

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Dickinson County

Number of Farms

There were 512 farms counted in Dickinson County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Dickinson County decreased by 8 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 38 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Dickinson County	State
1997	512	90,792
1992	554	96,534
1987	593	105,180
1982	652	115,413
1978	700	121,339
1974	749	126,104
1969	820	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Dickinson County averaged 393 acres in 1997, 50 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Dickinson County	State
1997	393	343
1992	365	325
1987	356	301
1982	349	283
1978	346	274
1974	326	262
1969	284	239

Farm Land Use

Dickinson County had 201,126 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	201,126	180,906	823	19,397
1992	202,249	184,781	1,047	16,421
1987	211,002	193,330	1,243	16,429
1982	227,557	202,840	954	23,763

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

Of the acres harvested in Dickinson 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	Dickinson County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	47	48	50	43
1992	50	45	55	36
1987	44	49	50	39
1982	49	43	53	33
1978	50	40	54	32

For more information:

The Dickinson County Extension Office

Joy Janachovsky, County Extension Education Director
1510 18th Street
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360-1026

Phone: (712) 336-3488

Fax: (712) 336-3498

E-mail: dickinso@exnet.iastate.edu

Your Extension community development specialist

Cory Peterson

1510 18th Street
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360-1026

Phone: (712) 336-3488

Fax: (712) 336-3498

E-mail: coryp@iastate.edu

Your Extension farm management specialist

Don Hofstrand

2023 South Federal Avenue
Mason City, Iowa 50401-6726

Phone: (641) 423-0844

Fax: (641) 423-2642

E-mail: x1hofstr@exnet.iastate.edu

Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Dickinson County decreased 43 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 25 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, Dickinson County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	90	76,390
1992	157	102,515
1987	179	102,886
1982	242	109,195
1978	315	99,049
1974	360	102,108
1969	463	95,508

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Dickinson County selling fattened cattle decreased 38 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 17 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, Dickinson County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	56	21,529
1992	90	26,021
1987	114	26,160
1982	157	42,988
1978	214	46,178

(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 Dickinson County with dairy cows decreased 50 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 6 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, Dickinson County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	6	586
1992	12	625
1987	29	902
1982	24	702

Poultry

One farm in Dickinson County sold chickens in 1997. No farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	0	0	1	*	0	0
1992	3	230,283	2	*	2	*
1987	9	264,229	10	4,528	2	*
1982	14	322,606	9	3,690	3	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Dickinson County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 28 percent and there were 77 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, Dickinson County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	34	1,685
1992	47	7,373
1987	62	3,897
1982	72	5,194

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Dickinson 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	10.7	23.4	24.6	17.4	23.8	52.0	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	16.4	24.0	15.7	24.2	19.7	50.4	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	19.2	19.9	19.9	25.5	15.5	49.3	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	26.7	18.6	22.2	22.7	9.8	46.2	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	24.0	17.4	25.7	23.9	9.0	46.6	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Dickinson County in 1997 included 10.7 percent under the age of 35 and 23.8 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Dickinson County was 52.0 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Dickinson County in 1997, 64.1 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	Dickinson County	State
1997	64.1	62.9
1992	73.8	71.7
1987	75.5	73.5
1982	77.5	80.1
1978	75.7	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Dickinson County	State
1997	28.6	33.3
1992	24.9	28.3
1987	20.6	26.5
1982	17.6	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, Dickinson County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Dickinson County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	38.5	40.8	20.7	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	35.2	41.5	23.3	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	36.4	37.6	26.0	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	32.8	39.3	27.9	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	36.7	36.7	30.3	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 Dickinson 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	Dickinson County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	84.6	7.0	8.4	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	85.6	7.9	6.5	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	85.2	8.8	6.1	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	84.2	11.0	6.1	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	84.6	11.9	3.6	85.6	11.8	2.6

Extension to Communities

Prepared by
Margaret Hanson
 Census Services
 Iowa State University

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Financial Profile

The sale of cattle and calves generated the greatest amount of agricultural revenue in Dickinson County in 1997, followed by corn.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	72,854	9,095	21,207	700	20,470	20,144	1,238
1992	71,649	9,791	24,764	775	17,227	14,954	4,138
1987	64,239	11,822	20,381	1,146	14,280	13,789	2,821

In Dickinson 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 cattle and calves, corn, and soybeans accounted for 85 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Dickinson County in 1997.

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

Year	Dickinson County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	12.5	29.1	1.0	28.1	27.6	1.7	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	13.7	34.6	1.1	24.0	20.9	5.8	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	18.4	31.7	1.8	22.2	21.5	4.4	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Dickinson County averaged a net cash return of \$28,727 in 1997, \$3,978 less than the state average. Of the farms in Dickinson County, 61 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Dickinson County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$28,727	\$52,369	\$8,155	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	26,762	37,273	9,690	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	26,597	34,714	6,076	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.)