

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Butler County

Number of Farms

There were 1,085 farms counted in Butler County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Butler County decreased by 5 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	Butler County	State
1997	1,085	90,792
1992	1,146	96,534
1987	1,294	105,180
1982	1,467	115,413
1978	1,475	121,339
1974	1,565	126,104
1969	1,692	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Butler County averaged 299 acres in 1997, 44 acres less than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Butler County	State
1997	299	343
1992	275	325
1987	254	301
1982	229	283
1978	232	274
1974	222	262
1969	208	239

Farm Land Use

Butler County had 324,282 total acres in farmland in 1997, 3 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	324,282	294,649	8,148	21,485
1992	315,448	284,975	7,325	23,148
1987	328,114	295,618	8,380	24,116
1982	336,000	296,489	8,738	30,773

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

Of the acres harvested in Butler County in 1997, 96 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	Butler County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	52	45	50	43
1992	59	35	55	36
1987	53	38	50	39
1982	57	32	53	33
1978	55	33	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Butler County decreased 45 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 21 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, Butler County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	261	315,618
1992	474	399,648
1987	562	367,816
1982	720	330,621
1978	811	286,807
1974	895	227,268
1969	1,219	272,932

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Butler County selling fattened cattle decreased 10 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 16 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, Butler County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	180	11,130
1992	200	13,204
1987	331	18,668
1982	384	21,600
1978	406	23,880

(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 Butler County with dairy cows decreased 42 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 42 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, Butler County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	44	1,827
1992	76	3,160
1987	118	3,702
1982	173	4,898

Poultry

A small number of farms in Butler County sold chickens in 1997. Six farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	5	*	9	10,123	6	48,799
1992	6	*	12	2,752	10	157,802
1987	19	75,330	26	6,743	11	91,843
1982	39	180,747	26	9,814	6	90,211

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Butler County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 31 percent and there were 27 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, Butler County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	82	4,349
1992	119	5,923
1987	141	5,429
1982	163	5,828

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Butler 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	10.2	21.1	26.3	21.6	20.8	52.0	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	16.8	23.1	21.5	21.6	17.1	49.6	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	20.9	19.9	21.4	23.7	14.0	48.4	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	24.8	22.1	21.1	24.1	7.8	46.0	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	22.2	21.2	24.7	25.6	6.4	46.5	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Butler County in 1997 included 10.2 percent under the age of 35 and 20.8 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Butler County was 52.0 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Butler County in 1997, 70.0 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	Butler County	State
1997	70.0	62.9
1992	75.4	71.7
1987	80.0	73.5
1982	80.4	80.1
1978	82.5	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Butler County	State
1997	36.3	33.3
1992	29.5	28.3
1987	24.8	26.5
1982	25.6	24.2
1978	24.7	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, Butler County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Butler County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	43.6	38.0	18.4	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	43.5	37.3	19.2	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	44.2	34.0	21.8	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	47.8	29.1	23.1	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	30.2	30.2	22.6	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 Butler 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	Butler County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	88.4	6.7	4.9	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	87.8	8.4	3.8	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	87.2	8.3	4.4	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	88.3	8.0	4.4	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	87.7	9.6	2.7	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 Butler County in 1997, followed by hogs and pigs.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	131,473	37,482	12,274	3,405	39,829	33,159	5,324
1992	114,274	36,902	14,645	5,110	33,131	20,118	4,368
1987	105,209	38,444	16,683	4,529	24,579	17,468	3,506

In Butler County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a smaller percentage of total sales than in the state overall; hogs and pigs made up a greater percentage of total sales. The sale of corn, hogs and pigs, and soybeans accounted for 84 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Butler County in 1997.

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

Year	Butler County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	28.5	9.3	2.6	30.3	25.2	4.0	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	32.3	12.8	4.5	29.0	17.6	3.8	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	36.5	15.9	4.3	23.4	16.6	3.3	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Butler County averaged a net cash return of \$30,586 in 1997, \$2,119 less than the state average. Of the farms in Butler County, 69 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Butler County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$30,586	\$47,488	\$7,253	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	20,665	35,773	9,668	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	16,434	26,980	7,831	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.)