cattle sold, Adair County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	170	21,603
1992	220	18,814
1987	305	22,410
1982	397	27,733
1978	422	28,247

(Note: Fattened cattle are defined as cattle fattened on grain or concentrates for 30 days or more and sold for slaughter.)

\* Data suppressed to assure confidentiality.

## Dairy Cows

The number of farms in Adair County with dairy cows decreased 58 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 66 percent. Statewide, the number of farms with dairy cows decreased 28 percent and the number of dairy cows dropped 14 percent.

### 7. Farms with dairy cows and number of dairy cows reported, Adair County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	10	296
1992	24	867
1987	37	1,109
1982	73	1,535

## Poultry

A small number of farms in Adair County sold chickens in 1997. No farms reported turkey sales.

### 8. Farms selling poultry and number of poultry sold, Adair County.

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	4	*	9	2,085	0	0
1992	1	*	6	2,120	0	0
1987	3	*	13	3,035	3	58
1982	19	2,428	10	2,433	1	*

## Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Adair County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 33 percent and there were 57 percent fewer head sold in 1997 than in 1992. Statewide, the number of farms with sheep and lamb sales decreased 36 percent and the number of head sold dropped 46 percent.

### 9. Farms selling sheep and lambs and number of sheep and lambs sold, Adair County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	58	1,779
1992	86	4,138
1987	97	3,194
1982	123	6,834

# Farm Operator Profile

## Age

### 10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Adair County						State					
	34 or under	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 or over	Average age	34 or under	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 or over	Average age
1997	9.5	19.4	23.9	20.6	26.6	53.9	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	14.8	19.3	19.0	22.1	24.8	52.2	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	18.5	19.4	20.1	24.5	17.5	50.2	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	22.2	17.9	22.2	24.2	13.5	48.2	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	22.3	17.8	24.1	23.6	12.2	47.7	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Adair County in 1997 included 9.5 percent under the age of 35 and 26.6 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Adair County was 53.9 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

## Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Adair County in 1997, 60.6 percent claimed farming as their principal occupation, lower than the 62.9 percent state average.

### 11. Percentages of farm operators claiming farming as their principal occupation.

Year	Adair County	State
1997	60.6	62.9
1992	68.1	71.7
1987	70.6	73.5
1982	80.1	80.1
1978	81.7	80.8

## Days Worked Off Farm

The percentage of farm operators working 200 or more days off the farm in 1997 was smaller in Adair County than in the state overall.

### 12. Percentages of farm operators working 200 or more days off the farm.

Year	Adair County	State
1997	31.0	33.3
1992	27.2	28.3
1987	24.6	26.5
1982	18.5	24.2
1978	17.2	22.2

## Tenure and Type of Organization

Full-owner farms are operations where the operator owns all the land he or she operates. Part-owners are those who rent some of the land they operate. Tenants rent all of the land they operate. Compared to the state, Adair County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

### 13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Adair County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	50.6	36.9	12.5	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	49.4	37.1	13.5	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	48.9	35.3	15.9	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	49.9	34.0	16.2	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	33.3	33.3	18.8	45.9	32.2	21.9

Individual/family operated farms are the most common type of farm organization throughout the state. The percentage of individual/family operated farms in Adair County was lower than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was higher.

### 14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Adair County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	81.1	12.2	6.7	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	81.9	12.3	5.7	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	84.1	11.4	4.4	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	82.1	15.0	4.4	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	83.5	13.9	2.6	85.6	11.8	2.6

## Extension to Communities

Prepared by  
**Margaret Hanson**  
Census Services  
Iowa State University

Information in this county profile was derived from data acquired from

**NASS**



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For more information on these and other topics, please call the Extension specialists listed on the cover page or visit the Extension Internet site at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/>

**... and justice for all**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
University Extension

**Helping Iowans become their best.**

## Financial Profile

The sale of cattle and calves generated the greatest amount of agricultural revenue in Adair County in 1997, followed by soybeans.

### 15. Market value (\$1,000) of agricultural products sold, Adair County.

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	82,545	7,038	24,368	455	20,280	20,945	9,459
1992	75,248	14,808	24,859	1,231	19,169	13,359	1,822
1987	71,079	16,454	22,192	1,051	16,606	13,551	1,225

In Adair County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a greater percentage of total sales than in the state overall; hogs and pigs made up a smaller percentage of total sales. The sale of cattle and calves, soybeans, and corn accounted for 79 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Adair County in 1997.

### 16. Percent of total market value by sales of selected agricultural products.

Year	Adair County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	8.5	29.5	0.6	24.6	25.4	11.5	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	19.7	33.0	1.6	25.5	17.8	2.4	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	23.1	31.2	1.5	23.4	19.1	1.7	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Adair County averaged a net cash return of \$22,944 in 1997, \$9,761 less than the state average. Of the farms in Adair County, 74 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

### 17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Adair County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$22,944	\$33,663	\$8,311	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	17,475	28,671	7,383	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	20,939	31,102	7,596	20,412	31,660	7,521

(Note: Net cash return is derived by subtracting total operating expenditures from the gross market value of agricultural products sold. Net cash return is that of the farm unit rather than the net farm income of the operator since sales and expenses of the partners, landlords, and contractors are included.)