

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Webster County

Number of Farms

There were 937 farms counted in Webster County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Webster County decreased by 12 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 44 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Webster County	State
1997	937	90,792
1992	1,059	96,534
1987	1,235	105,180
1982	1,357	115,413
1978	1,417	121,339
1974	1,550	126,104
1969	1,681	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Webster County averaged 440 acres in 1997, 97 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Webster County	State
1997	440	343
1992	386	325
1987	337	301
1982	309	283
1978	298	274
1974	278	262
1969	255	239

Farm Land Use

Webster County had 412,641 total acres in farmland in 1997, 1 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	412,641	385,881	11,103	15,654
1992	408,462	379,412	9,933	19,117
1987	416,623	384,173	13,583	18,867
1982	419,632	380,229	13,731	25,672

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

Of the acres harvested in Webster County in 1997, 99 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	Webster County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	49	50	50	43
1992	51	49	55	36
1987	44	55	50	39
1982	50	47	53	33
1978	50	47	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Webster County decreased 43 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 13 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, Webster County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	146	267,770
1992	258	237,054
1987	270	178,275
1982	358	196,058
1978	432	168,521
1974	488	149,452
1969	715	141,706

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Webster County selling fattened cattle decreased 22 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold increased 10 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, Webster County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	63	4,893
1992	81	4,463
1987	110	6,681
1982	166	14,135
1978	197	19,715

(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 Webster County with dairy cows decreased 46 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 29 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, Webster County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	6	292
1992	11	413
1987	9	198
1982	24	460

Poultry

A small number of farms in Webster County sold chickens in 1997. One farm reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	3	*	1	*	1	*
1992	6	*	6	2,423	0	0
1987	8	560,920	3	*	1	*
1982	24	303,852	7	785	5	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Webster County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 20 percent and there were 29 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, Webster County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	44	1,465
1992	55	2,050
1987	63	2,283
1982	75	2,971

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Webster 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	6.5	26.1	23.7	20.6	23.1	52.7	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	15.5	25.7	17.2	24.5	17.2	50.1	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	18.3	20.2	20.5	27.3	13.8	49.5	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	22.1	15.9	24.5	26.3	11.2	48.3	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	19.7	18.4	25.9	24.7	11.3	48.1	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Webster County in 1997 included 6.5 percent under the age of 35 and 23.1 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Webster County was 52.7 in 1997, which was older than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Webster County in 1997, 65.1 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	Webster County	State
1997	65.1	62.9
1992	70.2	71.7
1987	78.4	73.5
1982	80.5	80.1
1978	83.0	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Webster County	State
1997	26.4	33.3
1992	25.7	28.3
1987	23.6	26.5
1982	20.3	24.2
1978	20.7	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, Webster County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Webster County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	34.6	42.3	23.2	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	33.5	41.7	24.7	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	36.3	36.5	27.2	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	33.5	40.9	25.6	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	37.2	37.2	30.2	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 Webster 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	Webster County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	84.7	8.1	7.2	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	85.7	9.2	5.1	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	87.0	8.7	4.4	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	86.4	9.5	4.4	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	87.6	10.3	2.0	85.6	11.8	2.6

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	166,258	27,265	5,715	611	59,315	52,646	20,706
1992	126,924	22,794	4,627	590	49,701	38,394	10,818
1987	112,144	19,605	5,171	296	35,125	36,091	15,856

In Webster 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 84 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Webster County in 1997.

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

Year	Webster County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	16.4	3.4	0.4	35.7	31.7	12.5	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	18.0	3.6	0.5	39.2	30.2	8.5	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	17.5	4.6	0.3	31.3	32.2	14.1	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Webster County averaged a net cash return of \$57,185 in 1997, \$24,480 more than the state average. Of the farms in Webster County, 86 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Webster County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$57,185	\$67,537	\$5,867	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	38,391	50,903	5,722	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	32,198	41,259	4,983	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.)