

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Bremer County

Number of Farms

There were 982 farms counted in Bremer County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Bremer County decreased by 7 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 36 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Bremer County	State
1997	982	90,792
1992	1,058	96,534
1987	1,140	105,180
1982	1,287	115,413
1978	1,385	121,339
1974	1,421	126,104
1969	1,543	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Bremer County averaged 243 acres in 1997, 100 acres less than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Bremer County	State
1997	243	343
1992	224	325
1987	206	301
1982	195	283
1978	184	274
1974	177	262
1969	168	239

Farm Land Use

Bremer County had 238,528 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	238,528	210,534	7,303	20,691
1992	236,668	215,294	6,428	14,946
1987	235,086	211,488	7,943	15,655
1982	250,402	218,515	9,644	22,243

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

Of the acres harvested in Bremer 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	Bremer County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	53	41	50	43
1992	60	30	55	36
1987	55	31	50	39
1982	58	27	53	33
1978	52	31	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Bremer County decreased 49 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 4 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, Bremer County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	176	204,594
1992	345	197,125
1987	366	180,944
1982	472	173,871
1978	542	142,977
1974	658	134,531
1969	900	161,067

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Bremer County selling fattened cattle decreased 16 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 25 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, Bremer County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	193	6,251
1992	229	8,335
1987	244	11,179
1982	297	11,248
1978	299	12,455

(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 Bremer County with dairy cows decreased 43 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 34 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, Bremer County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	111	5,398
1992	194	8,119
1987	244	9,067
1982	308	10,829

Poultry

A small number of farms in Bremer County sold chickens in 1997. One farm reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	1	*	9	1,521	1	*
1992	4	*	7	1,985	4	*
1987	8	*	12	4,819	6	*
1982	25	24,349	26	8,891	8	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Bremer County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 44 percent and there were 64 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, Bremer County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	42	1,319
1992	75	3,615
1987	90	2,913
1982	114	2,486

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Bremer 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	14.4	22.2	27.2	20.2	16.1	49.9	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	17.3	27.3	23.0	20.1	12.3	47.7	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	21.7	22.8	22.7	20.4	12.4	47.2	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	22.0	24.9	22.5	21.4	9.2	46.4	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	21.0	24.8	24.4	20.7	9.0	46.4	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Bremer County in 1997 included 14.4 percent under the age of 35 and 16.1 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Bremer County was 49.9 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Bremer County in 1997, 63.6 percent claimed farming as their principal occupation, higher than the 62.9 percent state average.

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

Year	Bremer County	State
1997	63.6	62.9
1992	68.5	71.7
1987	72.7	73.5
1982	74.2	80.1
1978	72.6	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Bremer County	State
1997	42.5	33.3
1992	37.7	28.3
1987	34.8	26.5
1982	32.4	24.2
1978	35.4	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, Bremer County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Bremer County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	48.8	36.8	14.5	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	47.4	33.9	18.6	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	49.6	28.9	21.5	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	54.0	28.7	17.2	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	24.1	24.1	16.9	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 Bremer 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	Bremer County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	90.0	4.4	5.6	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	89.8	6.3	3.9	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	88.9	7.4	3.7	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	87.5	8.2	3.7	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	88.3	9.4	2.3	85.6	11.8	2.6

Extension to Communities

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	101,575	21,911	11,428	10,709	31,763	23,353	2,411
1992	89,215	18,104	11,251	14,692	27,922	13,396	3,850
1987	75,029	18,688	10,664	12,875	19,395	10,848	2,559

In Bremer County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a smaller 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 hogs and pigs accounted for 76 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Bremer County in 1997.

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

Year	Bremer County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	21.6	11.3	10.5	31.3	23.0	2.4	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	20.3	12.6	16.5	31.3	15.0	4.3	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	24.9	14.2	17.2	25.9	14.5	3.4	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Bremer County averaged a net cash return of \$24,460 in 1997, \$8,245 less than the state average. Of the farms in Bremer County, 70 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Bremer County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$24,460	\$38,060	\$6,709	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	18,632	32,560	7,052	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	12,695	230,448	6,907	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.)