

# Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



## Hamilton County

### Number of Farms

There were 790 farms counted in Hamilton County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Hamilton County decreased by 10 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 47 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

#### 1. Number of farms.

Year	Hamilton County	State
1997	790	90,792
1992	873	96,534
1987	1,026	105,180
1982	1,158	115,413
1978	1,283	121,339
1974	1,293	126,104
1969	1,486	140,354

### Average Farm Size

Farms in Hamilton County averaged 441 acres in 1997, 98 acres more than the state's average.

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

Year	Hamilton County	State
1997	441	343
1992	381	325
1987	339	301
1982	309	283
1978	283	274
1974	273	262
1969	245	239

### Farm Land Use

Hamilton County had 348,675 total acres in farmland in 1997, 5 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	348,675	329,567	5,893	13,215
1992	332,377	313,284	5,087	14,006
1987	347,353	325,528	3,983	17,842
1982	358,259	326,699	6,977	24,583

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

Of the acres harvested in Hamilton County in 1997, 99 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	Hamilton County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	52	47	50	43
1992	54	45	55	36
1987	48	51	50	39
1982	53	45	53	33
1978	54	43	54	32

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# Livestock Profile

## Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Hamilton County decreased 32 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 129 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, Hamilton County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	177	882,366
1992	262	384,527
1987	340	296,597
1982	444	330,776
1978	553	253,708
1974	618	221,628
1969	828	214,570

## Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Hamilton County selling fattened cattle decreased 26 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 67 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, Hamilton County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	49	2,350
1992	66	7,049
1987	85	8,865
1982	173	24,701
1978	213	32,231

(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 Hamilton County with dairy cows decreased 43 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 18 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, Hamilton County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	4	340
1992	7	413
1987	5	263
1982	16	229

## Poultry

A small number of farms in Hamilton County sold chickens in 1997. Sixteen farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	4	*	2	*	16	1,735,990
1992	8	*	7	1,398	23	2,218,387
1987	5	*	14	11,975	25	2,952,084
1982	16	*	7	1,517	28	2,284,901

## Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Hamilton County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 32 percent and there were 30 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, Hamilton County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	40	1,280
1992	59	1,828
1987	76	2,835
1982	100	3,164

# Farm Operator Profile

## Age

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

Year	Hamilton 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	8.2	26.7	24.4	19.0	21.6	52.0	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	15.6	23.6	19.8	22.7	18.3	50.3	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	21.1	19.9	19.4	25.6	14.0	48.8	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	20.4	19.9	22.0	25.8	11.8	48.4	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	19.3	18.5	26.7	26.0	9.5	48.0	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Hamilton County in 1997 included 8.2 percent under the age of 35 and 21.6 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Hamilton County was 52.0 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

## Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Hamilton County in 1997, 70.0 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	Hamilton County	State
1997	70.0	62.9
1992	75.5	71.7
1987	80.4	73.5
1982	86.1	80.1
1978	84.3	80.8

## Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Hamilton County	State
1997	26.8	33.3
1992	28.3	28.3
1987	24.4	26.5
1982	18.7	24.2
1978	15.2	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, Hamilton County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

### 13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Hamilton County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	34.8	41.1	24.1	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	32.5	40.8	26.7	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	33.4	38.5	28.1	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	30.2	39.7	30.1	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	37.5	37.5	28.9	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 Hamilton County was lower than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was lower also.

### 14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Hamilton County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	81.5	8.4	10.1	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	84.0	8.8	7.2	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	84.9	8.3	6.8	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	86.0	9.4	6.8	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	86.5	10.8	2.7	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 Hamilton County in 1997, followed by corn.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	227,219	106,151	4,049	803	53,357	42,125	20,734
1992	142,414	37,443	8,131	658	41,249	30,291	24,642
1987	133,865	32,318	10,534	402	30,098	27,110	33,403

In Hamilton County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a smaller 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, corn, and soybeans accounted for 89 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Hamilton County in 1997.

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

Year	Hamilton County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	46.7	1.8	0.4	23.5	18.5	9.1	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	26.3	5.7	0.5	29.0	21.3	17.3	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	24.1	7.9	0.3	22.5	20.3	25.0	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Hamilton County averaged a net cash return of \$73,372 in 1997, \$40,667 more than the state average. Of the farms in Hamilton County, 78 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

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

Year	Hamilton County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$73,372	\$97,310	\$12,497	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	39,639	50,407	9,991	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	33,530	44,426	8,558	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.)