

# Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



## Clarke County

### Number of Farms

There were 678 farms counted in Clarke County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Clarke County changed less than 1 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 25 percent, slower than the state's decline of 35 percent.

#### 1. Number of farms.

Year	Clarke County	State
1997	678	90,792
1992	680	96,534
1987	697	105,180
1982	766	115,413
1978	787	121,339
1974	908	126,104
1969	899	140,354

### Average Farm Size

Farms in Clarke County averaged 327 acres in 1997, 16 acres less than the state's average.

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

Year	Clarke County	State
1997	327	343
1992	348	325
1987	329	301
1982	309	283
1978	316	274
1974	272	262
1969	281	239

### Farm Land Use

Clarke County had 221,848 total acres in farmland in 1997, 7 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	221,848	151,334	17,532	52,982
1992	236,409	172,652	15,097	48,660
1987	229,423	165,204	16,556	47,663
1982	236,759	173,440	20,313	43,006

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

Of the acres harvested in Clarke County in 1997, 65 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	Clarke County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	32	33	50	43
1992	39	25	55	36
1987	40	26	50	39
1982	42	27	53	33
1978	39	28	54	32

### For more information:

#### The Clarke County Extension Office

Michele Beck, County Extension Education Director  
711 W. McLane Street  
Osceola, Iowa 50213-1533

Phone: (641) 342-3316

Fax: (641) 342-3316

E-mail: [clarke@exnet.iastate.edu](mailto:clarke@exnet.iastate.edu)

#### Your Extension community development specialist

Alan D. Jensen

105 West Adams Street, Suite B  
Creston, Iowa 50801-3104

Phone: (641) 782-8426

Fax: (641) 782-7213

E-mail: [adjensen@iastate.edu](mailto:adjensen@iastate.edu)

# Livestock Profile

## Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Clarke County decreased 61 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 66 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, Clarke County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	63	103,328
1992	163	62,189
1987	209	73,511
1982	277	74,796
1978	361	88,421
1974	422	77,215
1969	563	108,829

## Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Clarke County selling fattened cattle decreased 20 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold increased 22 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, Clarke County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	70	4,492
1992	87	3,681
1987	118	4,815
1982	126	7,616
1978	126	6,949

(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 Clarke County with dairy cows decreased 5 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 24 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, Clarke County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	18	357
1992	19	467
1987	21	259
1982	41	427

## Poultry

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

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

Year	Farms	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys	
		No. sold	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	2	*	1	* 0	0
1992	5	*	0	0 1	*
1987	3	*	6	* 1	*
1982	7	520	3	315 0	0

## Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Clarke County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 17 percent and there were 11 percent more 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, Clarke County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	54	2,462
1992	65	2,222
1987	72	1,808
1982	81	1,853

# Farm Operator Profile

## Age

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

Year	Clarke 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	7.2	18.4	22.1	22.9	29.4	55.5	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	10.7	19.3	20.6	20.9	28.5	53.9	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	14.6	18.1	20.2	26.3	20.8	51.9	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	18.3	19.8	23.0	24.5	14.4	49.0	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	16.6	20.6	26.7	22.7	13.3	49.0	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Clarke County in 1997 included 7.2 percent under the age of 35 and 29.4 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Clarke County was 55.5 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

## Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Clarke County in 1997, 68.6 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	Clarke County	State
1997	68.6	62.9
1992	78.6	71.7
1987	78.0	73.5
1982	80.7	80.1
1978	81.5	80.8

## Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Clarke County	State
1997	41.0	33.3
1992	34.3	28.3
1987	29.7	26.5
1982	28.8	24.2
1978	26.2	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, Clarke County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

### 13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Clarke County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	62.8	28.5	8.7	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	57.6	30.0	12.4	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	56.7	30.4	12.9	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	58.4	26.6	15.0	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	28.0	28.0	14.4	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 Clarke 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	Clarke County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	89.5	8.0	2.5	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	89.1	7.5	3.4	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	90.4	6.9	2.7	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	87.5	10.2	2.7	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	88.6	8.9	2.5	85.6	11.8	2.6

Prepared by  
**Margaret Hanson**  
 Census Services  
 Iowa State University

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## Financial Profile

The sale of hogs and pigs generated the greatest amount of agricultural revenue in Clarke County in 1997, followed by cattle and calves.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	38,534	14,617	10,099	386	5,419	6,467	1,546
1992	27,874	5,480	11,244	455	5,570	4,020	1,105
1987	27,280	8,132	9,629	268	4,689	3,824	738

In Clarke 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, cattle and calves, and soybeans accounted for 81 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Clarke County in 1997.

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

Year	Clarke County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	37.9	26.2	1.0	14.1	16.8	4.0	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	19.7	40.3	1.6	20.0	14.4	4.0	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	29.8	35.3	1.0	17.2	14.0	2.7	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Clarke County averaged a net cash return of \$4,408 in 1997, \$28,297 less than the state average. Of the farms in Clarke County, 47 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

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

Year	Clarke County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$4,408	\$26,430	\$15,161	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	8,916	19,811	5,648	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	7,223	16,386	4,283	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.)