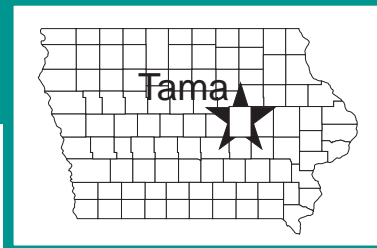


# Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



## Tama County

### Number of Farms

There were 1,152 farms counted in Tama County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Tama County decreased by 11 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	Tama County	State
1997	1,152	90,792
1992	1,294	96,534
1987	1,404	105,180
1982	1,508	115,413
1978	1,628	121,339
1974	1,702	126,104
1969	1,929	140,354

### Average Farm Size

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

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

Year	Tama County	State
1997	344	343
1992	311	325
1987	297	301
1982	278	283
1978	263	274
1974	248	262
1969	232	239

### Farm Land Use

Tama County had 396,220 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	396,220	347,809	13,054	35,357
1992	401,858	356,110	16,195	29,553
1987	417,178	367,588	16,660	32,930
1982	419,586	355,033	16,448	48,105

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

Of the acres harvested in Tama 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	Tama County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	51	44	50	43
1992	59	34	55	36
1987	53	37	50	39
1982	56	33	53	33
1978	57	30	54	32

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# Livestock Profile

## Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Tama County decreased 57 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county decreased by 25 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, Tama County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	184	204,069
1992	427	270,876
1987	491	249,542
1982	655	270,181
1978	787	278,342
1974	913	249,628
1969	1,290	305,050

## Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Tama County selling fattened cattle decreased 27 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 20 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, Tama County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	167	11,576
1992	230	14,383
1987	330	19,626
1982	444	29,389
1978	524	38,548

(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 Tama County with dairy cows decreased 26 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported increased 12 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, Tama County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	29	1,460
1992	39	1,305
1987	64	1,837
1982	81	2,005

## Poultry

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

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	2	*	9	1,044	2	*
1992	5	31,185	17	7,566	1	*
1987	14	257,654	22	4,704	6	124
1982	35	250,703	20	3,220	4	174

## Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Tama County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 28 percent and there were 70 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, Tama County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	84	3,371
1992	116	11,326
1987	149	5,038
1982	164	6,297

# Farm Operator Profile

## Age

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

Year	Tama 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	10.9	22.1	22.6	23.4	21.0	52.2	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	15.8	21.1	21.6	21.9	19.6	50.5	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	17.5	20.4	21.0	24.9	16.3	49.9	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	21.6	20.0	21.9	25.4	11.1	47.7	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	20.1	20.2	25.0	24.1	10.6	47.9	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Tama County in 1997 included 10.9 percent under the age of 35 and 21.0 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Tama County was 52.2 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

## Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Tama County in 1997, 55.2 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	Tama County	State
1997	55.2	62.9
1992	65.2	71.7
1987	71.8	73.5
1982	75.1	80.1
1978	78.0	80.8

## Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Tama County	State
1997	35.8	33.3
1992	28.0	28.3
1987	25.9	26.5
1982	23.3	24.2
1978	18.1	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, Tama County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

### 13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Tama County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	44.4	39.5	16.1	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	44.7	37.0	18.3	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	43.2	36.1	20.7	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	42.3	35.8	21.9	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	34.4	34.4	24.0	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 Tama 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	Tama County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	83.2	12.1	4.8	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	83.1	12.6	4.3	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	83.8	12.3	4.0	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	84.4	12.4	4.0	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	85.7	11.7	2.6	85.6	11.8	2.6

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## Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	127,816	24,048	14,279	2,658	46,015	38,645	2,171
1992	109,630	23,278	18,800	1,920	40,659	21,956	3,017
1987	105,643	27,920	18,728	2,398	31,675	22,167	2,755

In Tama County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a smaller 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 85 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Tama County in 1997.

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

Year	Tama County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	18.8	11.2	2.1	36.0	30.2	1.7	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	21.2	17.1	1.8	37.1	20.0	2.8	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	26.4	17.7	2.3	30.0	21.0	2.6	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Tama County averaged a net cash return of \$22,038 in 1997, \$10,667 less than the state average. Of the farms in Tama County, 67 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

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

Year	Tama County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$22,038	\$36,819	\$7,795	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	12,498	29,210	11,408	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	16,816	27,911	8,739	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.)