

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Sac County

Number of Farms

There were 813 farms counted in Sac County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Sac County decreased by 16 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 42 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sac County</u>	<u>State</u>
1997	813	90,792
1992	967	96,534
1987	1,035	105,180
1982	1,146	115,413
1978	1,184	121,339
1974	1,319	126,104
1969	1,410	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Sac County averaged 424 acres in 1997, 81 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sac County</u>	<u>State</u>
1997	424	343
1992	377	325
1987	348	301
1982	313	283
1978	303	274
1974	279	262
1969	260	239

Farm Land Use

Sac County had 344,949 total acres in farmland in 1997, 6 percent less than in 1992.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Crop- land</u>	<u>Wood- land</u>	<u>Other*</u>
1997	344,949	312,041	3,202	29,706
1992	364,172	327,634	3,551	32,987
1987	359,677	321,946	3,168	34,563
1982	359,157	323,673	2,482	33,002

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

Of the acres harvested in Sac County in 1997, 96 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.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sac County</u>		<u>State</u>	
	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soy- beans</u>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soy- beans</u>
1997	49	47	50	43
1992	52	43	55	36
1987	46	46	50	39
1982	50	39	53	33
1978	53	35	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Sac County decreased 40 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 28 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, Sac County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	256	589,288
1992	430	461,236
1987	447	384,947
1982	549	349,174
1978	643	326,727
1974	756	273,506
1969	945	253,657

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Sac County selling fattened cattle decreased 22 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 9 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, Sac County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	120	35,316
1992	153	38,701
1987	210	53,509
1982	358	80,322
1978	403	85,692

(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 Sac County with dairy cows decreased 19 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 9 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, Sac County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	13	754
1992	16	826
1987	30	981
1982	35	1,352

Poultry

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

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	4	86,697	5	425	2	*
1992	8	161,323	4	355	2	*
1987	18	114,298	10	4,230	3	*
1982	25	51,169	10	7,477	3	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Sac County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 41 percent and there were 17 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, Sac County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	51	11,217
1992	87	9,619
1987	102	6,713
1982	128	5,660

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Sac 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	13.4	27.9	23.1	18.8	16.7	49.7	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	18.3	22.2	19.1	21.9	18.4	49.7	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	21.9	18.9	19.0	24.9	15.2	48.7	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	24.4	16.4	23.9	26.0	9.2	47.1	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	20.9	19.2	26.4	25.3	8.4	47.3	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Sac County in 1997 included 13.4 percent under the age of 35 and 16.7 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Sac County was 49.7 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Sac County in 1997, 61.1 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	Sac County	State
1997	61.1	62.9
1992	64.8	71.7
1987	65.4	73.5
1982	69.6	80.1
1978	68.7	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Sac County	State
1997	26.8	33.3
1992	22.5	28.3
1987	19.3	26.5
1982	16.0	24.2
1978	12.3	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, Sac County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Sac County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	32.3	44.0	23.6	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	34.0	43.4	22.5	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	35.2	36.5	28.3	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	35.6	34.9	29.5	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	36.1	36.1	30.7	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 Sac County was lower than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was higher.

14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Sac County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	82.0	9.8	8.1	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	82.1	12.4	5.5	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	81.2	12.0	6.9	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	80.8	14.0	6.9	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	83.4	13.4	3.1	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 Sac County in 1997, followed by soybeans.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	190,949	70,483	33,223	1,097	40,231	40,396	5,519
1992	146,389	42,905	37,279	1,125	33,431	27,083	4,566
1987	129,941	40,883	38,285	1,543	21,321	23,367	4,542

In Sac 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 corn accounted for 79 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Sac County in 1997.

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

Year	Sac County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	36.9	17.4	0.6	21.1	21.2	2.9	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	29.3	25.5	0.8	22.8	18.5	3.1	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	31.5	29.5	1.2	16.4	18.0	3.5	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Sac County averaged a net cash return of \$57,451 in 1997, \$24,746 more than the state average. Of the farms in Sac County, 80 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Sac County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$57,451	\$75,187	\$13,163	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	32,299	46,716	15,864	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	29,879	40,362	12,053	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.)