

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Shelby County

Number of Farms

There were 921 farms counted in Shelby County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Shelby County decreased by 15 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 40 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Shelby County	State
1997	921	90,792
1992	1,088	96,534
1987	1,177	105,180
1982	1,317	115,413
1978	1,368	121,339
1974	1,412	126,104
1969	1,524	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Shelby County averaged 372 acres in 1997, 29 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Shelby County	State
1997	372	343
1992	325	325
1987	299	301
1982	271	283
1978	268	274
1974	267	262
1969	242	239

Farm Land Use

Shelby County had 342,366 total acres in farmland in 1997, 3 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	342,366	314,868	2,796	24,702
1992	353,570	329,939	2,121	21,510
1987	351,387	322,461	2,419	26,507
1982	356,831	321,024	4,920	30,887

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

Of the acres harvested in Shelby 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.

Year	Shelby County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	53	43	50	43
1992	61	33	55	36
1987	54	37	50	39
1982	58	29	53	33
1978	61	24	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Shelby County decreased 55 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 35 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, Shelby County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	230	262,853
1992	513	402,092
1987	514	300,106
1982	629	298,996
1978	759	272,208
1974	857	240,698
1969	1,104	254,525

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Shelby County selling fattened cattle decreased 27 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 17 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, Shelby County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	159	21,593
1992	218	25,938
1987	373	39,355
1982	450	48,420
1978	559	57,458

(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 Shelby County with dairy cows decreased 56 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 19 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, Shelby County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	8	324
1992	18	401
1987	26	692
1982	48	928

Poultry

A small number of farms in Shelby County sold chickens in 1997. Four farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Farms	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys		
		No. sold	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	
1997	3	*	9	1,474	4	53
1992	3	172	7	*	2	*
1987	5	748	11	2,374	3	*
1982	19	5,074	7	1,080	1	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Shelby County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 13 percent and there were 57 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, Shelby County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	45	2,622
1992	52	6,074
1987	63	2,172
1982	88	2,879

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Shelby 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	12.5	25.2	25.0	18.6	18.8	50.3	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	20.4	22.5	19.1	21.4	16.5	48.7	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	24.4	22.4	17.3	23.3	12.6	47.0	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	25.1	17.1	22.6	27.0	8.2	46.7	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	23.5	17.8	26.5	23.8	8.4	46.6	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Shelby County in 1997 included 12.5 percent under the age of 35 and 18.8 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Shelby County was 50.3 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Shelby County in 1997, 67.1 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	Shelby County	State
1997	67.1	62.9
1992	71.1	71.7
1987	73.9	73.5
1982	80.2	80.1
1978	81.2	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Shelby County	State
1997	22.5	33.3
1992	20.4	28.3
1987	20.3	26.5
1982	16.6	24.2
1978	13.7	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, Shelby County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Shelby County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	36.3	42.5	21.3	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	36.5	39.8	23.7	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	36.7	34.6	28.7	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	42.0	29.3	28.7	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	29.0	29.0	28.6	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 Shelby 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	Shelby County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	88.3	6.1	5.6	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	85.2	9.5	5.3	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	87.1	9.2	3.7	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	86.5	10.0	3.7	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	87.0	10.9	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 Shelby County in 1997, followed by soybeans.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	132,843	28,798	26,741	494	40,160	34,820	1,830
1992	124,076	37,099	27,533	584	36,161	20,405	2,294
1987	108,594	30,518	32,001	742	25,558	17,613	2,162

In Shelby County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a greater percentage of total sales than in the state overall; hogs and pigs made up a smaller percentage of total sales. The sale of corn, soybeans, and hogs and pigs accounted for 78 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Shelby County in 1997.

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

Year	Shelby County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	21.7	20.1	0.4	30.2	26.2	1.4	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	29.9	22.2	0.5	29.1	16.4	1.8	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	28.1	29.5	0.7	23.5	16.2	2.0	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Shelby County averaged a net cash return of \$36,410 in 1997, \$3,705 more than the state average. Of the farms in Shelby County, 74 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Shelby County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$36,410	\$52,212	\$9,390	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	24,473	35,190	9,576	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	24,294	35,220	9,747	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.)