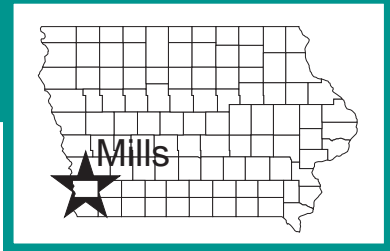


Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Mills County

Number of Farms

There were 496 farms counted in Mills County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Mills County decreased by 12 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 43 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Mills County	State
1997	496	90,792
1992	563	96,534
1987	641	105,180
1982	684	115,413
1978	793	121,339
1974	784	126,104
1969	868	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Mills County averaged 468 acres in 1997, 125 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Mills County	State
1997	468	343
1992	422	325
1987	383	301
1982	372	283
1978	322	274
1974	322	262
1969	310	239

Farm Land Use

Mills County had 232,129 total acres in farmland in 1997, 2 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	232,129	204,717	5,295	22,117
1992	237,862	217,133	5,283	15,446
1987	245,380	218,646	6,363	20,371
1982	254,238	219,717	6,535	27,986

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

Of the acres harvested in Mills County in 1997, 98 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	Mills County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	48	50	50	43
1992	53	45	55	36
1987	48	48	50	39
1982	49	44	53	33
1978	53	39	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Mills County decreased 62 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 51 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, Mills County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	55	42,484
1992	146	86,562
1987	170	77,324
1982	246	105,463
1978	308	99,621
1974	351	73,656
1969	470	101,131

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Mills County selling fattened cattle decreased 27 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 68 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, Mills County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	49	3,976
1992	67	12,494
1987	107	18,102
1982	178	27,686
1978	213	39,429

(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 Mills County with dairy cows decreased 67 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 8 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, Mills County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	5	85
1992	3	92
1987	5	112
1982	15	248

Poultry

A small number of farms in Mills County sold chickens in 1997. One farm reported turkey sales.

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

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

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Mills County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 10 percent and there were 32 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, Mills County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	19	846
1992	21	1,248
1987	36	1,206
1982	36	1,479

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Mills 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	8.1	18.1	29.6	20.8	23.4	53.6	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	12.4	20.8	23.1	20.6	23.1	52.2	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	15.4	23.4	18.7	23.7	18.7	50.7	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	20.0	21.5	22.8	23.8	11.8	48.0	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	20.2	20.1	23.5	23.5	12.9	48.3	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Mills County in 1997 included 8.1 percent under the age of 35 and 23.4 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Mills County was 53.6 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Mills County in 1997, 64.9 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	Mills County	State
1997	64.9	62.9
1992	71.0	71.7
1987	72.0	73.5
1982	79.6	80.1
1978	81.0	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Mills County	State
1997	29.2	33.3
1992	26.4	28.3
1987	27.2	26.5
1982	25.5	24.2
1978	23.9	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, Mills County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Mills County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	41.7	44.2	14.1	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	44.0	34.8	21.1	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	45.6	33.5	20.9	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	44.2	33.8	22.1	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	32.2	32.2	24.2	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 Mills 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	Mills County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	78.6	9.3	12.1	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	83.7	9.1	7.3	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	80.5	13.7	5.8	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	79.7	16.1	5.8	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	79.7	17.2	3.2	85.6	11.8	2.6

Extension to Communities

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	59,190	3,592	5,240	137	26,011	23,390	820
1992	64,817	7,558	12,671	142	25,773	18,102	571
1987	55,111	8,627	14,611	117	16,286	14,872	598

In Mills 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 cattle and calves accounted for 92 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Mills County in 1997.

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

Year	Mills County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	6.1	8.9	0.2	43.9	39.5	1.4	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	11.7	19.5	0.2	39.8	27.9	0.9	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	15.7	26.5	0.2	29.6	27.0	1.1	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Mills County averaged a net cash return of \$41,125 in 1997, \$8,420 more than the state average. Of the farms in Mills County, 64 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Mills County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$41,125	\$68,378	\$7,837	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	31,641	42,401	5,760	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	25,120	33,362	6,359	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.)