

# 1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture  
New England Agricultural Statistics Service



## BERKSHIRE MASSACHUSETTS

### Land in farms

Increased 3 percent from 60,980 acres in 1992 to 62,833 acres in 1997.

### Average size of farms

Decreased 15 percent from 191 acres in 1992 to 162 acres in 1997.

### Full time farms

Increased 5 percent from 185 farms in 1992 to 194 farms in 1997.

### Market value of agricultural products sold

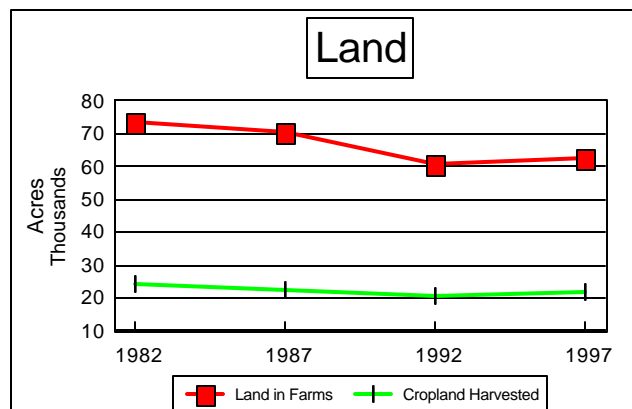
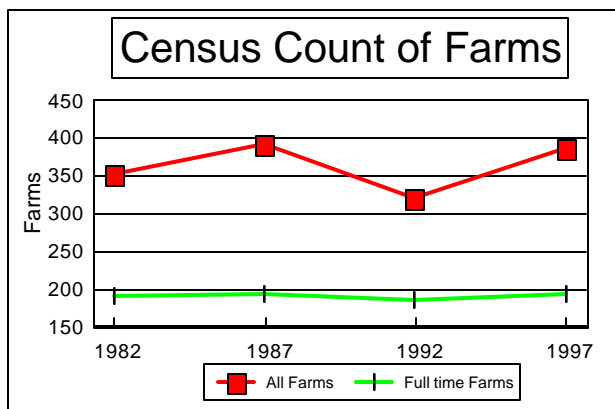
Increased 15 percent to \$20,725,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 40 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 60 percent of the market value.

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

Decreased 5 percent from \$56,145 in 1992 to \$53,553 in 1997.



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**BERKSHIRE  
MASSACHUSETTS**

**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	20,725	9	14	2,074	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	12,432	3	12	1,675	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	8,294	10	14	1,871	3,070
<b>TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)</b>					
Dairy products	9,578	3	11	387	2,563
Nursery and greenhouse crops	4,812	10	14	405	2,790
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	1,474	2	13	587	3,043
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons	1,165	9	14	505	2,739
Poultry & poultry products	1,159	3	12	928	2,901
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)</b>					
Layers, pullets, and pullet chicks sold	(D)	3	12	737	2,203
Mink and their pelts sold	(D)	1	2	91	191
Turkeys sold	(D)	6	11	411	1,353
Cattle and calves sold	3,673	3	12	2,368	3,063
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	(D)	4	11	814	1,882
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)</b>					
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	(D)	2	12	597	3,002
Cattle and calves inventory	9,468	3	12	2,196	3,064
Mink inventory	(D)	1	3	94	239
Horse and pony inventory	836	5	13	936	3,066
Hogs and pigs inventory	833	7	12	1,680	3,005
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA</b>					
Hay crops-acres	16,843	2	13	1,204	3,061
Corn for silage-acres	3,492	3	11	425	2,473
Corn for grain-acres	1,455	2	11	1,733	2,691
Land used for vegetables-acres	668	9	14	574	2,741
All nursery-acres	527	6	14	503	2,619

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 .....	248	199	25
\$10,000 or more .....	139	121	15
Total farm production expenses .....\$1,000..	17,957	15,973	12
Average per farm .....dollars..	46,281	50,071	-8
<b>Net cash return from agricultural sales</b>			
for the farm unit .....\$1,000..	2,304	2,291	1
Average per farm .....dollars..	5,939	7,182	-17
<b>Farms by type of organization:</b>			
Individual or family .....	332	271	23
Partnership or corporation .....	51	44	16
Other .....	4	5	-20
<b>OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS</b>			
<b>Operators by principal occupation:</b>			
Farming .....	194	185	5
Other .....	193	135	43
<b>Operators by sex:</b>			
Male .....	342	273	25
Female .....	45	47	-4
<b>Operators by race:</b>			
White .....	386	320	21
Black and other races .....	1	-	
Average age of operator .....	55.2	54.3	2

(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.