

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Audubon County

Number of Farms

There were 649 farms counted in Audubon County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Audubon County decreased by 12 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 46 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Audubon County	State
1997	649	90,792
1992	740	96,534
1987	851	105,180
1982	905	115,413
1978	1,000	121,339
1974	1,063	126,104
1969	1,211	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Audubon County averaged 420 acres in 1997, 77 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Audubon County	State
1997	420	343
1992	363	325
1987	315	301
1982	314	283
1978	296	274
1974	264	262
1969	228	239

Farm Land Use

Audubon County had 272,258 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent more than in 1992.

3. Land in farms (acres), Audubon County.

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	272,258	248,005	2,892	21,361
1992	268,506	240,144	6,842	21,520
1987	268,437	236,155	3,259	29,023
1982	283,782	243,688	3,241	36,853

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

Of the acres harvested in Audubon County in 1997, 94 percent were either corn or soybean acres. This was higher than the 93 percent statewide average.

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

Year	Audubon County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	48	47	50	43
1992	56	37	55	36
1987	52	38	50	39
1982	54	29	53	33
1978	58	24	54	32

For more information:

The Audubon County Extension Office

Mary Ottmar, County Extension Education Director
608 Market Street
Audubon, Iowa 50025-1013

Phone: (712) 563-4239
Fax: (712) 563-4230
E-mail: audubon@exnet.iastate.edu

Your Extension community development specialist

Steve Adams
103 E. 5th Street, P.O. Box 430
Malvern, Iowa 51551-0430

Phone: (712) 624-8616
Fax: (712) 624-8228
E-mail: sadams@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: xlthomas@exnet.iastate.edu

Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Audubon County decreased 47 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 35 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, Audubon County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	165	373,063
1992	313	276,003
1987	361	238,820
1982	476	257,140
1978	612	244,829
1974	692	185,062
1969	875	205,466

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Audubon County selling fattened cattle decreased 33 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 9 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, Audubon County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	113	24,930
1992	169	27,286
1987	237	33,228
1982	331	42,795
1978	400	49,841

(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 Audubon County with dairy cows decreased 60 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 2 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, Audubon County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	4	190
1992	10	194
1987	21	466
1982	40	991

Poultry

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

8. Farms selling poultry and number of poultry sold, Audubon County.

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	4	*	6	1,406	0	0
1992	3	*	4	*	1	*
1987	9	*	25	5,865	3	*
1982	32	61,105	7	1,349	0	0

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Audubon County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 41 percent and there were 41 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, Audubon County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	30	1,351
1992	51	2,274
1987	68	3,592
1982	83	6,501

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Audubon 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	11.6	26.8	21.4	21.1	19.1	51.2	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	18.6	22.0	18.0	22.2	19.2	49.8	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	22.8	21.6	20.4	22.7	12.5	47.5	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	25.4	19.0	22.9	22.4	10.3	46.5	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	25.4	20.0	23.8	22.7	8.1	46.0	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Audubon County in 1997 included 11.6 percent under the age of 35 and 19.1 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Audubon County was 51.2 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Audubon County in 1997, 60.8 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	Audubon County	State
1997	60.8	62.9
1992	68.6	71.7
1987	70.2	73.5
1982	73.2	80.1
1978	75.6	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Audubon County	State
1997	27.3	33.3
1992	21.3	28.3
1987	22.6	26.5
1982	17.3	24.2
1978	16.1	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, Audubon County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Audubon County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	46.5	39.0	14.5	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	43.6	37.4	18.9	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	44.5	34.4	21.0	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	48.0	31.2	20.9	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	30.5	30.5	24.1	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 Audubon County was higher than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was higher also.

14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Audubon County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	87.4	9.2	3.4	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	89.1	8.8	2.2	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	88.2	10.0	1.8	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	89.2	9.2	1.8	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	87.6	10.7	1.7	85.6	11.8	2.6

Prepared by
Margaret Hanson
 Census Services
 Iowa State University

Information in this county profile was derived from data acquired from

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 Agricultural
 Statistics
 Service

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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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.

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Financial Profile

The sale of hogs and pigs generated the greatest amount of agricultural revenue in Audubon County in 1997, followed by soybeans.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	114,110	36,570	23,709	*	24,676	27,066	2,089
1992	93,751	25,231	27,864	230	22,373	16,252	1,801
1987	80,178	23,803	25,608	492	15,560	13,093	1,622

In Audubon County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a greater percentage of total sales than in the state overall; hogs and pigs made up a greater percentage of total sales. The sale of hogs and pigs, soybeans, and corn accounted for 77 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Audubon County in 1997.

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

Year	Audubon County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	32.0	20.8	*	21.6	23.7	1.8	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	26.9	29.7	0.2	23.9	17.3	1.9	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	29.7	31.9	0.6	19.4	16.3	2.0	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

* Data suppressed to assure confidentiality. Amounts for this category included in 'Other' totals.

Farms in Audubon County averaged a net cash return of \$29,560 in 1997, \$3,145 less than the state average. Of the farms in Audubon County, 60 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Audubon County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$29,560	\$58,418	\$13,893	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	23,027	37,327	10,339	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	23,288	31,892	7,901	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.)