



# Strategic Agricultural Visioning and Economic Development Mercer 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	812	754	746	(8.1)
Land in Farms (acres)	312,128	309,591	292,719	(6.2)
Average Size of Farm (acres)	384	411	392	2.1
Percent of Land:				
Harvested Cropland	76.3	77.6	78.4	2.9
Pasture	11.7	10.6	8.6	(26.5)
Woodland	6.8	8.3	5.9	(12.3)
Used for House Lots, Ponds, Roads, Wasteland, Etc.	5.2	3.5	7.0	33.9
Estimated Market Value of Land and Buildings:				
Average Per Farm	\$407,272	\$660,995	\$885,546	117.4
Inflation Adjusted (1992=100.0)	\$407,272	\$577,793	\$690,592	69.6
Average Per Acre	\$1,153	\$1,693	\$2,216	92.2
Inflation Adjusted (1992=100.0)	\$1,153	\$1,480	\$1,728	49.9
<b>Farm Production Characteristics</b>				
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (\$1,000)	\$82,050	\$92,148	\$90,134	9.9
Rank In State (1=Selling Most and 102=Selling Least)	39	40	34	(12.8)
Average Per Farm	\$101,047	\$122,212	\$120,823	19.6
Inflation Adjusted (1992=100.0)	\$101,047	\$106,829	\$94,224	(6.8)
Crops, Including Nursery and Greenhouse Crops (\$1,000)	\$55,473	\$70,192	\$68,030	22.6
Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products (\$1,000)	\$26,577	\$21,956	\$22,103	(16.8)
Number of Farms Selling Livestock:				
Cattle and Calves	351	307	217	(38.2)
Hogs and Pigs	220	136	75	(65.9)
Number of Livestock Sold:				
Cattle and Calves	13,948	11,729	9,583	(31.3)
Hogs and Pigs	104,014	127,634	191,803	84.4
Number of Farms with Harvested Crops:				
Corn for Grain or Seed	590	509	423	(28.3)
Corn for Silage or Green Chop	37	31	26	(29.7)
Wheat for Grain	38	33	14	(63.2)
Soybeans for Beans	545	476	407	(25.3)
Acres Harvested:				
Corn for Grain or Seed	137,717	125,252	120,965	(12.2)
Corn for Silage or Green Chop	799	957	411	(48.6)
Wheat for Grain	1,003	1,274	553	(44.9)
Soybeans for Beans	89,504	103,271	99,890	11.6
Quantity of Harvested Crops:				
Corn for Grain or Seed (bushels)	18,805,430	14,957,603	19,922,919	5.9
Corn for Silage or Green Chop (tons, greens)	11,955	18,030	6,165	(48.4)
Wheat for Grain (bushels)	38,312	67,217	33,188	(13.4)
Soybeans for Beans (bushels)	3,897,156	4,816,019	4,982,997	27.9
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	100.0	114.4	128.2	28.2

Mercer County Census of Population and Housing	Year		Change 1990-2000	Pct. Chg. 1990-2000
	1990	2000		
<b>Population</b>	17,290	16,957	-333	-1.9
<b>Civilian Labor Force (Population 16 Years and Over)</b>				
Employed	7,721	8,031	310	4.0
Unemployed	593	501	-92	-15.5
Rate	7.1	5.9	-1.3	-17.7
<b>Industry Employment</b>				
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining	970	476	-494	-50.9
Manufacturing	1,311	1,349	38	2.9
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1,503	1,220	-283	-18.8
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate (F/I/RE)	470	393	-77	-16.4
Services	1,991	2,681	690	34.7
Public Administration	338	372	34	10.1
Other*	1,138	1,540	402	35.3

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

Mercer County Illinois Department of Revenue	Year		Change 1998-2001	Pct. Chg. 1998-2001
	1998	2001		
<b>Equalized Assessed Value (EAV)</b>				
Total	\$162,698,209	\$186,023,000	23,324,791	14.3
Residential	75,709,849	91,463,000	15,753,151	20.8
Farm	76,348,343	78,085,000	1,736,657	2.3
Commercial	10,385,332	16,189,000	5,803,668	55.9
Industrial	254,685	285,000	30,315	11.9
Railroad	0	0	0	NA
Mineral	0	0	0	NA

State of Illinois Illinois Agricultural Statistics	Year			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Cost to Grow Corn				
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
Cost to Grow Soybeans				
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
Livestock Returns above Cost of Feed and Purchased Animals				
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					
	Mercer	Rock Island	Henry	Knox	Warren	Henderson
<b>Farm Characteristics</b>						
Land in Farms (acres), 2002	292,719	169,612	481,311	393,976	326,912	201,200
Change from 1997 to 2002	-5.4%	-0.3%	5.4%	1.1%	3.8%	-0.5%
Average Size of Farms (acres), 2002	392	257	375	428	516	513
Change from 1997 to 2002	-4.6%	-6.5%	10.3%	1.9%	16.2%	5.1%
Farming as Principal Occupation, 2002	498	427	961	605	485	291
Change from 1997 to 2002	-9.6%	14.2%	-2.6%	-12.4%	-19.6%	-18.9%
<b>Farm Production Characteristics</b>						
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 2002 (\$1,000)	90,134	45,588	180,487	129,655	106,200	59,211
Change from 1997 to 2002	-2.2%	-8.4%	0.8%	-0.5%	1.1%	-1.7%
Percentage of Value From:						
Crop Sales, 2002	75.5%	76.7%	63.6%	67.1%	77.9%	72.6%
Livestock Sales, 2002	24.5%	23.3%	36.4%	33.0%	22.1%	27.4%
Average Market Value of Products Sold Per Farm	\$120,823	\$69,178	\$140,566	\$140,777	\$167,773	\$151,048
Change from 1997 to 2002	-1.1%	-14.1%	5.5%	0.3%	13.4%	3.9%
<b>Illinois Agricultural Statistics 2003</b>						
Yield						
Corn	176	173	170	181	183	168
Soybeans	35	36	33	38	42	37
Cattle and Hog Sold						
Cattle and Calves Sold	9,583	5,897	45,285	19,309	15,212	13,812
Hogs Sold	191,803	98,552	361,521	417,707	155,931	116,338

Characteristic	Regional County Comparisons				State of Illinois	Nine County Regional Averages
	Whiteside	Rock Island	McDonough	Hancock		
<b>Farm Characteristics</b>						
Land in Farms (acres), 2002	379,366	169,612	324,724	431,823	27,204,780	317,126
Change from 1997 to 2002	-1.4%	-0.3%	-4.5%	-1.5%	-0.4%	-0.2%
Average Size of Farms (acres), 2002	379	257	432	394	372	394
Change from 1997 to 2002	2.4%	-6.5%	4.6%	2.1%	0.5%	3.2%
Farming as Principal Occupation, 2002	712	427	474	754	41,645	563
Change from 1997 to 2002	-6.6%	14.2%	-17.6%	-2.6%	-13.0%	-6.9%
<b>Farm Production Characteristics</b>						
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 2002 (\$1,000)	144,106	45,588	82,477	116,862	8,556,486	100,031
Change from 1997 to 2002	-8.2%	-8.4%	-14.8%	-7.2%	-10.3%	-4.4%
Percentage of Value From:						
Crop Sales, 2002	66.7%	76.7%	86.8%	69.6%	76.5%	71.4%
Livestock Sales, 2002	33.3%	23.3%	13.2%	30.4%	23.5%	28.6%
Average Market Value of Products Sold Per Farm	\$143,962	\$69,178	\$109,676	\$106,723	\$117,130	\$121,970
Change from 1997 to 2002	-4.7%	-14.1%	-6.7%	-3.6%	-10.3%	-0.8%
<b>Illinois Agricultural Statistics 2003</b>						
Yield						
Corn	176	173	179	171	129	175
Soybeans	35	36	43	42	43	38
Cattle and Hog Sold						
Cattle and Calves Sold	41,346	5,897	10,004	23,933	659,000	19,028
Hogs Sold	132,257	98,552	56,551	337,456	8,339,000	196,667

## 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.

### Mercer County

- 19.9 million bushels of corn were produced on 120,965 acres resulting in an average yield of 175 bu/acre. Total cash receipts were \$35.6 million.
- 5.0 million bushels of soybeans were produced on 99,890 acres resulting in an average yield of 54.0 bu/acre. Total cash receipts were \$26.6 million.
- 66,100 was the number of hogs and pigs with cash receipts for hogs and pigs totaling \$12.9 million.
- 9,200 was the number of beef cows with cash receipts totaling \$7.4 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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