

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Benton County

Number of Farms

There were 1,210 farms counted in Benton County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Benton County decreased by 9 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 34 percent, slower than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Benton County</u>	<u>State</u>
1997	1,210	90,792
1992	1,325	96,534
1987	1,434	105,180
1982	1,585	115,413
1978	1,644	121,339
1974	1,669	126,104
1969	1,827	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Benton County averaged 346 acres in 1997, 3 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Benton County</u>	<u>State</u>
1997	346	343
1992	322	325
1987	293	301
1982	279	283
1978	272	274
1974	267	262
1969	245	239

Farm Land Use

Benton County had 418,483 total acres in farmland in 1997, 2 percent less than in 1992.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Crop-land</u>	<u>Wood-land</u>	<u>Other*</u>
1997	418,483	375,729	13,396	29,358
1992	427,215	388,123	11,445	27,647
1987	419,480	376,517	11,694	31,269
1982	441,810	386,963	13,121	41,726

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

Of the acres harvested in Benton County in 1997, 95 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.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Benton County</u>		<u>State</u>	
	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soy-beans</u>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soy-beans</u>
1997	49	46	50	43
1992	53	40	55	36
1987	48	42	50	39
1982	54	36	53	33
1978	53	33	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Benton County decreased 50 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 36 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, Benton County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	250	200,082
1992	503	313,768
1987	573	296,578
1982	748	309,340
1978	894	299,296
1974	950	274,499
1969	1,258	337,061

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Benton County selling fattened cattle decreased 14 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 36 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, Benton County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	239	26,551
1992	277	41,477
1987	358	50,721
1982	459	42,172
1978	541	56,522

(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 Benton County with dairy cows decreased 40 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 13 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, Benton County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	28	2,029
1992	47	2,319
1987	69	2,407
1982	104	2,814

Poultry

A small number of farms in Benton County sold chickens in 1997. Eight farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	7	*	15	8,173	8	305
1992	8	98,773	10	5,318	4	46
1987	9	164,025	13	*	6	*
1982	23	*	23	8,688	1	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Benton County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 36 percent and there were 33 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, Benton County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	72	2,582
1992	112	3,867
1987	178	11,400
1982	182	4,463

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Benton 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	10.7	23.8	26.9	21.8	16.8	50.8	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	17.6	23.5	22.4	20.8	15.6	48.9	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	21.3	21.4	22.4	21.8	13.1	47.8	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	21.5	22.4	23.3	21.9	10.9	47.1	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	21.7	21.0	24.9	22.4	9.9	46.7	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Benton County in 1997 included 10.7 percent under the age of 35 and 16.8 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Benton County was 50.8 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Benton County in 1997, 52.5 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	Benton County	State
1997	52.5	62.9
1992	56.8	71.7
1987	58.5	73.5
1982	57.7	80.1
1978	59.0	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Benton County	State
1997	36.8	33.3
1992	29.6	28.3
1987	28.5	26.5
1982	23.9	24.2
1978	22.4	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, Benton County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Benton County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	42.5	39.1	18.4	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	40.5	38.4	21.1	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	40.2	33.6	26.2	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	43.5	34.3	22.2	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	32.5	32.5	22.5	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 Benton County was higher than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was lower.

14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Benton County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	84.5	7.1	8.4	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	84.0	10.2	5.8	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	83.6	11.0	5.4	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	83.0	12.2	5.4	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	85.2	12.0	2.9	85.6	11.8	2.6

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Financial Profile

The sale of corn generated the greatest amount of agricultural revenue in Benton County in 1997, followed by soybeans.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	157,977	22,931	25,158	3,928	52,597	48,255	5,108
1992	151,713	30,956	41,002	3,771	39,538	30,452	5,994
1987	140,932	33,721	40,876	3,210	30,432	28,043	4,650

In Benton 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 corn, soybeans, and cattle and calves accounted for 80 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Benton County in 1997.

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

Year	Benton County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	14.5	15.9	2.5	33.3	30.5	3.2	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	20.4	27.0	2.5	26.1	20.1	4.0	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	23.9	29.0	2.3	21.6	19.9	3.3	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Benton County averaged a net cash return of \$32,870 in 1997, \$165 more than the state average. Of the farms in Benton County, 67 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Benton County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$32,870	\$54,099	\$9,274	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	19,251	38,911	10,992	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	21,974	31,857	8,899	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.)