

# Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



## Cherokee County

### Number of Farms

There were 890 farms counted in Cherokee County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Cherokee County decreased by 9 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 33 percent, slower than the state's decline of 35 percent.

#### 1. Number of farms.

Year	Cherokee County	State
1997	890	90,792
1992	979	96,534
1987	1,091	105,180
1982	1,214	115,413
1978	1,249	121,339
1974	1,198	126,104
1969	1,332	140,354

### Average Farm Size

Farms in Cherokee County averaged 371 acres in 1997, 28 acres more than the state's average.

#### 2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Cherokee County	State
1997	371	343
1992	343	325
1987	310	301
1982	281	283
1978	284	274
1974	282	262
1969	264	239

### Farm Land Use

Cherokee County had 330,355 total acres in farmland in 1997, 2 percent less than in 1992.

#### 3. Land in farms (acres), Cherokee County.

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	330,355	286,850	6,909	36,596
1992	336,254	297,605	5,712	32,937
1987	338,708	292,532	7,226	38,950
1982	340,594	290,172	5,909	44,513

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

Of the acres harvested in Cherokee 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	Cherokee County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	49	47	50	43
1992	54	41	55	36
1987	49	44	50	39
1982	53	36	53	33
1978	55	32	54	32

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# Livestock Profile

## Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Cherokee County decreased 39 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 8 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, Cherokee County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	257	390,657
1992	423	360,996
1987	463	315,806
1982	588	320,646
1978	644	261,551
1974	687	234,583
1969	914	229,128

## Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Cherokee County selling fattened cattle decreased 32 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 4 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, Cherokee County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	166	30,839
1992	243	31,966
1987	311	51,240
1982	428	71,244
1978	533	92,816

(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 Cherokee County with dairy cows decreased 50 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 48 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, Cherokee County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	19	804
1992	38	1,551
1987	51	1,646
1982	58	1,691

## Poultry

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

### 8. Farms selling poultry and number of poultry sold, Cherokee County.

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	0	0	4	1,850	1	*
1992	2	*	4	*	3	*
1987	6	485	9	1,115	3	*
1982	18	7,042	8	678	3	*

## Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Cherokee County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 34 percent and there were 63 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, Cherokee County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	33	2,068
1992	50	5,582
1987	85	7,215
1982	114	7,720

# Farm Operator Profile

## Age

### 10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Cherokee 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	10.1	27.6	24.4	16.6	21.2	50.9	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	18.3	29.5	15.5	21.1	15.5	48.3	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	22.2	19.9	19.4	26.2	12.3	48.1	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	27.3	15.0	22.6	25.4	9.7	46.5	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	22.9	17.0	27.4	24.4	8.3	46.8	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Cherokee County in 1997 included 10.1 percent under the age of 35 and 21.2 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Cherokee County was 50.9 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

## Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Cherokee County in 1997, 67.0 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	Cherokee County	State
1997	67.0	62.9
1992	69.9	71.7
1987	71.3	73.5
1982	70.3	80.1
1978	73.2	80.8

## Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Cherokee County	State
1997	28.5	33.3
1992	22.4	28.3
1987	22.2	26.5
1982	19.5	24.2
1978	15.1	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, Cherokee County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

### 13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Cherokee County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	33.8	43.0	23.1	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	30.9	40.0	29.0	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	34.9	37.5	27.6	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	39.4	35.1	25.5	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	33.7	33.7	29.0	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 Cherokee 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	Cherokee County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	83.7	9.0	7.3	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	83.8	10.3	5.9	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	85.0	11.3	3.8	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	86.1	11.4	3.8	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	88.6	9.4	1.9	85.6	11.8	2.6

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## Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	145,854	41,713	28,257	1,276	33,271	37,158	4,179
1992	127,906	33,923	32,610	2,124	30,134	25,131	3,984
1987	119,253	34,361	39,977	1,724	19,972	20,420	2,799

In Cherokee 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 Cherokee County in 1997.

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

Year	Cherokee County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	28.6	19.4	0.9	22.8	25.5	2.9	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	26.5	25.5	1.7	23.6	19.6	3.1	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	28.8	33.5	1.4	16.7	17.1	2.3	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Cherokee County averaged a net cash return of \$37,390 in 1997, \$4,685 more than the state average. Of the farms in Cherokee County, 76 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

### 17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Cherokee County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$37,390	\$53,053	\$13,254	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	34,428	47,744	10,918	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	26,685	38,636	10,566	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.)