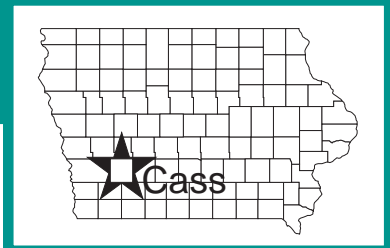


Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Cass County

Number of Farms

There were 804 farms counted in Cass County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Cass County decreased by 11 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 42 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Cass County	State
1997	804	90,792
1992	905	96,534
1987	942	105,180
1982	1,087	115,413
1978	1,157	121,339
1974	1,240	126,104
1969	1,398	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Cass County averaged 412 acres in 1997, 69 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Cass County	State
1997	412	343
1992	384	325
1987	354	301
1982	318	283
1978	306	274
1974	284	262
1969	252	239

Farm Land Use

Cass County had 331,362 total acres in farmland in 1997, 5 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	331,362	287,811	5,598	37,953
1992	347,353	305,308	5,766	36,279
1987	333,083	291,489	4,062	37,532
1982	345,726	298,951	5,552	41,223

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

Of the acres harvested in Cass County in 1997, 92 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	Cass County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	48	44	50	43
1992	55	37	55	36
1987	50	39	50	39
1982	53	32	53	33
1978	58	26	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Cass County decreased 56 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 41 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, Cass County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	138	112,514
1992	316	189,685
1987	353	167,856
1982	475	180,962
1978	615	181,920
1974	688	173,497
1969	951	215,648

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Cass County selling fattened cattle decreased 24 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 20 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, Cass County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	153	23,079
1992	200	28,827
1987	284	34,783
1982	374	40,607
1978	446	49,652

(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 Cass County with dairy cows decreased 13 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 7 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, Cass County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	14	363
1992	16	390
1987	25	652
1982	49	1,253

Poultry

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

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

Year	Farms	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys		
		No. sold	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	
1997	1	*	3	*	0	0
1992	2	*	5	*	0	0
1987	3	*	5	1,585	0	0
1982	14	*	9	4,505	2	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Cass County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 52 percent and there were 48 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, Cass County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	41	2,052
1992	86	3,956
1987	89	3,042
1982	111	4,301

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Cass 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	10.6	22.6	23.1	21.5	22.1	52.5	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	15.1	24.0	19.9	18.8	22.2	50.7	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	20.9	20.2	19.4	20.9	18.6	49.2	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	23.8	17.9	20.7	24.3	13.2	47.6	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	23.7	19.8	21.3	21.6	13.6	47.6	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Cass County in 1997 included 10.6 percent under the age of 35 and 22.1 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Cass County was 52.5 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Cass County in 1997, 64.6 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	Cass County	State
1997	64.6	62.9
1992	72.3	71.7
1987	77.5	73.5
1982	79.9	80.1
1978	81.0	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Cass County	State
1997	31.9	33.3
1992	25.1	28.3
1987	26.0	26.5
1982	22.0	24.2
1978	17.0	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, Cass County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Cass County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	43.9	41.0	15.0	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	40.9	39.0	20.1	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	42.6	34.7	22.7	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	43.4	33.7	22.9	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	32.3	32.3	25.3	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 Cass 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	Cass County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	84.3	8.7	7.0	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	85.9	10.3	3.9	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	85.7	10.6	3.7	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	84.5	12.1	3.7	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	83.3	13.9	2.8	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 Cass County in 1997, followed by cattle and calves.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total sales</u>	<u>Hogs and pigs</u>	<u>Cattle and calves</u>	<u>Dairy products</u>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybeans</u>	<u>Other</u>
1997	94,100	12,184	25,347	507	27,558	24,537	3,967
1992	96,388	16,943	31,239	485	26,835	17,953	2,933
1987	83,023	17,465	28,169	896	19,472	15,976	1,045

In Cass 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, cattle and calves, and soybeans accounted for 82 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Cass County in 1997.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cass County</u>						<u>State</u>					
	<u>Hogs, pigs</u>	<u>Cattle, calves</u>	<u>Dairy</u>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soy-beans</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Hogs, pigs</u>	<u>Cattle, calves</u>	<u>Dairy</u>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soy-beans</u>	<u>Other</u>
1997	12.9	26.9	0.5	29.3	26.1	4.2	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	17.6	32.4	0.5	27.8	18.6	3.0	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	21.0	33.9	1.1	23.5	19.2	1.3	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Cass County averaged a net cash return of \$23,991 in 1997, \$8,714 less than the state average. Of the farms in Cass County, 66 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cass County</u>			<u>State</u>		
	<u>Net Cash Return</u>	<u>Net Gain</u>	<u>Net Loss</u>	<u>Net Cash Return</u>	<u>Net Gain</u>	<u>Net Loss</u>
1997	\$23,991	\$42,258	\$11,737	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	24,622	35,936	8,060	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	20,096	29,101	8,267	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.)