

# 1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture  
Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service



## MERCER ILLINOIS

### Land in farms

Decreased slightly from 312,128 acres in 1992 to 309,591 acres in 1997.

### Average size of farms

Increased 7 percent from 384 acres in 1992 to 411 acres in 1997.

### Full time farms

Decreased 15 percent from 551 farms in 1992 to 467 farms in 1997.

### Market value of agricultural products sold

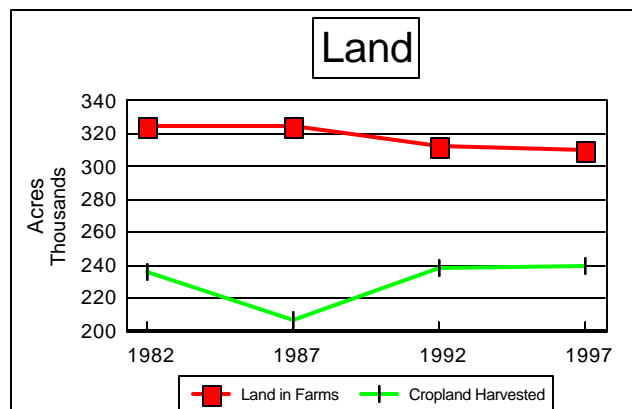
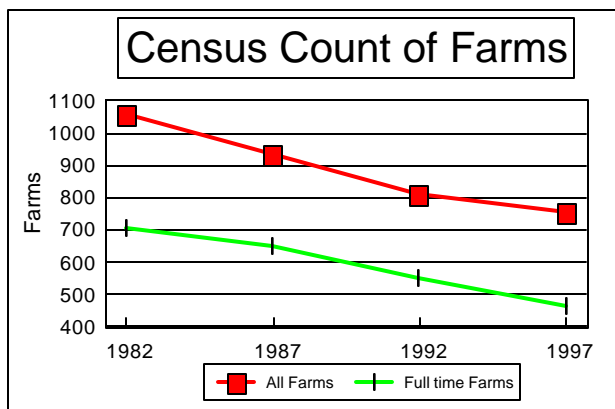
Increased 12 percent to \$92,148,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 76 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 24 percent of the market value.

### Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 21 percent from \$101,047 in 1992 to \$122,212 in 1997.



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### Ranked Items Within State and U.S., 1997

Item	Quantity	State		U.S.	
		Rank	Universe*	Rank	Universe*
<b>MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)</b>					
Total value of agricultural products sold	92,148	40	102	583	3,076
Value of crops including nursery	70,192	39	102	313	3,070
Value of livestock and poultry	21,956	30	102	1,150	3,069
<b>TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)</b>					
Corn for grain	37,633	38	102	127	2,582
Soybeans	31,203	34	102	120	2,136
Hogs and pigs	14,733	25	102	245	2,976
Cattle and calves	6,730	22	102	1,229	3,063
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	685	29	102	1,312	3,043
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)</b>					
Hogs and pigs sold	127,634	27	102	271	2,976
Cattle and calves sold	11,729	23	102	1,466	3,063
Sheep and lambs sold	2,086	5	100	457	2,765
Ducks, geese, and other poultry sold	286	41	78	1,084	2,200
Rabbits and their pelts sold	165	19	58	653	1,593
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)</b>					
Hogs and pigs inventory	71,138	24	102	229	3,005
Cattle and calves inventory	19,050	25	102	1,578	3,064
Sheep and lamb inventory	2,960	4	101	388	2,864
Ducks, geese, and other poultry inventory	557	35	98	965	2,884
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	503	52	101	1,683	3,002
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA</b>					
Corn for grain-acres	125,252	35	102	137	2,691
Soybeans for beans-acres	103,271	41	102	193	2,144
Hay crops-acres	9,753	27	102	1,744	3,061
Wheat-acres	1,274	85	102	1,585	2,612
Oats-acres	1,265	15	91	534	2,332

Some counties do not have five commodities in a group.

### Other County Summary Highlights

Item	1997	1992	Percent Change
<b>Farms by value of sales:</b>			
Less than \$10,000 .....	234	200	17
\$10,000 or more .....	520	612	-15
Total farm production expenses .....\$1,000..	61,165	61,346	-0
Average per farm .....dollars..	81,229	75,642	7
<b>Net cash return from agricultural sales</b>			
for the farm unit .....\$1,000..	24,064	15,588	54
Average per farm .....dollars..	31,958	19,221	66
<b>Farms by type of organization:</b>			
Individual or family .....	627	679	-8
Partnership or corporation .....	123	128	-4
Other .....	4	5	-20
<b>OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS</b>			
<b>Operators by principal occupation:</b>			
Farming .....	467	551	-15
Other .....	287	261	10
<b>Operators by sex:</b>			
Male .....	703	774	-9
Female .....	51	38	34
<b>Operators by race:</b>			
White .....	751	807	-7
Black and other races .....	3	5	-40
Average age of operator .....	53.9	51.7	4

(D) Cannot be disclosed. See "Census of Agriculture Volume 1 Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

\* Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.