

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Washington County

Number of Farms

There were 1,061 farms counted in Washington County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Washington County decreased by 2 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 26 percent, slower than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Washington County	State
1997	1,061	90,792
1992	1,078	96,534
1987	1,158	105,180
1982	1,238	115,413
1978	1,309	121,339
1974	1,271	126,104
1969	1,441	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Washington County averaged 299 acres in 1997, 44 acres less than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Washington County	State
1997	299	343
1992	287	325
1987	278	301
1982	273	283
1978	261	274
1974	264	262
1969	236	239

Farm Land Use

Washington County had 317,699 total acres in farmland in 1997, 3 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	317,699	273,784	17,003	26,912
1992	309,508	267,495	16,601	25,412
1987	321,504	278,666	16,025	26,813
1982	337,850	283,299	19,209	35,342

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

Of the acres harvested in Washington County in 1997, 93 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	Washington County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	50	44	50	43
1992	57	35	55	36
1987	56	32	50	39
1982	62	28	53	33
1978	62	27	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Washington County decreased 32 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 21 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, Washington County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	395	859,017
1992	580	709,307
1987	605	574,390
1982	738	633,853
1978	845	563,112
1974	797	409,139
1969	1,048	404,233

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Washington County selling fattened cattle decreased 22 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 25 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, Washington County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	157	8,673
1992	200	11,639
1987	267	14,098
1982	325	21,351
1978	335	22,544

(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 Washington County with dairy cows decreased 6 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported increased 10 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, Washington County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	50	1,272
1992	53	1,153
1987	64	1,004
1982	84	1,113

Poultry

A small number of farms in Washington County sold chickens in 1997. Nineteen farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	7	*	11	*	19	775,970
1992	12	427,865	17	7,086	17	688,508
1987	18	*	22	6,311	25	773,272
1982	31	446,338	33	45,825	23	682,179

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Washington County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 39 percent and there were 69 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, Washington County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	69	2,893
1992	114	9,460
1987	145	9,241
1982	154	7,361

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Washington 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	12.9	22.7	20.7	22.4	21.2	51.5	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	18.8	21.7	21.6	19.8	18.1	49.6	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	22.1	20.0	21.2	22.5	14.2	48.1	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	22.9	20.9	22.4	22.0	11.8	47.2	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	21.5	21.7	22.0	25.4	9.4	47.3	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Washington County in 1997 included 12.9 percent under the age of 35 and 21.2 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Washington County was 51.5 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Washington County in 1997, 56.5 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	Washington County	State
1997	56.5	62.9
1992	67.0	71.7
1987	72.7	73.5
1982	76.3	80.1
1978	74.5	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Washington County	State
1997	31.9	33.3
1992	24.0	28.3
1987	25.0	26.5
1982	24.2	24.2
1978	23.6	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, Washington County had a higher percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Washington County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	51.5	34.1	14.4	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	47.2	33.7	19.1	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	44.5	33.9	21.7	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	47.3	33.2	19.5	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	28.6	28.6	20.2	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 Washington 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	Washington County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	74.9	10.9	14.1	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	75.1	14.1	10.8	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	78.2	12.9	9.0	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	77.1	15.6	9.0	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	79.6	15.2	5.2	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 Washington County in 1997, followed by soybeans.

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	174,186	86,359	9,843	2,260	27,607	29,572	18,545
1992	128,948	62,134	12,483	1,987	22,166	17,654	12,524
1987	113,286	56,567	12,043	1,419	18,194	13,558	11,505

In Washington County, sale of cattle and calves constituted a smaller 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 82 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Washington County in 1997.

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

Year	Washington County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	49.6	5.7	1.3	15.8	17.0	10.6	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	48.2	9.7	1.5	17.2	13.7	9.7	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	49.9	10.6	1.3	16.1	12.0	10.2	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Washington County averaged a net cash return of \$42,241 in 1997, \$9,536 more than the state average. Of the farms in Washington County, 65 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Washington County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$42,241	\$69,830	\$8,302	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	25,150	39,683	8,820	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	21,396	32,761	8,202	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.)