

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Lee County

Number of Farms

There were 861 farms counted in Lee County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Lee County decreased by 1 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 32 percent, slower than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Lee County	State
1997	861	90,792
1992	872	96,534
1987	989	105,180
1982	1,060	115,413
1978	1,098	121,339
1974	1,104	126,104
1969	1,275	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Lee County averaged 298 acres in 1997, 45 acres less than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Lee County	State
1997	298	343
1992	305	325
1987	269	301
1982	252	283
1978	251	274
1974	244	262
1969	219	239

Farm Land Use

Lee County had 256,685 total acres in farmland in 1997, 4 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	256,685	189,658	33,786	33,241
1992	266,083	206,408	32,946	26,729
1987	266,090	201,475	35,718	28,897
1982	266,741	194,896	37,112	34,733

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

Of the acres harvested in Lee County in 1997, 88 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	Lee County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	48	41	50	43
1992	51	37	55	36
1987	45	40	50	39
1982	50	36	53	33
1978	49	36	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Lee County decreased 42 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, Lee County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	150	201,341
1992	257	248,783
1987	285	187,062
1982	363	198,754
1978	478	180,867
1974	510	137,261
1969	708	148,646

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Lee County selling fattened cattle decreased 24 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 31 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, Lee County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	132	8,310
1992	174	11,966
1987	252	17,877
1982	252	16,602
1978	272	19,395

(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 Lee County with dairy cows decreased 34 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 10 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, Lee County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	23	1,447
1992	35	1,600
1987	48	1,708
1982	73	1,972

Poultry

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

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

Year	Farms	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys	
		No. sold	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	3	*	0	0	0
1992	2	*	2	*	0
1987	3	*	1	*	3
1982	20	*	8	424	1

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Lee County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 37 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, Lee County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	49	2,196
1992	78	4,048
1987	90	3,832
1982	103	5,803

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Lee 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	7.4	19.4	22.6	24.9	25.7	54.4	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	12.8	21.4	22.2	21.9	21.6	51.8	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	14.8	20.7	23.8	22.6	18.1	50.5	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	20.4	20.8	21.6	23.3	14.0	48.5	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	18.3	21.7	22.9	25.1	12.0	48.8	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Lee County in 1997 included 7.4 percent under the age of 35 and 25.7 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Lee County was 54.4 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Lee County in 1997, 51.8 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	Lee County	State
1997	51.8	62.9
1992	57.9	71.7
1987	57.9	73.5
1982	57.7	80.1
1978	57.6	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Lee County	State
1997	39.7	33.3
1992	38.4	28.3
1987	38.2	26.5
1982	37.8	24.2
1978	35.8	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, Lee County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Lee County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	58.4	34.4	7.2	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	55.3	34.9	9.9	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	58.4	32.2	9.4	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	56.7	30.9	12.4	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	32.1	32.1	11.0	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 Lee 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	Lee County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	82.1	8.8	9.1	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	83.6	8.9	7.5	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	82.0	12.5	5.5	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	84.1	11.9	5.5	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	86.1	12.4	1.5	85.6	11.8	2.6

Extension to Communities

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Information in this county profile was derived from data acquired from

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 Agricultural
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UNITED STATES
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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.

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	77,358	23,099	9,120	2,766	19,120	19,276	3,977
1992	73,550	24,558	13,433	3,380	16,257	12,834	3,088
1987	56,758	20,227	14,784	2,449	8,341	9,274	1,683

In Lee 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, soybeans, and corn accounted for 79 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Lee County in 1997.

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

Year	Lee County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	29.9	11.8	3.6	24.7	24.9	5.1	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	33.4	18.3	4.6	22.1	17.4	4.2	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	35.6	26.0	4.3	14.7	16.3	3.0	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Lee County averaged a net cash return of \$22,526 in 1997, \$10,179 less than the state average. Of the farms in Lee County, 55 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Lee County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$22,526	\$47,278	\$7,776	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	16,608	29,543	7,973	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	10,696	23,380	4,810	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.)