

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Hancock County

Number of Farms

There were 849 farms counted in Hancock County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Hancock County decreased by 10 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 42 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Hancock County	State
1997	849	90,792
1992	939	96,534
1987	1,052	105,180
1982	1,176	115,413
1978	1,275	121,339
1974	1,330	126,104
1969	1,455	140,354

Average Farm Size

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

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Hancock County	State
1997	393	343
1992	351	325
1987	331	301
1982	299	283
1978	277	274
1974	264	262
1969	244	239

Farm Land Use

Hancock County had 334,050 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	334,050	315,295	2,115	16,640
1992	329,151	312,797	1,015	15,339
1987	347,774	328,038	1,339	18,397
1982	351,156	324,774	1,672	24,710

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

Of the acres harvested in Hancock 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	Hancock County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	54	45	50	43
1992	59	39	55	36
1987	50	47	50	39
1982	54	41	53	33
1978	53	40	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Hancock County decreased 49 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 3 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, Hancock County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	200	319,576
1992	389	328,647
1987	401	271,442
1982	509	301,863
1978	616	265,692
1974	727	233,360
1969	934	239,088

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Hancock County selling fattened cattle decreased 29 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 28 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, Hancock County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	102	8,731
1992	143	12,064
1987	191	15,581
1982	238	21,357
1978	302	27,658

(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 Hancock County with dairy cows decreased 50 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 30 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, Hancock County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	8	355
1992	16	504
1987	31	1,378
1982	63	1,909

Poultry

A small number of farms in Hancock County sold chickens in 1997. Two farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Farms	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys
		No. sold	No. sold	No. sold
1997	2	*	2	* 2 *
1992	4	*	9	920 0 0
1987	12	*	19	1,709 4 *
1982	22	*	11	2,605 2 *

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Hancock County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 33 percent and there were 14 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, Hancock County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	38	2,224
1992	57	2,600
1987	58	2,588
1982	91	5,467

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Hancock 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	11.8	25.4	22.6	22.5	17.7	50.6	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	20.1	23.6	19.2	22.6	14.5	48.3	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	21.2	20.1	22.5	24.5	11.7	48.1	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	24.7	18.8	23.6	24.0	9.0	46.5	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	22.9	21.3	24.1	23.1	8.6	46.4	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Hancock County in 1997 included 11.8 percent under the age of 35 and 17.7 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Hancock County was 50.6 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Hancock County in 1997, 68.7 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	Hancock County	State
1997	68.7	62.9
1992	71.6	71.7
1987	75.0	73.5
1982	74.7	80.1
1978	79.7	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Hancock County	State
1997	29.1	33.3
1992	22.7	28.3
1987	21.7	26.5
1982	13.6	24.2
1978	14.9	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, Hancock County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Hancock County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	31.3	44.3	24.4	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	31.2	39.4	29.4	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	32.7	39.5	27.8	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	33.8	37.8	28.5	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	34.0	34.0	30.7	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 Hancock 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	Hancock County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	84.2	7.9	7.9	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	84.7	10.4	4.9	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	84.6	10.6	4.8	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	83.8	12.8	4.8	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	86.4	10.9	2.7	85.6	11.8	2.6

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	140,661	36,249	7,735	595	49,917	35,654	10,511
1992	108,638	30,186	11,567	805	38,725	23,090	4,265
1987	97,752	28,671	12,386	1,740	29,208	23,290	2,457

In Hancock 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 corn, hogs and pigs, and soybeans accounted for 87 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Hancock County in 1997.

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

Year	Hancock County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	25.8	5.5	0.4	35.5	25.3	7.5	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	27.8	10.6	0.7	35.6	21.3	3.9	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	29.3	12.7	1.8	29.9	23.8	2.5	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Hancock County averaged a net cash return of \$41,170 in 1997, \$8,465 more than the state average. Of the farms in Hancock County, 76 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Hancock County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$41,170	\$57,968	\$11,943	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	25,395	38,332	9,494	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	24,066	36,808	9,457	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.)