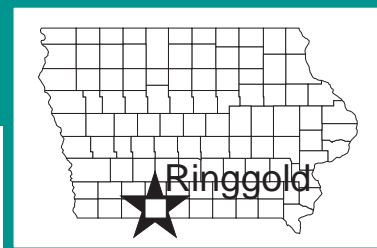


Agricultural Data for Decision Makers

Ringgold County



Number of Farms

There were 671 farms counted in Ringgold County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Ringgold County decreased by 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	Ringgold County	State
1997	671	90,792
1992	676	96,534
1987	701	105,180
1982	776	115,413
1978	824	121,339
1974	924	126,104
1969	1,042	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Ringgold County averaged 393 acres in 1997, 50 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Ringgold County	State
1997	393	343
1992	434	325
1987	407	301
1982	405	283
1978	395	274
1974	349	262
1969	320	239

Farm Land Use

Ringgold County had 263,753 total acres in farmland in 1997, 11 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	263,753	210,245	9,104	44,404
1992	293,266	233,914	12,038	47,314
1987	285,258	225,274	12,335	47,649
1982	313,971	246,000	10,620	57,351

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

Of the acres harvested in Ringgold County in 1997, 70 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	Ringgold County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	33	37	50	43
1992	40	28	55	36
1987	34	36	50	39
1982	32	35	53	33
1978	37	31	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Ringgold County decreased 72 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 105 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, Ringgold County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	57	179,898
1992	203	87,603
1987	221	89,820
1982	295	86,629
1978	392	108,534
1974	454	107,687
1969	629	120,944

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Ringgold County selling fattened cattle decreased 24 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold increased 7 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, Ringgold County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	45	3,745
1992	59	3,484
1987	121	9,408
1982	137	11,900
1978	150	11,675

(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 Ringgold County with dairy cows increased 44 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported increased 62 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, Ringgold County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	13	242
1992	9	149
1987	23	640
1982	45	1,130

Poultry

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

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	0	0	4	*	0	0
1992	2	*	6	*	0	0
1987	0	0	2	*	0	0
1982	4	128	2	*	0	0

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Ringgold County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 47 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, Ringgold County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	24	1,588
1992	45	2,326
1987	44	1,837
1982	44	1,820

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Ringgold 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	9.1	17.0	21.0	19.5	33.4	56.1	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	11.1	20.1	17.2	20.7	30.9	54.7	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	16.0	15.7	17.8	26.5	24.0	52.8	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	21.3	17.1	21.5	22.7	17.4	49.6	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	21.1	17.7	24.9	21.6	14.7	48.5	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Ringgold County in 1997 included 9.1 percent under the age of 35 and 33.4 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Ringgold County was 56.1 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Ringgold County in 1997, 69.9 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	Ringgold County	State
1997	69.9	62.9
1992	76.4	71.7
1987	80.0	73.5
1982	82.5	80.1
1978	84.9	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Ringgold County	State
1997	32.5	33.3
1992	23.4	28.3
1987	23.7	26.5
1982	21.9	24.2
1978	16.4	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, Ringgold County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Ringgold County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	63.3	30.7	6.0	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	58.4	32.0	9.6	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	56.6	28.0	15.4	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	51.5	32.6	15.9	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	35.6	35.6	17.1	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 Ringgold 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	Ringgold County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	87.9	8.9	3.1	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	85.5	11.8	2.7	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	86.7	10.6	2.7	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	85.2	12.4	2.7	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	83.1	15.2	1.7	85.6	11.8	2.6

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Information in this county profile was derived from data acquired from

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

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Financial Profile

The sale of hogs and pigs generated the greatest amount of agricultural revenue in Ringgold County in 1997, followed by cattle and calves.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	48,665	18,107	10,652	264	7,588	9,461	2,593
1992	38,279	8,065	14,185	*	7,577	5,933	2,519
1987	38,620	9,831	14,909	638	5,691	6,915	636

In Ringgold 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, cattle and calves, and soybeans accounted for 79 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Ringgold County in 1997.

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

Year	Ringgold County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	37.2	21.9	0.5	15.6	19.4	5.3	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	21.1	37.1	*	19.8	15.5	6.6	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	25.5	38.6	1.7	14.7	17.9	1.6	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

* Data suppressed to assure confidentiality. Amounts for this category included in 'Other' totals.

Farms in Ringgold County averaged a net cash return of \$9,173 in 1997, \$23,532 less than the state average. Of the farms in Ringgold County, 54 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Ringgold County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$9,173	\$34,874	\$21,300	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	11,342	24,998	9,140	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	14,106	21,286	6,367	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.)