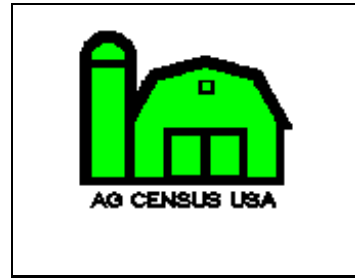


1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service



MECOSTA MICHIGAN

Land in farms

Decreased 8 percent from 121,153 acres in 1992 to 111,974 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Decreased 8 percent from 205 acres in 1992 to 188 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Decreased 14 percent from 303 farms in 1992 to 261 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

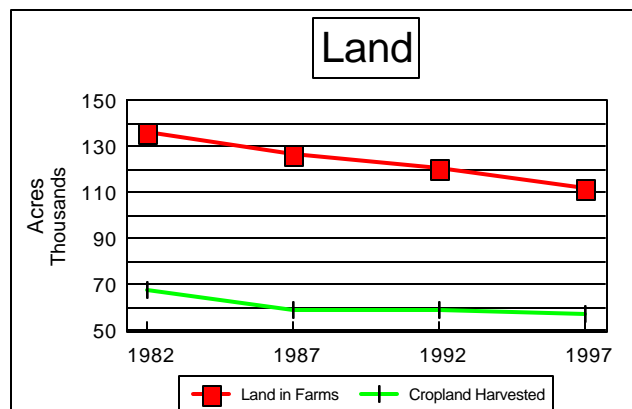
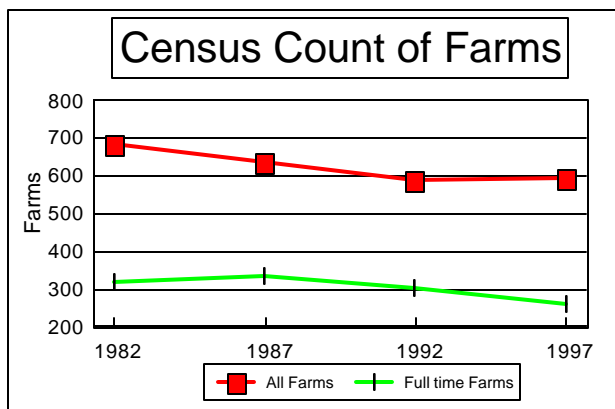
Increased 13 percent to \$24,866,000 in 1997.

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

Increased 12 percent from \$37,267 in 1992 to \$41,651 in 1997.



1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture, Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service

MECOSTA MICHIGAN

Ranked Items Within State and U.S., 1997

Item	Quantity	State		U.S.	
		Rank	Universe*	Rank	Universe*
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	24,866	42	83	1,922	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	14,817	31	83	1,523	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	10,049	46	82	1,748	3,070
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Dairy products	9,787	24	78	381	2,563
Other crops: potatoes, peanuts, etc	(D)	13	78	301	2,237
Cattle and calves	2,372	34	83	2,036	3,063
Hogs and pigs	2,231	22	81	783	2,976
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons	1,975	24	81	362	2,739
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Hogs and pigs sold	80,329	7	81	388	2,976
Ducks, geese, and other poultry sold	8,265	10	67	314	2,200
Cattle and calves sold	6,111	28	83	1,989	3,063
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	2,428	9	66	798	1,882
Sheep and lambs sold	629	32	79	1,110	2,765
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Cattle and calves inventory	15,760	27	83	1,769	3,064
Hogs and pigs inventory	11,612	21	80	748	3,005
Colony of bees inventory	(D)	12	75	325	2,588
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	1,644	22	81	1,006	3,002
Broiler inventory	1,620	8	78	722	2,620
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Hay crops-acres	32,852	6	83	591	3,061
Corn for grain-acres	12,061	38	77	1,008	2,691
Corn for silage-acres	4,134	26	77	372	2,473
Land used for vegetables-acres	1,636	24	81	323	2,741
Wheat-acres	1,409	48	76	1,555	2,612

Some counties do not have five commodities in a group.

Other County Summary Highlights

Item	1997	1992	Percent Change
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$10,000	371	350	6
\$10,000 or more	226	242	-7
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	17,511	19,373	-10
Average per farmdollars..	29,332	32,615	-10
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	3,115	2,172	43
Average per farmdollars..	5,218	3,656	43
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	537	530	1
Partnership or corporation	56	60	-7
Other	4	2	100
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	261	303	-14
Other	336	289	16
Operators by sex:			
Male	563	560	1
Female	34	32	6
Operators by race:			
White	594	590	1
Black and other races	3	2	50
Average age of operator	54.3	52.5	3

(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.