

Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Winnebago County

Number of Farms

There were 607 farms counted in Winnebago County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Winnebago County decreased by 6 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	Winnebago County	State
1997	607	90,792
1992	645	96,534
1987	742	105,180
1982	847	115,413
1978	929	121,339
1974	987	126,104
1969	1,092	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Winnebago County averaged 398 acres in 1997, 55 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Winnebago County	State
1997	398	343
1992	360	325
1987	327	301
1982	291	283
1978	269	274
1974	257	262
1969	242	239

Farm Land Use

Winnebago County had 241,600 total acres in farmland in 1997, 4 percent more than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	241,600	226,547	1,457	13,596
1992	231,977	216,521	2,009	13,447
1987	242,430	224,561	2,662	15,207
1982	246,550	225,041	1,654	19,855

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

Of the acres harvested in Winnebago County in 1997, 98 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	Winnebago County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	55	42	50	43
1992	62	36	55	36
1987	49	46	50	39
1982	53	42	53	33
1978	49	46	54	32

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Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Winnebago County decreased 35 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, Winnebago County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	133	100,461
1992	205	133,178
1987	252	142,260
1982	331	147,479
1978	393	133,529
1974	467	128,850
1969	670	158,522

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Winnebago County selling fattened cattle decreased 4 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold decreased 11 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, Winnebago County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	52	1,610
1992	54	1,812
1987	86	3,323
1982	115	7,350
1978	148	11,437

(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 Winnebago County with dairy cows decreased 28 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 39 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, Winnebago County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	21	533
1992	29	867
1987	48	1,400
1982	61	1,551

Poultry

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

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	2	*	2	*	0	0
1992	7	*	12	3,657	2	*
1987	2	*	10	1,511	2	*
1982	7	*	4	268	1	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Winnebago County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 53 percent and there were 48 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, Winnebago County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	26	1,037
1992	55	2,003
1987	61	2,090
1982	81	2,891

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Winnebago 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	8.4	27.0	23.9	18.9	21.7	51.5	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	16.9	23.4	20.8	22.3	16.6	49.8	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	21.2	18.5	20.6	25.9	13.9	48.6	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	25.1	15.9	23.6	26.0	9.3	47.1	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	22.7	18.1	25.4	25.5	8.3	46.8	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Winnebago County in 1997 included 8.4 percent under the age of 35 and 21.7 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Winnebago County was 51.5 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Winnebago County in 1997, 60.5 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	Winnebago County	State
1997	60.5	62.9
1992	74.1	71.7
1987	77.5	73.5
1982	80.9	80.1
1978	81.0	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Winnebago County	State
1997	29.2	33.3
1992	27.3	28.3
1987	20.4	26.5
1982	19.4	24.2
1978	15.2	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, Winnebago County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Winnebago County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	39.9	40.4	19.8	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	34.3	41.2	24.5	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	33.6	42.3	24.1	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	38.7	37.7	23.6	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	36.9	36.9	24.9	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 Winnebago County was lower than the state average in 1997, while the percentage of partnerships was lower also.

14. Percentages of farms by type of organization.

Year	Winnebago County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	82.4	8.1	9.6	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	83.1	11.2	5.7	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	87.2	7.7	5.1	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	86.2	10.0	5.1	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	87.1	11.6	1.3	85.6	11.8	2.6

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	78,356	10,134	3,388	692	39,285	24,046	811
1992	60,515	11,921	2,288	1,180	28,847	15,267	1,012
1987	57,541	15,178	3,721	1,742	20,818	15,206	876

In Winnebago 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 94 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Winnebago County in 1997.

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

Year	Winnebago County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	12.9	4.3	0.9	50.1	30.7	1.0	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	19.7	3.8	1.9	47.7	25.2	1.7	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	26.4	6.5	3.0	36.2	26.4	1.5	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Winnebago County averaged a net cash return of \$35,589 in 1997, \$2,884 more than the state average. Of the farms in Winnebago County, 75 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Winnebago County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$35,589	\$49,916	\$6,461	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	17,152	30,387	14,006	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	17,385	28,924	8,630	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.)