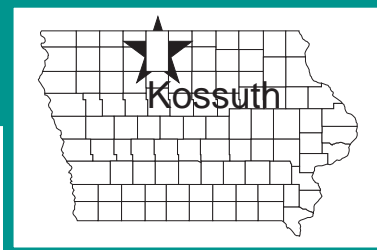


Agricultural Data for Decision Makers



Kossuth County

Number of Farms

There were 1,404 farms counted in Kossuth County in 1997. From 1992 to 1997, the number of farms in Kossuth County decreased by 12 percent. Over the 28 years from 1969 to 1997, farm numbers in this county declined by 36 percent, faster than the state's decline of 35 percent.

1. Number of farms.

Year	Kossuth County	State
1997	1,404	90,792
1992	1,592	96,534
1987	1,718	105,180
1982	1,885	115,413
1978	2,034	121,339
1974	2,003	126,104
1969	2,204	140,354

Average Farm Size

Farms in Kossuth County averaged 414 acres in 1997, 71 acres more than the state's average.

2. Average farm size (acres).

Year	Kossuth County	State
1997	414	343
1992	386	325
1987	349	301
1982	324	283
1978	304	274
1974	301	262
1969	274	239

Farm Land Use

Kossuth County had 580,884 total acres in farmland in 1997, 6 percent less than in 1992.

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

Year	Total	Crop-land	Wood-land	Other*
1997	580,884	547,880	4,109	28,895
1992	615,034	580,414	3,277	31,343
1987	599,153	563,110	4,912	31,131
1982	611,480	562,987	5,119	43,374

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

Of the acres harvested in Kossuth 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	Kossuth County		State	
	Corn	Soy-beans	Corn	Soy-beans
1997	53	46	50	43
1992	56	42	55	36
1987	46	51	50	39
1982	51	45	53	33
1978	50	46	54	32

For more information:

The Kossuth County Extension Office

Robert Behnkendorf, County Extension Education Director
1121B Highway 18 E.
Algona, Iowa 50511

Phone: (515) 295-2469
Fax: (515) 295-2460
E-mail: rbehnk@iastate.edu

Your Extension community development specialist

Jane Goeken
110 West 4th St., Suite 100
Spencer, IA 51301
Phone: (712) 262-2264
Fax: (712) 262-8481
Email: jngoeken@iastate.edu

Your Extension farm management specialist

Ron Hook
839 3rd Ave.
Sibley, IA 51249-1607
Phone: (712) 754-3648
Fax: (712) 754-3649
Email: rhook@iastate.edu

Livestock Profile

Hogs and Pigs

The number of farms selling hogs and pigs in Kossuth County decreased 37 percent from 1992 to 1997. Over that same period the number of hogs and pigs sold in the county increased by 56 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, Kossuth County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	326	657,058
1992	516	422,333
1987	647	392,010
1982	816	453,134
1978	1,037	421,392
1974	1,111	354,494
1969	1,419	345,405

Fattened Cattle

The number of farms in Kossuth County selling fattened cattle decreased 19 percent from 1992 to 1997, while the number of fattened cattle sold increased 1 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, Kossuth County.

Year	Farms selling	Number sold
1997	166	22,532
1992	205	22,313
1987	266	28,862
1982	369	43,417
1978	444	51,576

(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 Kossuth County with dairy cows decreased 44 percent from 1992 to 1997 and the number of dairy cows reported decreased 32 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, Kossuth County.

Year	Farms with Cows	Number of Cows
1997	25	1,191
1992	45	1,742
1987	71	2,400
1982	96	2,678

Poultry

A small number of farms in Kossuth County sold chickens in 1997. Nine farms reported turkey sales.

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

Year	Layers		Broilers		Turkeys	
	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold	Farms	No. sold
1997	3	*	10	8,142	9	*
1992	8	*	15	2,491	6	*
1987	25	281,776	32	6,422	7	*
1982	53	295,270	20	2,941	9	*

Sheep and Lambs

The number of farms in Kossuth County selling sheep and lambs decreased by 32 percent and there were 25 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, Kossuth County.

Year	Farms Selling	Number Sold
1997	68	4,736
1992	100	6,283
1987	137	6,642
1982	172	6,414

Farm Operator Profile

Age

10. Percentages of farm operators by age group.

Year	Kossuth 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	11.9	26.9	22.2	22.0	17.0	50.4	9.9	23.0	23.7	21.1	22.3	52.4
1992	16.4	23.6	20.1	25.1	14.8	49.5	15.9	23.0	20.5	21.6	19.0	50.3
1987	23.1	20.7	20.9	25.4	10.0	47.3	19.3	20.2	20.7	24.0	15.7	49.3
1982	25.0	18.4	24.7	24.2	7.7	46.2	22.5	19.5	22.6	23.9	11.5	47.6
1978	23.5	20.5	25.7	24.3	5.9	45.9	21.1	19.7	25.0	23.9	10.4	47.5

Farm operators in Kossuth County in 1997 included 11.9 percent under the age of 35 and 17.0 percent 65 years of age or older. The average age of farm operators in Kossuth County was 50.4 in 1997, which was younger than the statewide average.

Principal Occupation

Of the farm operators in Kossuth County in 1997, 52.6 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	Kossuth County	State
1997	52.6	62.9
1992	58.8	71.7
1987	57.1	73.5
1982	59.0	80.1
1978	60.4	80.8

Days Worked Off Farm

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

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

Year	Kossuth County	State
1997	22.8	33.3
1992	16.7	28.3
1987	16.9	26.5
1982	14.4	24.2
1978	11.6	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, Kossuth County had a lower percentage of farms operated by full-owners.

13. Percentages of farms by tenure.

Year	Kossuth County			State		
	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant	Full-Owner	Part-Owner	Tenant
1997	29.1	44.6	26.4	47.3	36.3	16.4
1992	28.1	43.0	28.9	45.1	36.0	18.9
1987	29.2	41.0	29.8	45.9	33.5	20.7
1982	31.4	37.9	30.7	45.9	33.3	20.8
1978	35.7	35.7	32.7	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 Kossuth 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	Kossuth County			State		
	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other	Individual/Family	Part-ner	Other
1997	84.5	8.3	7.3	83.6	9.1	7.4
1992	86.2	9.4	4.4	84.0	10.4	5.6
1987	87.4	8.6	4.1	84.8	10.5	4.7
1982	86.5	10.4	4.1	84.6	11.4	4.0
1978	86.4	11.8	1.8	85.6	11.8	2.6

Prepared by
Margaret Hanson
 Census Services
 Iowa State University

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Financial Profile

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

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

Year	Total sales	Hogs and pigs	Cattle and calves	Dairy products	Corn	Soybeans	Other
1997	242,775	65,066	20,915	2,451	87,040	64,718	2,585
1992	190,116	40,200	21,848	2,857	72,897	47,375	4,939
1987	173,436	43,210	22,384	3,324	50,674	48,449	5,395

In Kossuth 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 corn, hogs and pigs, and soybeans accounted for 89 percent of the dollars from total sales of agricultural products in Kossuth County in 1997.

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

Year	Kossuth County						State					
	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other	Hogs, pigs	Cattle, calves	Dairy	Corn	Soy-beans	Other
1997	26.8	8.6	1.0	35.9	26.7	1.1	25.4	15.5	3.4	27.0	23.1	5.6
1992	21.1	11.5	1.5	38.3	24.9	2.6	24.8	22.1	4.2	26.6	17.6	4.7
1987	24.9	12.9	1.9	29.2	27.9	3.1	27.9	23.8	4.4	22.0	17.6	4.3

Farms in Kossuth County averaged a net cash return of \$48,608 in 1997, \$15,903 more than the state average. Of the farms in Kossuth County, 80 percent experienced a net cash gain that year, compared with 66 percent statewide.

17. Average net cash return per farm.

Year	Kossuth County			State		
	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss	Net Cash Return	Net Gain	Net Loss
1997	\$48,608	\$62,940	\$8,974	\$32,705	\$54,248	\$9,348
1992	26,452	38,931	10,861	22,718	37,419	9,381
1987	29,061	35,535	9,109	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.)