

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Mahaska County

Number of Farms

There were 1,022 farms counted in Mahaska County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Mahaska County decreased by 5 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 35 percent, slower than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Mahaska County	State
1997	1,022	90,792
1992	1,075	96,534
1987	1,193	105,180
1982	1,265	115,413
1978	1,344	121,339
1974	1,413	126,104
1969	1,561	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Mahaska County averaged 322 acres in 1997, 21 acres less than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Mahaska County	State
1997	322	343
1992	293	325
1987	275	301
1982	266	283
1978	254	274
1974	232	262
1969	220	239

Farm Land Use

Mahaska County had 329,038 total acres in farmland in 1997, 4 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	329,038	273,633	15,496	39,909
1992	314,887	267,909	13,813	33,165
1987	328,093	277,151	14,520	36,422
1982	336,033	281,184	13,557	41,292

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

Of the acres harvested in Mahaska County in 1997, 92 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	Mahaska County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	51	41	50	43
1992	55	35	55	36
1987	51	38	50	39
1982	54	33	53	33
1978	54	29	54	32

For more information:

The Mahaska County Extension Office

Diane VanWyngarden, County Extension Education Director
212 N. I Street
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577-2060

Phone: (641) 673-5841

Fax: (641) 673-0559

E-mail: mahaska@exnet.iastate.edu

Your Extension community development specialist

Tom Quinn

700 Farm Credit Drive
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501-1924

Phone: (641) 682-5491

Fax: (641) 682-5148

E-mail: tqinn@iastate.edu

Your Extension farm management specialist

Ralph Mayer

P.O. Box 409
Knoxville, Iowa 50138-0409

Phone: (641) 842-2014

Fax: (641) 828-0664

E-mail: xlmayer@exnet.iastate.edu

Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Mahaska County decreased 40 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 18 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, Mahaska County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	284	506,067
1992	477	429,094
1987	534	407,094
1982	688	446,177
1978	821	410,861
1974	827	325,895
1969	1,088	324,674

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Mahaska County selling fattened cattle decreased 21 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 20 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, Mahaska County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	175	23,996
1992	221	30,107
1987	310	33,711
1982	376	37,584
1978	453	47,222

(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 Mahaska County with dairy cows decreased 39 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, Mahaska County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	22	1,106
1992	36	1,578
1987	51	1,304
1982	79	2,147

Poultry

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

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	2	*	2	*	0	0
1992	13	*	6	1,197	1	*
1987	16	107,804	10	2,383	1	*
1982	41	126,978	2	*	0	0

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Mahaska County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 48 percent and there were 57 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, Mahaska County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	48	1,957
1992	93	4,569
1987	105	1,819
1982	105	5,361

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Mahaska 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	8.0	25.0	25.0	17.2	24.8	53.1	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	15.3	23.9	19.4	20.7	20.6	50.7	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	20.3	19.8	18.0	22.2	19.7	49.8	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	24.2	18.9	20.1	24.0	12.8	47.7	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	22.8	19.1	22.5	23.8	11.8	47.4	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Mahaska County in 1997 included 8.0 percent under the age of 35 and 24.8 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Mahaska County was 53.1 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Mahaska County in 1997, 45.5 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	Mahaska County	State
1997	45.5	62.9
1992	57.0	71.7
1987	59.4	73.5
1982	62.7	80.1
1978	63.2	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Mahaska County	State
1997	32.7	33.3
1992	28.1	28.3
1987	25.3	26.5
1982	20.6	24.2
1978	18.2	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, Mahaska County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Mahaska County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	51.9	32.8	15.4	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	48.5	34.6	16.9	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	49.6	31.9	18.4	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	46.9	33.8	19.4	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	31.3	31.3	20.2	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 Mahaska County was lower than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was higher.

14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Mahaska County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	79.6	11.2	9.2	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	83.4	10.1	6.4	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	84.2	11.6	4.3	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	81.7	15.7	4.3	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	82.4	16.1	1.4	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

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 Agricultural
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UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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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 Mahaska County in 1997, followed by corn.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	156,722	60,086	24,305	1,998	29,906	27,954	12,473
1992	115,975	41,945	29,433	2,766	21,390	16,843	3,598
1987	111,789	44,745	27,465	1,836	18,453	16,052	3,238

In Mahaska County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a same 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 75 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Mahaska County in 1997.

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

Year	Mahaska County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	38.3	15.5	1.3	19.1	17.8	8.0	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	36.2	25.4	2.4	18.4	14.5	3.1	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	40.0	24.6	1.6	16.5	14.4	2.9	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Mahaska County averaged a net cash return of \$38,750 in 1997, \$6,045 more than the state average. Of the farms in Mahaska County, 61 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Mahaska County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$38,750	\$68,663	\$8,732	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	21,497	33,429	11,111	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	23,986	34,960	8,975	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.)