

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Poweshiek County

Number of Farms

There were 934 farms counted in Poweshiek County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Poweshiek County changed less than 1 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 36 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Poweshiek County	State
1997	934	90,792
1992	933	96,534
1987	1,047	105,180
1982	1,152	115,413
1978	1,221	121,339
1974	1,350	126,104
1969	1,457	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Poweshiek County averaged 359 acres in 1997, 16 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Poweshiek County	State
1997	359	343
1992	365	325
1987	320	301
1982	309	283
1978	297	274
1974	273	262
1969	246	239

Farm Land Use

Poweshiek County had 335,296 total acres in farmland in 1997, 2 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	335,296	292,572	6,501	36,223
1992	340,982	300,074	7,117	33,791
1987	335,448	295,594	6,459	33,395
1982	355,718	304,647	7,472	43,599

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

Of the acres harvested in Poweshiek County in 1997, 89 percent were either corn or soybean acres. This was lower than the 93 percent statewide average.

4. Corn and soybean acres as percentages of total acres harvested.

Year	Poweshiek County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	47	42	50	43
1992	53	34	55	36
1987	47	36	50	39
1982	51	31	53	33
1978	53	26	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Poweshiek County decreased 45 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 4 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, Poweshiek County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	182	227,321
1992	333	218,675
1987	385	210,829
1982	512	210,659
1978	655	229,158
1974	762	219,808
1969	971	241,736

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Poweshiek County selling fattened cattle decreased 26 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 41 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, Poweshiek County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	156	8,342
1992	211	14,233
1987	292	18,354
1982	365	24,299
1978	389	27,123

(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 Poweshiek County with dairy cows decreased 48 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported increased 26 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, Poweshiek County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	12	1,091
1992	23	867
1987	40	1,139
1982	60	1,423

Poultry

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

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	2	*	4	95	0	0
1992	4	*	4	1,000	1	*
1987	4	*	5	894	1	*
1982	19	20,344	10	1,546	4	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Poweshiek County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 29 percent and there were 7 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, Poweshiek County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	58	4,470
1992	82	4,170
1987	117	7,808
1982	126	4,393

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Poweshiek 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	9.4	20.3	21.3	23.8	25.2	53.7	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	13.9	20.9	23.5	21.0	20.7	51.3	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	19.1	20.5	21.6	21.9	16.9	49.3	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	21.7	19.3	22.8	23.7	12.5	48.1	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	20.4	18.6	22.9	26.8	11.3	48.2	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Poweshiek County in 1997 included 9.4 percent under the age of 35 and 25.2 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Poweshiek County was 53.7 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Poweshiek County in 1997, 60.1 percent claimed farming as their principal occupation, lower than the 62.9 percent state average.

11. Percentages of farm operators claiming farming as their principal occupation.

Year	Poweshiek County	State
1997	60.1	62.9
1992	68.6	71.7
1987	74.6	73.5
1982	77.1	80.1
1978	78.8	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Poweshiek County	State
1997	38.2	33.3
1992	29.5	28.3
1987	26.8	26.5
1982	19.9	24.2
1978	18.4	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, Poweshiek County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Poweshiek County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	48.8	35.8	15.4	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	43.5	39.5	16.9	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	45.1	33.4	21.5	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	45.7	33.2	21.0	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	31.3	31.3	20.7	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 Poweshiek County was higher than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was the same.

14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Poweshiek County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	83.7	9.1	7.2	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	82.6	13.2	4.2	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	84.8	12.2	3.0	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	84.3	13.5	3.0	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	82.8	15.1	2.1	85.6	11.8	2.6

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	107,375	28,192	12,806	2,286	32,013	28,361	3,717
1992	86,384	21,612	19,209	1,253	24,255	16,885	3,170
1987	81,132	23,108	19,454	1,467	19,414	15,671	2,018

In Poweshiek 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 corn, soybeans, and hogs and pigs accounted for 82 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Poweshiek County in 1997.

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

Year	Poweshiek County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	26.3	11.9	2.1	29.8	26.4	3.5	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	25.0	22.2	1.5	28.1	19.5	3.7	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	28.5	24.0	1.8	23.9	19.3	2.5	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Poweshiek County averaged a net cash return of \$35,210 in 1997, \$2,505 more than the state average. Of the farms in Poweshiek County, 65 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Poweshiek County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$35,210	\$58,195	\$6,790	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	20,926	32,457	12,556	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	21,433	31,207	5,870	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.)