

# Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



## Mitchell County

### Number of Farms

There were 824 farms counted in Mitchell County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Mitchell County changed less than 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	Mitchell County	State
1997	824	90,792
1992	825	96,534
1987	939	105,180
1982	1,011	115,413
1978	1,065	121,339
1974	1,109	126,104
1969	1,208	140,354

### Average Farm Size

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

#### 2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Mitchell County	State
1997	322	343
1992	319	325
1987	288	301
1982	270	283
1978	268	274
1974	266	262
1969	242	239

### Farm Land Use

Mitchell County had 265,173 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent more than in 1992.

#### 3. Land in farms (acres), Mitchell County.

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	265,173	242,726	5,778	16,669
1992	263,047	241,380	5,829	15,838
1987	270,582	247,794	6,741	16,047
1982	273,000	243,120	8,091	21,789

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

Of the acres harvested in Mitchell County in 1997, 93 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	Mitchell County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	53	40	50	43
1992	58	35	55	36
1987	50	38	50	39
1982	52	35	53	33
1978	51	34	54	32

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# Livestock Profile

## Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Mitchell County decreased 27 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 52 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, Mitchell County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	285	490,159
1992	388	322,154
1987	406	273,074
1982	464	250,435
1978	515	219,221
1974	625	188,700
1969	766	177,916

## Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Mitchell County selling fattened cattle decreased 0 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold increased 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, Mitchell County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	173	30,898
1992	173	23,615
1987	208	24,011
1982	237	27,577
1978	285	32,748

(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 Mitchell County with dairy cows decreased 12 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 5 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, Mitchell County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	78	2,996
1992	89	3,161
1987	110	3,883
1982	143	4,672

## Poultry

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

### 8. Farms selling poultry and number of poultry sold, Mitchell County.

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	10	*	13	*	2	*
1992	10	300,627	8	*	4	139,606
1987	35	838,272	13	54,716	4	65,013
1982	44	553,813	15	*	4	

## Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Mitchell County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 44 percent and there were 36 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, Mitchell County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	34	1,241
1992	61	1,943
1987	71	2,454
1982	88	3,733

# Farm Operator Profile

## Age

### 10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Mitchell 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	17.2	25.4	23.2	20.6	13.6	48.2	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	21.9	25.0	19.2	21.3	12.6	47.2	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	21.7	20.6	22.5	22.5	12.8	48.0	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	26.5	20.0	21.2	22.4	10.0	46.3	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	25.3	20.8	22.9	20.8	10.3	45.9	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Mitchell County in 1997 included 17.2 percent under the age of 35 and 13.6 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Mitchell County was 48.2 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

## Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Mitchell County in 1997, 67.9 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	Mitchell County	State
1997	67.9	62.9
1992	75.7	71.7
1987	76.7	73.5
1982	81.4	80.1
1978	82.4	80.8

## Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Mitchell County	State
1997	32.3	33.3
1992	29.8	28.3
1987	24.1	26.5
1982	18.6	24.2
1978	18.1	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, Mitchell County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

### 13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Mitchell County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	41.4	41.5	17.1	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	44.1	38.7	17.2	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	46.6	35.1	18.2	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	46.5	33.4	20.1	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	32.1	32.1	21.4	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 Mitchell 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	Mitchell County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	85.2	8.3	6.6	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	84.8	11.8	3.4	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	85.9	10.4	3.6	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	84.5	12.4	3.6	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	87.0	11.3	1.7	85.6	11.8	2.6

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## Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	160,571	57,150	30,697	6,249	33,672	26,382	6,421
1992	106,680	30,130	26,558	5,299	23,991	15,818	4,884
1987	96,194	29,681	21,730	5,291	18,309	14,535	6,648

In Mitchell County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a greater 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 cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Mitchell County in 1997.

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

Year	Mitchell County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	35.6	19.1	3.9	21.0	16.4	4.0	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	28.2	24.9	5.0	22.5	14.8	4.6	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	30.9	22.6	5.5	19.0	15.1	6.9	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Mitchell County averaged a net cash return of \$37,443 in 1997, \$4,738 more than the state average. Of the farms in Mitchell County, 67 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

### 17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Mitchell County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$37,443	\$64,641	\$16,558	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	23,590	39,971	11,415	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	21,900	30,848	8,786	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.)