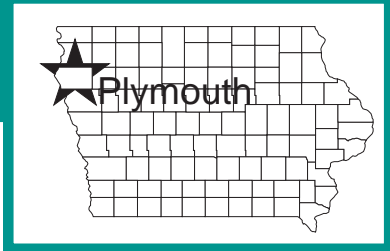


# Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



## Plymouth County

### Number of Farms

There were 1,490 farms counted in Plymouth County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Plymouth County decreased by 8 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 31 percent, slower than the state's decline of 35 percent.

#### 1. Number of farms.

Year	Plymouth County	State
1997	1,490	90,792
1992	1,615	96,534
1987	1,740	105,180
1982	1,874	115,413
1978	1,942	121,339
1974	2,037	126,104
1969	2,173	140,354

### Average Farm Size

Farms in Plymouth County averaged 344 acres in 1997, 1 acres more than the state's average.

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

Year	Plymouth County	State
1997	344	343
1992	321	325
1987	300	301
1982	276	283
1978	267	274
1974	262	262
1969	247	239

### Farm Land Use

Plymouth County had 512,029 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	512,029	456,116	5,960	49,953
1992	518,247	461,805	3,260	53,182
1987	521,469	465,370	5,864	50,235
1982	518,018	450,782	5,237	61,999

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

Of the acres harvested in Plymouth County in 1997, 95 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	Plymouth County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	50	45	50	43
1992	56	38	55	36
1987	52	38	50	39
1982	55	30	53	33
1978	59	24	54	32

### For more information:

#### The Plymouth County Extension Office

**Jack Frus**, County Extension Education Director  
24 First Street N.W.  
Le Mars, Iowa 51031-3506

Phone: (712) 546-7835  
Fax: (712) 546-7837  
E-mail: plymouth@exnet.iastate.edu

#### Your Extension community development specialist

**Alan Vandehaar**  
4301 Sergeant Road, Suite 213  
Sioux City, Iowa 51106-4710

Phone: (712) 276-2157  
Fax: (712) 276-6211  
E-mail: alanv@iastate.edu

#### Your Extension farm management specialist

**Ron Hook**  
839 3rd Avenue  
Sibley, Iowa 51249-1607

Phone: (712) 754-3648  
Fax: (712) 754-3649  
E-mail: x1rhook@exnet.iastate.edu

# Livestock Profile

## Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Plymouth County decreased 40 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 11 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, Plymouth County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	502	827,513
1992	830	748,248
1987	897	626,498
1982	1,093	579,929
1978	1,259	518,564
1974	1,325	471,914
1969	1,605	425,483

## Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Plymouth County selling fattened cattle decreased 27 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 32 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, Plymouth County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	258	49,292
1992	353	72,286
1987	455	71,250
1982	682	91,326
1978	764	109,485

(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 Plymouth County with dairy cows decreased 25 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported increased 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, Plymouth County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	36	2,215
1992	48	2,140
1987	61	1,815
1982	98	3,286

## Poultry

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

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	2	*	4	*	0	0
1992	8	*	9	2,450	3	*
1987	19	340,354	16	7,943	5	*
1982	46	258,086	15	2,355	2	*

## Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Plymouth County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 42 percent and there were 38 percent more 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, Plymouth County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	71	13,612
1992	123	9,863
1987	121	8,240
1982	139	6,092

# Farm Operator Profile

## Age

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

Year	Plymouth 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	10.6	25.1	25.3	18.3	20.7	51.1	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	18.6	27.1	19.1	21.3	13.9	48.1	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	21.7	23.0	19.7	22.5	13.0	47.7	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	26.3	17.6	23.9	22.0	10.3	46.6	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	24.1	17.0	26.8	22.1	9.9	46.8	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Plymouth County in 1997 included 10.6 percent under the age of 35 and 20.7 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Plymouth County was 51.1 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

## Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Plymouth County in 1997, 77.1 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	Plymouth County	State
1997	77.1	62.9
1992	78.3	71.7
1987	80.6	73.5
1982	84.1	80.1
1978	86.8	80.8

## Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Plymouth County	State
1997	28.9	33.3
1992	25.6	28.3
1987	23.0	26.5
1982	19.3	24.2
1978	17.4	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, Plymouth County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

### 13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Plymouth County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	37.7	43.5	18.9	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	37.5	41.7	20.9	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	37.8	38.2	24.0	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	37.9	36.7	25.3	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	35.4	35.4	27.1	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 Plymouth 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	Plymouth County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	84.6	9.0	6.4	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	85.8	10.1	4.1	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	87.1	9.5	3.3	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	86.7	11.2	3.3	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	85.9	11.9	2.2	85.6	11.8	2.6

## Extension to Communities

Prepared by  
**Margaret Hanson**  
 Census Services  
 Iowa State University

Information in this county profile was derived from data acquired from

**NASS**



National  
 Agricultural  
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UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	238,391	85,582	48,756	3,278	46,572	50,748	3,455
1992	221,185	69,032	72,771	3,224	40,094	32,872	3,192
1987	183,614	63,878	60,132	2,209	26,269	26,213	4,913

In Plymouth 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, soybeans, and cattle and calves accounted for 78 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Plymouth County in 1997.

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

Year	Plymouth County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	35.9	20.5	1.4	19.5	21.3	1.4	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	31.2	32.9	1.5	18.1	14.9	1.4	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	34.8	32.7	1.2	14.3	14.3	2.7	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Plymouth County averaged a net cash return of \$34,342 in 1997, \$1,637 more than the state average. Of the farms in Plymouth County, 70 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

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

Year	Plymouth County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$34,342	\$53,049	\$10,256	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	26,464	42,804	11,829	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	25,486	37,250	6,866	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.)