

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Marshall County

Number of Farms

There were 912 farms counted in Marshall County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Marshall County decreased by 4 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 41 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Marshall County	State
1997	912	90,792
1992	949	96,534
1987	1,073	105,180
1982	1,201	115,413
1978	1,226	121,339
1974	1,360	126,104
1969	1,555	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Marshall County averaged 350 acres in 1997, 7 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Marshall County	State
1997	350	343
1992	330	325
1987	308	301
1982	281	283
1978	273	274
1974	261	262
1969	231	239

Farm Land Use

Marshall County had 319,392 total acres in farmland in 1997, 2 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	319,392	289,823	6,302	23,267
1992	312,858	282,571	7,101	23,186
1987	330,012	293,898	6,785	29,329
1982	337,775	296,090	9,862	31,823

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

Of the acres harvested in Marshall 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	Marshall County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	50	46	50	43
1992	61	34	55	36
1987	56	37	50	39
1982	59	33	53	33
1978	59	30	54	32

For more information:

The Marshall County Extension Office

Bill Helgen, County Extension Education Director
2501 S. Center Street, Suite N
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158-4545

Phone: (641) 752-1551

Fax: (641) 752-8142

E-mail: marshall@exnet.iastate.edu

Your Extension community development specialist

Norm Riggs

5201 N.E. 14th Street, Suite A
Des Moines, Iowa 50313-2005

Phone: (515) 261-4204

Fax: (515) 263-2704

E-mail: nriggs@iastate.edu

Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Marshall County decreased 41 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 5 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, Marshall County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	146	220,724
1992	246	232,322
1987	315	191,669
1982	389	199,017
1978	484	168,353
1974	619	157,682
1969	894	207,816

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Marshall County selling fattened cattle decreased 17 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 16 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, Marshall County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	142	12,024
1992	172	14,329
1987	249	20,085
1982	330	26,118
1978	375	34,873

(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 Marshall County with dairy cows decreased 56 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 4 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, Marshall County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	8	855
1992	18	892
1987	21	769
1982	35	830

Poultry

A small number of farms in Marshall County sold chickens in 1997. Four farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	4	0	6	1,395	4	66
1992	2	*	6	840	4	*
1987	11	*	11	2,522	3	*
1982	14	36,912	12	3,576	4	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Marshall County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 33 percent and there were 52 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, Marshall County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	68	2,294
1992	102	4,786
1987	106	5,227
1982	129	4,173

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Marshall 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	7.2	22.5	23.1	23.7	23.5	53.7	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	13.7	20.4	20.2	23.6	22.0	52.1	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	16.0	19.2	22.9	23.9	18.0	50.6	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	19.1	17.9	25.5	25.6	12.0	48.7	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	18.2	19.4	26.5	26.5	9.4	48.3	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Marshall County in 1997 included 7.2 percent under the age of 35 and 23.5 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Marshall County was 53.7 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Marshall County in 1997, 63.9 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	Marshall County	State
1997	63.9	62.9
1992	69.8	71.7
1987	73.2	73.5
1982	73.8	80.1
1978	73.4	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Marshall County	State
1997	36.7	33.3
1992	29.1	28.3
1987	26.0	26.5
1982	29.8	24.2
1978	27.5	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, Marshall County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Marshall County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	48.4	34.8	16.9	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	42.1	36.0	21.8	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	43.4	35.8	20.8	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	43.5	33.6	22.9	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	32.3	32.3	23.8	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 Marshall 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	Marshall County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	78.2	9.6	12.2	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	79.9	11.5	8.6	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	81.2	11.0	7.8	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	80.1	12.4	7.8	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	82.1	12.7	5.2	85.6	11.8	2.6

Prepared by
Margaret Hanson
 Census Services
 Iowa State University

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Financial Profile

The sale of corn generated the greatest amount of agricultural revenue in Marshall County in 1997, followed by soybeans.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	117,640	23,355	12,462	1,807	38,856	36,424	4,736
1992	101,491	22,207	15,664	1,429	37,526	20,306	4,359
1987	90,288	21,256	17,309	929	28,986	18,889	2,919

In Marshall County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a smaller percentage of total sales than in the state overall; hogs and pigs made up a smaller percentage of total sales. The sale of corn, soybeans, and hogs and pigs accounted for 84 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Marshall County in 1997.

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

Year	Marshall County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	19.9	10.6	1.5	33.0	31.0	4.0	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	21.9	15.4	1.4	37.0	20.0	4.3	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	23.5	19.2	1.0	32.1	20.9	3.2	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Marshall County averaged a net cash return of \$31,676 in 1997, \$1,029 less than the state average. Of the farms in Marshall County, 69 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Marshall County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$31,676	\$49,670	\$9,277	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	22,957	37,224	9,624	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	18,980	30,975	9,717	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.)