

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Taylor County

Number of Farms

There were 746 farms counted in Taylor County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Taylor County increased by 1 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 37 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Taylor County	State
1997	746	90,792
1992	741	96,534
1987	774	105,180
1982	890	115,413
1978	976	121,339
1974	1,045	126,104
1969	1,189	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Taylor County averaged 391 acres in 1997, 48 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Taylor County	State
1997	391	343
1992	376	325
1987	376	301
1982	328	283
1978	324	274
1974	296	262
1969	266	239

Farm Land Use

Taylor County had 291,497 total acres in farmland in 1997, 4 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	291,497	228,964	11,561	50,972
1992	278,932	219,737	10,581	48,614
1987	291,057	229,338	10,263	51,456
1982	292,301	230,349	10,558	51,394

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

Of the acres harvested in Taylor County in 1997, 85 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	Taylor County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	38	48	50	43
1992	48	37	55	36
1987	39	42	50	39
1982	39	39	53	33
1978	42	36	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Taylor County decreased 58 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, Taylor County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	86	71,487
1992	205	110,120
1987	231	98,679
1982	345	106,484
1978	515	117,816
1974	543	108,304
1969	751	155,343

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Taylor County selling fattened cattle decreased 33 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 46 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, Taylor County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	62	2,900
1992	93	5,417
1987	129	6,150
1982	211	12,459
1978	232	10,823

(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 Taylor County with dairy cows decreased 50 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 51 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, Taylor County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	7	220
1992	14	445
1987	24	192
1982	40	347

Poultry

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

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

Year	Farms	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys		
		No. sold	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	
1997	3	*	4	*	0	0
1992	1	*	7	*	0	0
1987	4	*	4	*	3	201
1982	8	*	7	630	2	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Taylor County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 53 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, Taylor County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	22	1,335
1992	47	3,106
1987	44	3,350
1982	85	4,681

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Taylor 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	18.1	20.1	22.3	30.2	55.3	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	14.3	20.9	18.2	18.8	27.8	52.9	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	17.6	21.2	18.3	20.0	22.9	50.7	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	23.5	19.4	18.7	22.1	16.3	48.2	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	22.4	17.8	19.7	24.8	15.3	48.6	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Taylor County in 1997 included 9.4 percent under the age of 35 and 30.2 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Taylor County was 55.3 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Taylor County in 1997, 50.5 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	Taylor County	State
1997	50.5	62.9
1992	63.6	71.7
1987	62.9	73.5
1982	63.2	80.1
1978	65.4	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Taylor County	State
1997	40.5	33.3
1992	30.1	28.3
1987	28.6	26.5
1982	24.5	24.2
1978	19.4	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, Taylor County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Taylor County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	61.9	30.4	7.6	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	54.3	34.3	11.5	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	49.5	34.4	16.1	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	51.2	31.6	17.2	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	31.3	31.3	15.5	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 Taylor County was higher than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was higher also.

14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Taylor County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	85.1	11.9	2.9	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	87.4	9.3	3.2	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	86.0	11.5	2.5	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	85.2	11.9	2.5	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	84.8	12.9	2.3	85.6	11.8	2.6

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	62,200	9,229	9,393	472	13,232	16,330	13,544
1992	46,692	11,002	12,600	668	11,882	9,425	1,115
1987	40,437	10,543	10,769	201	8,598	9,243	1,083

In Taylor 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 soybeans, other co unspecified mmodities, and corn accounted for 69 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Taylor County in 1997.

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

Year	Taylor County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	14.8	15.1	0.8	21.3	26.3	21.8	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	23.6	27.0	1.4	25.4	20.2	2.4	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	26.1	26.6	0.5	21.3	22.9	2.7	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Taylor County averaged a net cash return of \$20,686 in 1997, \$12,019 less than the state average. Of the farms in Taylor County, 61 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Taylor County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$20,686	\$37,096	\$5,353	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	9,836	22,182	8,354	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	13,795	21,322	4,233	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.)