

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Delaware County

Number of Farms

There were 1,278 farms counted in Delaware County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Delaware County decreased by 7 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 26 percent, slower than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Delaware County	State
1997	1,278	90,792
1992	1,367	96,534
1987	1,452	105,180
1982	1,481	115,413
1978	1,504	121,339
1974	1,499	126,104
1969	1,719	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Delaware County averaged 255 acres in 1997, 88 acres less than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Delaware County	State
1997	255	343
1992	246	325
1987	244	301
1982	238	283
1978	231	274
1974	226	262
1969	194	239

Farm Land Use

Delaware County had 326,187 total acres in farmland in 1997, 3 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	326,187	286,992	18,227	20,968
1992	336,131	296,319	18,224	21,588
1987	353,940	306,898	23,340	23,702
1982	351,861	303,628	18,345	29,888

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

Of the acres harvested in Delaware County in 1997, 84 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	Delaware County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	61	23	50	43
1992	68	11	55	36
1987	63	11	50	39
1982	67	8	53	33
1978	61	10	54	32

For more information:

The Delaware County Extension Office

Darrell Hanson, County Extension Education Director
1417 N. Franklin Street
P.O. Box 336
Manchester, Iowa 52057-0336

Phone: (563) 927-4201
Fax: (563) 927-3744
E-mail: xdelaware@iastate.edu

Your Extension community development specialist

Sandy Scholl
3420 University Avenue, Suite B
Waterloo, Iowa 50701-2008

Phone: (319) 234-6811
Fax: (319) 234-5581
E-mail: sscholl@iastate.edu

Your Extension farm management specialist

Phil Hufferd
3420 University Avenue, Suite B
Waterloo, Iowa 50701-2008

Phone: (319) 234-6811
Fax: (319) 234-5581
E-mail: xlhuffer@exnet.iastate.edu

Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Delaware County decreased 37 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 19 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, Delaware County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	537	656,200
1992	858	813,394
1987	930	747,477
1982	1,004	601,584
1978	1,103	507,641
1974	1,158	454,843
1969	1,406	429,555

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Delaware County selling fattened cattle decreased 3 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 5 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, Delaware County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	290	24,801
1992	298	26,220
1987	336	23,794
1982	368	23,176
1978	360	24,918

(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 Delaware County with dairy cows decreased 24 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 17 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, Delaware County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	315	18,844
1992	414	22,570
1987	527	24,342
1982	569	23,607

Poultry

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

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	4	*	4	265	1	*
1992	6	*	7	2,140	0	0
1987	7	*	10	1,976	3	*
1982	30	156,683	13	1,347	2	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Delaware County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 44 percent and there were 46 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, Delaware County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	40	845
1992	72	1,579
1987	78	2,206
1982	77	2,500

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Delaware 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	13.8	29.2	21.8	22.0	13.2	48.9	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	24.1	24.1	20.5	20.7	10.7	46.6	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	26.2	19.7	23.6	21.6	8.9	46.1	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	27.0	20.4	24.4	21.4	6.8	45.3	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	22.9	24.7	25.9	20.5	6.0	45.3	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Delaware County in 1997 included 13.8 percent under the age of 35 and 13.2 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Delaware County was 48.9 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Delaware County in 1997, 53.5 percent claimed farming as their principal occupation, lower than the 62.9 percent state average.

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

Year	Delaware County	State
1997	53.5	62.9
1992	58.9	71.7
1987	59.1	73.5
1982	64.3	80.1
1978	68.1	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Delaware County	State
1997	28.8	33.3
1992	21.5	28.3
1987	17.7	26.5
1982	16.0	24.2
1978	15.5	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, Delaware County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Delaware County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	52.0	28.9	19.1	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	53.5	26.0	20.5	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	52.8	24.9	22.3	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	56.6	26.2	17.2	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	21.9	21.9	16.8	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 Delaware County was higher than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was higher also.

14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Delaware County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	85.4	9.9	4.6	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	83.4	12.7	3.9	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	84.1	12.5	3.4	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	84.7	12.4	3.4	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	88.7	9.2	2.1	85.6	11.8	2.6

Prepared by
Margaret Hanson
 Census Services
 Iowa State University

Information in this county profile was derived from data acquired from

NASS



National
 Agricultural
 Statistics
 Service

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For more information on these and other topics, please call the Extension specialists listed on the cover page or visit the Extension Internet site at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/>

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
 University Extension

Helping Iowans become their best.

Financial Profile

The sale of hogs and pigs generated the greatest amount of agricultural revenue in Delaware County in 1997, followed by dairy products .

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	195,918	77,671	30,636	35,312	30,318	18,999	2,982
1992	178,922	79,012	30,970	35,771	24,212	6,783	2,174
1987	167,550	82,525	22,261	32,549	21,480	5,723	3,012

In Delaware 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, dairy products, and cattle and calves accounted for 73 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Delaware County in 1997.

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

Year	Delaware County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	39.6	15.6	18.0	15.5	9.7	1.5	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	44.2	17.3	20.0	13.5	3.8	1.2	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	49.3	13.3	19.4	12.8	3.4	1.8	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Delaware County averaged a net cash return of \$36,639 in 1997, \$3,934 more than the state average. Of the farms in Delaware County, 72 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Delaware County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$36,639	\$54,637	\$9,131	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	28,103	47,043	10,837	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	30,306	42,177	7,498	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.)