



# Strategic Agricultural Visioning and Economic Development Ford County



Created by Illinois Value-Added Rural Development  
Center (IVARDC) / Illinois Cooperative Development Center

Census of Agriculture	Year			Pct. Chg. 1992-2002
	1992	1997	2002	
<b>Farm Characteristics</b>				
Number of Farms	613	550	530	(13.5)
Land in Farms (acres)	300,127	314,806	286,069	(4.7)
Average Size of Farm (acres)	490	572	540	10.2
Percent of Land:				
Harvested Cropland	91.4	93.2	94.2	3.1
Pasture	1.5	1.7	0.7	(52.5)
Woodland	0.4	0.5	0.5	7.7
Used for House Lots, Ponds, Roads, Wasteland, Etc.	6.7	4.7	4.6	(30.7)
Estimated Market Value of Land and Buildings:				
Average Per Farm	\$789,625	\$1,257,005	\$1,437,155	82.0
Inflation Adjusted (1992=100.0)	\$789,625	\$1,098,781	\$1,120,763	41.9
Average Per Acre	\$1,627	\$2,300	\$2,608	60.3
Inflation Adjusted (1992=100.0)	\$1,627	\$2,010	\$2,034	25.0
<b>Farm Production Characteristics</b>				
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (\$1,000)	\$78,117	\$100,090	\$82,376	5.5
Rank In State (1=Selling Most and 102=Selling Least)	41	36	39	(4.9)
Average Per Farm	\$127,433	\$181,983	\$155,426	22.0
Inflation Adjusted (1992=100.0)	\$127,433	\$159,076	\$121,209	(4.9)
Crops, Including Nursery and Greenhouse Crops (\$1,000)	\$65,405	\$89,734	\$72,258	10.5
Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products (\$1,000)	\$12,712	\$10,357	\$10,118	(20.4)
Number of Farms Selling Livestock:				
Cattle and Calves	92	66	49	(46.7)
Hogs and Pigs	65	43	29	(55.4)
Number of Livestock Sold:				
Cattle and Calves	6,131	2,808	5,992	(2.3)
Hogs and Pigs	44,138	65,427	47,575	7.8
Number of Farms with Harvested Crops:				
Corn for Grain or Seed	546	481	412	(24.5)
Corn for Silage or Green Chop	9	10	12	33.3
Wheat for Grain	5	36	33	560.0
Soybeans for Beans	545	482	422	(22.6)
Acres Harvested:				
Corn for Grain or Seed	138,274	144,474	133,356	(3.6)
Corn for Silage or Green Chop	468	341	191	(59.2)
Wheat for Grain	260	1,495	2,269	772.7
Soybeans for Beans	133,119	145,330	132,601	(0.4)
Quantity of Harvested Crops:				
Corn for Grain or Seed (bushels)	20,354,780	19,696,593	19,153,566	(5.9)
Corn for Silage or Green Chop (tons, greens)	9,753	6,523	3,173	(67.5)
Wheat for Grain (bushels)	13,400	98,180	149,829	1,018.1
Soybeans for Beans (bushels)	6,001,359	6,642,177	6,367,958	6.1
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	100.0	114.4	128.2	28.2

Ford County Census of Population and Housing	Year		Change 1990-2000	Pct. Chg. 1990-2000
	1990	2000		
<b>Population</b>	14,275	14,241	-34	-0.2
<b>Civilian Labor Force (Population 16 Years and Over)</b>				
Employed	6,560	6,883	323	4.9
Unemployed	304	232	-72	-23.7
Rate	4.4	3.3	-1.2	-26.4
<b>Industry Employment</b>				
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining	711	467	-244	-34.3
Manufacturing	1,268	1,315	47	3.7
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1,288	962	-326	-25.3
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate (F/I/RE)	329	304	-25	-7.6
Services	1,808	2,426	618	34.2
Public Administration	307	245	-62	-20.2
Other*	849	1,164	315	37.1

\*Other consists of construction, transportation and warehousing, utilities, and information.

Ford County Illinois Department of Revenue	Year		Change 1998-2001	Pct. Chg. 1998-2001
	1998	2001		
<b>Equalized Assessed Value (EAV)</b>				
Total	\$171,973,929	\$187,294,000	15,320,071	8.9
Residential	66,225,291	77,140,000	10,914,709	16.5
Farm	81,918,062	80,035,000	-1,883,062	-2.3
Commercial	10,212,160	14,143,000	3,930,840	38.5
Industrial	10,508,430	13,045,000	2,536,570	24.1
Railroad	3,109,986	2,930,000	-179,986	-5.8
Mineral	0	0	0	NA

State of Illinois Illinois Agricultural Statistics	Year			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>Cost to Grow Corn</b>				
Yield	158	161	145	174
Cost Per Bushel	\$2.63	\$2.61	\$2.76	\$2.27
Annual Average Price	\$1.91	\$2.05	\$2.35	\$2.45
Management Margin	-\$0.72	-\$0.56	-\$0.41	\$0.18
<b>Cost to Grow Soybeans</b>				
Yield	47	48	48	38
Cost Per Bushel	\$7.29	\$6.99	\$6.79	\$8.42
Annual Average Price	\$4.62	\$4.50	\$5.66	\$7.35
Management Margin	-\$2.67	-\$2.49	-\$1.13	-\$1.07
<b>Livestock Returns above Cost of Feed and Purchased Animals</b>				
Hogs (per cwt.)	\$22.59	\$21.36	\$10.68	\$15.25
Feeder Pigs (per cwt.)	\$11.12	\$14.31	\$5.61	\$9.45
Feeder Cattle (per cwt.)	\$16.87	\$10.21	\$10.85	\$37.82
Dairy (per cow)	\$1,239	\$1,845	\$1,370	\$1,480
Beef Herd Calves Sold (per cow)	\$78	\$104	\$58	\$102

#### Agricultural Exports (State of Illinois)

Economic Research Service, USDA	Year			2004 as % of total
	2002	2003	2004	
<b>Commodities (\$Million)</b>				
Feed grains & products	1,055.4	994.1	1,340.2	36.7%
Soybeans & products	1,212.2	1,361.2	1,397.8	38.3%
Live animals & meat (exc. poultry)	273.9	269.8	247.0	6.8%
Wheat & products	115.6	109.0	152.6	4.2%
Feeds & fodders	56.0	55.2	57.2	1.6%
Hides & skins	48.0	48.5	51.1	1.4%
Seeds	11.9	6.4	6.3	0.2%
Fats, oils, & greases	14.1	17.0	20.6	0.6%
Other	331.8	341.3	381.5	10.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,118.8</b>	<b>3,202.5</b>	<b>3,654.4</b>	

## Area Profile Comparison

Characteristic	Regional County Comparisons					
	Ford	Champaign	McLean	Livingston	Kankakee	Iroquois
<b>Farm Characteristics</b>						
Land in Farms (acres), 2002	286,069	577,066	688,063	636,406	347,161	678,918
Change from 1997 to 2002	-9.1%	1.7%	-1.2%	3.7%	-1.3%	1.8%
Average Size of Farms (acres), 2002	540	449	477	479	481	490
Change from 1997 to 2002	-5.6%	8.5%	1.1%	7.6%	13.7%	2.3%
Farming as Principal Occupation, 2002	394	931	991	991	521	1049
Change from 1997 to 2002	-10.9%	-3.0%	-9.2%	-8.7%	-14.6%	-3.9%
<b>Farm Production Characteristics</b>						
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 2002 (\$1,000)	82,376	168,243	207,171	183,266	119,960	228,561
Change from 1997 to 2002	-17.7%	-11.5%	-13.0%	-14.2%	-9.7%	-4.8%
Percentage of Value From:						
Crop Sales, 2002	87.7%	95.0%	86.8%	82.4%	92.0%	81.4%
Livestock Sales, 2002	12.3%	5.0%	13.2%	17.6%	8.0%	18.6%
Average Market Value of Products Sold Per Farm	\$155,426	\$130,928	\$143,669	\$137,794	\$166,150	\$164,907
Change from 1997 to 2002	-14.6%	-5.5%	-11.1%	-11.0%	3.9%	-4.3%
<b>Illinois Agricultural Statistics 2003</b>						
Yield						
Corn	170	185	182	168	159	158
Soybeans	31	38	35	31	33	30
Cattle and Hog Sold						
Cattle and Calves Sold	5,992	5,704	7,664	3,598	3,976	18,284
Hogs Sold	47,575	46,817	244,149	276,409	37,358	75,511

Characteristic	Regional County Comparisons				State of Illinois	Nine County Regional Averages
	Vermilion	Piatt	De Witt	Woodford		
<b>Farm Characteristics</b>						
Land in Farms (acres), 2002	449,964	257,869	202,699	309,591	27,204,780	443,381
Change from 1997 to 2002	-7.2%	1.8%	-1.1%	3.3%	-0.4%	-0.5%
Average Size of Farms (acres), 2002	495	583	442	337	372	477
Change from 1997 to 2002	0.4%	3.2%	-0.2%	3.7%	0.5%	3.1%
Farming as Principal Occupation, 2002	633	344	315	609	41,645	678
Change from 1997 to 2002	-14.3%	-7.0%	-4.8%	9.7%	-13.0%	-6.9%
<b>Farm Production Characteristics</b>						
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 2002 (\$1,000)	124,716	71,605	56,265	103,825	8,556,486	134,599
Change from 1997 to 2002	-11.0%	-14.2%	-18.3%	-3.2%	-10.3%	-11.1%
Percentage of Value From:						
Crop Sales, 2002	93.6%	96.1%	88.9%	75.2%	76.5%	87.2%
Livestock Sales, 2002	6.4%	3.9%	11.1%	24.8%	23.5%	12.8%
Average Market Value of Products Sold Per Farm	\$137,202	\$162,002	\$122,581	\$112,976	\$117,130	\$143,364
Change from 1997 to 2002	-3.7%	-13.0%	-17.5%	-2.8%	-10.3%	-8.3%
<b>Illinois Agricultural Statistics 2003</b>						
Yield						
Corn	165	185	181	187	129	174
Soybeans	37	41	39	35	43	35
Cattle and Hog Sold						
Cattle and Calves Sold	5,142	1,713	1,855	4,383	659,000	5,831
Hogs Sold	54,151	14,172	148,576	180,423	8,339,000	112,514

## 2002 Agriculture Facts

### National:

- In 2002, the number of farms in the United States was estimated at 2,128,982, down 1.98% from 2001.
- Total agricultural land in U.S. farms in 2002 was 938.279 million acres, down from 941.21 million in 2001. Land in farms has declined every year since reaching its peak at 1,206 million acres in 1954.

### Illinois:

- 73,027 farms in Illinois contained 27.31 million acres of land.
- Average farm size was 374 acres.
- In 2002, cropland cash rent was \$122/acre.
- As of 2002, the average per acre nominal value of farm real estate was \$2,425/acre.
- Corn production totaled 1418.9 billion bushels, down 14.02 percent from 2001.
- The average yield for corn was 136 bu/acre.
- According to the Illinois Corn Growers Association, Investment by the ethanol industry in Illinois exceeds \$1 billion, generating 800 jobs in plant operations and 4,000 jobs in the industry-related service sector.
- Soybean production totaled 439 million bushels, 8.14% lower than 2001.
- Soybeans yielded an average of 43 bu/acre.
- Illinois pork producers produced 11,178,721 hogs.
- Cattle and calf production totaled 917,251 heads.
- During the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, Illinois' export shares totaled \$3.654 billion dollars, which ranked Illinois 3rd among all states in total agricultural exports. During the same year, Illinois ranked 1st in the export in soybeans and products, 2nd of feed grains and products, and 7th in live animals and meat.

### Ford County

- 19.2 million bushels of corn were produced on 133,356 acres resulting in an average yield of 150 bu/acre. Total cash receipts were \$45.5 million.
- 6.4 million bushels of soybeans were produced on 132,601 acres resulting in an average yield of 51.0 bu/acre. Total cash receipts were \$35.0 million.
- 30,100 was the number of hogs and pigs with cash receipts for hogs and pigs totaling \$4.1 million.
- 0 was the number of beef cows with cash receipts totaling \$1.2 million.

Source: Information compiled by Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs staff. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1992, 1997, 2002, *Census of Agriculture*, U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States*: 2000 (120th edition.) Washington, DC, 2000. U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, [On-line]. Available: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/cgi-local/eisbin/county2.cgi>, 2001. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Available: [http://www.census.gov/census\\_2000/datasets/Summary\\_File\\_1/Illinois/](http://www.census.gov/census_2000/datasets/Summary_File_1/Illinois/) file names: il00001\_uf1.zip thru il00039\_uf1.zip (39 files) and ilgeo\_uf1.z  
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