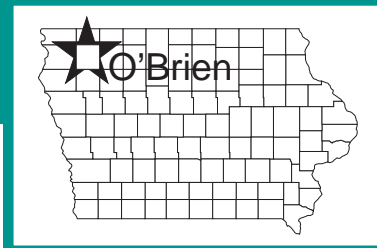


# Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



## O'Brien County

### Number of Farms

There were 977 farms counted in O'Brien County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in O'Brien County decreased by 15 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	O'Brien County	State
1997	977	90,792
1992	1,147	96,534
1987	1,232	105,180
1982	1,337	115,413
1978	1,368	121,339
1974	1,357	126,104
1969	1,514	140,354

### Average Farm Size

Farms in O'Brien County averaged 367 acres in 1997, 24 acres more than the state's average.

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

Year	O'Brien County	State
1997	367	343
1992	316	325
1987	294	301
1982	271	283
1978	276	274
1974	264	262
1969	243	239

### Farm Land Use

O'Brien County had 358,472 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent less than in 1992.

#### 3. Land in farms (acres), O'Brien County.

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	358,472	330,094	2,104	26,274
1992	362,109	332,435	1,933	27,741
1987	362,209	331,555	2,735	27,919
1982	362,863	328,168	2,091	32,604

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

Of the acres harvested in O'Brien 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	O'Brien County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	49	49	50	43
1992	51	47	55	36
1987	46	49	50	39
1982	50	43	53	33
1978	51	39	54	32

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# Livestock Profile

## Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in O'Brien County decreased 43 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 23 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, O'Brien County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	300	609,841
1992	526	497,663
1987	574	409,093
1982	616	401,409
1978	725	287,948
1974	715	242,787
1969	1,000	239,452

## Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in O'Brien County selling fattened cattle decreased 17 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 22 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, O'Brien County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	141	19,361
1992	169	24,696
1987	243	74,482
1982	344	96,010
1978	454	120,078

(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 O'Brien County with dairy cows decreased 42 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 25 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, O'Brien County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	18	760
1992	31	1,008
1987	62	1,722
1982	74	2,014

## Poultry

A small number of farms in O'Brien County sold chickens in 1997. No farms reported turkey sales.

### 8. Farms selling poultry and number of poultry sold, O'Brien County.

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	6	279,161	9	*	0	0
1992	1	*	6	*	2	*
1987	5	*	23	6,142	1	*
1982	24	*	9	5,198	5	*

## Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in O'Brien County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 41 percent and there were 33 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, O'Brien County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	58	4,973
1992	98	7,381
1987	99	4,484
1982	117	5,310

# Farm Operator Profile

## Age

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

Year	O'Brien 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	10.4	27.8	23.2	21.0	17.5	50.3	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	18.4	26.2	20.0	23.1	12.3	48.0	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	23.4	18.7	18.8	28.9	10.3	47.8	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	26.0	15.7	25.8	25.0	7.6	46.3	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	20.5	18.3	30.4	23.1	7.7	47.0	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in O'Brien County in 1997 included 10.4 percent under the age of 35 and 17.5 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in O'Brien County was 50.3 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

## Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in O'Brien County in 1997, 71.6 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	O'Brien County	State
1997	71.6	62.9
1992	78.8	71.7
1987	79.5	73.5
1982	85.1	80.1
1978	90.7	80.8

## Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	O'Brien County	State
1997	25.2	33.3
1992	23.7	28.3
1987	18.9	26.5
1982	15.7	24.2
1978	10.5	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, O'Brien County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

### 13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	O'Brien County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	27.3	50.2	22.5	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	30.0	44.5	25.5	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	30.8	41.2	27.9	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	33.1	41.4	25.5	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	42.5	42.5	27.0	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 O'Brien 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	O'Brien County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	82.5	8.5	9.0	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	85.2	9.2	5.7	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	85.7	9.1	5.2	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	85.6	10.0	5.2	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	85.3	11.8	2.9	85.6	11.8	2.6

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National  
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## Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	180,036	62,239	21,204	1,361	42,759	45,838	6,635
1992	146,180	48,154	28,025	1,347	32,470	32,135	4,049
1987	156,715	44,297	56,229	1,969	25,524	26,852	1,844

In O'Brien 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 84 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in O'Brien County in 1997.

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

Year	O'Brien County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	34.6	11.8	0.8	23.8	25.5	3.7	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	32.9	19.2	0.9	22.2	22.0	2.8	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	28.3	35.9	1.3	16.3	17.1	1.2	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in O'Brien County averaged a net cash return of \$49,345 in 1997, \$16,640 more than the state average. Of the farms in O'Brien County, 87 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

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

Year	O'Brien County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$49,345	\$58,586	\$14,227	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	29,204	40,156	9,847	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	33,955	43,116	7,538	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.)