

# Summary Measures of the Economic Importance of Agri-food Industries in Cedar County, Iowa

Report prepared with funding from the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers  
 By Mark Imerman, David Swenson, Liesl Eathington, and Daniel Otto  
 Iowa State University Department of Economics  
 September 23, 2005

This summary report provides county-level statistics for Cedar County, Iowa as a supplement to *The Economic Importance of Agri-food Industries in Iowa*<sup>1</sup> (hereafter referred to as the “state report”). Throughout this summary, local data will be presented that reflects the data provided in the state report. Brief descriptions of the data will be provided along with references back to the state report for more detailed explanations of the data and its use.

Table 1 shows that Cedar County had 971 farms in 2002. These farms averaged 349 acres apiece compared to an average of 350 acres per farm, statewide. Nationwide, farms are generally larger than in Iowa. The average US farm included 441 acres in 2002. The estimated market value of land and buildings per farm in Cedar County was \$868,582 in 2002, compared to \$808,152 for Iowa and \$604,403, nationwide. In 2002, Cedar County farms marketed an average of \$126,674 worth of farm products according to the US Census of Agriculture.

Table 1. Cedar County Farm Statistics from the US Census of Agriculture

	Cedar County		Iowa		United States	
	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997
Number of farms	971	1,023	90,655	96,705	2,128,982	2,215,876
Land in farms (acres)	338,493	337,077	31,729,490	32,313,119	938,279,056	954,752,502
Average farm size (acres)	349	329	350	334	441	431
Market value, per farm, of						
Land and buildings (\$)	763,952	700,897	707,730	559,678	537,833	416,007
Machinery and equipment (\$)	104,630	99,190	100,422	79,607	66,570	53,861
Farm products sold (\$)	126,674	127,959	135,388	125,766	94,245	90,880

Table 2 shows employment data for Cedar County and the state of Iowa compiled within a framework used by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to identify a broad range of farm and farm-related employment. These numbers are a reduced set of the statistics provided as Table 4 in the state report. The USDA compiles these employment numbers annually for each of the 50 states<sup>2</sup>. For this summary, we have used the USDA classification system and data from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Iowa Department of Workforce Development to generate similar results for Cedar County. Detail is restricted in this summary, due to the smaller employment base and privacy issues at the county level.

<sup>1</sup> Mark Imerman, David Swenson, Liesl Eathington, Daniel Otto. Iowa State University Department of Economics. 2005.

<sup>2</sup> The USDA's definition of farm-related industries includes all food-based businesses through retailing and restaurants. Substantial portions of packaging manufacture, of gravel and lime extraction, and apparel manufacturing are also included. A discussion of the implications of the breadth of this framework is included on pages 6-9 of the state report.

Table 2. USDA-style Compilation of 2002 Farm and Farm-related Employment (Jobs)

	Cedar County			Iowa	
	Jobs	As a percent of County total	State Category	Jobs	% of state total
Farm and closely-related	1,206	13.05	0.60	201,967	10.57
Peripherally-related	625	6.77	0.33	191,669	10.04
Total farm and farm-related	1,831	19.82	0.47	393,636	20.61
Total employment	9,239	100.00	0.48	1,909,934	100.00

Data derived from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Iowa Department of Workforce Development within a framework obtained from the USDA.

Tables 3 and 4 estimate the value of a more restricted definition of the agri-food industries for Cedar County. These tables are consistent with Tables 5 and 6 in the state report. Estimates included in these tables limit the agri-food industries to ag production (traditional farm production and nonfarm production facilities), food and other primary farm commodity processing, and ag input manufacturing (machinery, ag chemicals, and fertilizer)<sup>3</sup>.

Table 3 provides value estimates for an industry-only aggregation of the economic activity that takes place within Cedar County's borders. Output is the value of total in-county production for each industry in 2002. Value-added is the value that was added to Output by each industry's in-county production process. The difference between Output and Value-added is the value of purchased inputs that go into the production process. For individual industries, these inputs may be sourced from out-of-county or from within the county. Value-added represents the value of Output minus the value of purchased inputs. Table 3 also provides an estimate of jobs<sup>4</sup> and labor income (compensation for employees and proprietors) within the agri-food industries in Cedar County.

Table 3 shows that, in 2002, the total output value of Cedar County's agricultural production industry was \$116.558 million. \$44.685 million of this output (38.34 percent of the total output value) was the value added to the output by Cedar County's ag production activity (ag production's value added). The remainder came from purchased inputs into the process (from either in-county or out-of-county sources). 56.56 percent of this value added, or \$25.272 million, was paid out as compensation to the 1,245 production agriculture jobs in Cedar County.

---

<sup>3</sup> Estimates were generated through a process of recompiling and analyzing statistics derived from the IMPLAN database system maintained by MIG, Inc. A detailed discussion of the estimates presented here, the differences between the two tables, and how they can be interpreted is provided in pages 9 through 17 of the state report.

<sup>4</sup> Jobs do not refer to the number of people working or to full-time-equivalent employment. Jobs can be full or part time. A single individual can hold multiple jobs. In short, jobs cannot be looked upon as interchangeable or comparable across industries, businesses, or location. Comparisons of wages and compensation are more appropriate in an economic value context.

Table 3. Industry-only Estimation Based on IMPLAN and Census Data

<b>Cedar County</b>		<b>Labor</b>		<b>Value-Added</b>	
<b>Agricultural Production</b>	<b>Output*</b>	<b>Jobs</b>	<b>Income*</b>	<b>Value*</b>	<b>Pct. Of Tot.</b>
Oilseeds	28.034	210	9.262	15.072	5.02
Grain	49.387	558	12.111	22.366	7.45
Other Crops	4.718	16	1.198	2.686	0.89
Cattle	12.848	69	0.252	0.894	0.30
Poultry	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0.00
Hogs and Pigs	20.042	355	1.841	3.112	1.04
Other Ag Production	1.529	37	0.608	0.555	0.18
<b>Sum of Ag Production</b>	<b>116.558</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>25.272</b>	<b>44.685</b>	<b>14.88</b>
<b>Primary Food Processing</b>					
Crop	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0.00
Dairy	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0.00
Meat	2.000	7	0.154	0.184	0.06
<b>Sum of Primary Food Proc.</b>	<b>2.000</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.154</b>	<b>0.184</b>	<b>0.06</b>
<b>Other Food/Ag Processing</b>					
Animal and Pet Foods	27.803	53	2.858	4.050	1.35
Other Food Processing	0.308	4	0.081	0.141	0.05
<b>Sum of Other Ag Proc.</b>	<b>28.111</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2.939</b>	<b>4.191</b>	<b>1.40</b>
<b>Ag Input Manufacturing</b>					
Ag Chemical and Fertilizer	0.519	2	0.038	0.070	0.02
Farm Machinery	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0.00
<b>Sum of Ag Input Mfg.</b>	<b>0.519</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.038</b>	<b>0.070</b>	<b>0.02</b>
<b>Sum of All Agri-food Ind.</b>	<b>147.188</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>28.403</b>	<b>49.130</b>	<b>16.36</b>
<b>NonAg Industries</b>	<b>429.729</b>	<b>5,549</b>	<b>159.732</b>	<b>251.210</b>	<b>83.64</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>576.917</b>	<b>6,860</b>	<b>188.135</b>	<b>300.340</b>	<b>100.00</b>

\* Numbers represent millions of dollars

If we add food and other ag processing and ag input manufacturing to agricultural production, the value of Cedar County's agri-food industry output was \$147.188 million, or 25.51 percent of Cedar County's total industrial production. Of this, \$49.130 million (33.38 percent) was value added within these industries in Cedar County. \$28.403 million of this value added was paid out as wages and salaries to the 1,311 agri-food industry jobs in the county.

Overall, Table 3 shows that Cedar County's agri-food industries directly accounted for 25.51 percent of the county's total output, 16.36 percent of total value added, 15.10 percent of labor income, and 19.11 percent of the county's jobs<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> It is unusual but possible for counties to have negative output, value-added, and labor income values in some categories, resulting in negative percents of totals. Where this happens, it is generally due to write-downs of assets and proprietor interests due to firm closings or bankruptcies, market situations where output must be sold at less than production costs, or reverse flows of incomes, pensions, or benefits.

Table 4. Industry-of-output aggregation including local inputs

Cedar County	Value Added				
	As a Percent of				
	Nonhousehold				
Agricultural Production	Output*	Income*	Value Added*	Total V.A.	Demand
Oilseeds	35.302	15.495	19.912	6.63	8.89
Grain	56.185	20.935	27.641	9.20	12.34
Other Crops	1.145	0.489	0.670	0.22	0.30
Cattle	16.260	2.312	3.529	1.18	1.58
Poultry	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
Hogs and Pigs	26.752	5.191	7.340	2.44	3.28
Other Ag Production	1.201	0.233	0.330	0.11	0.15
<b>Sum of Ag Production</b>	<b>136.844</b>	<b>44.655</b>	<b>59.421</b>	<b>19.78</b>	<b>26.52</b>
<b>Primary Food Processing</b>					
Crop	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
Dairy	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
Meat	0.742	0.101	0.142	0.05	0.06
<b>Sum of Primary Food Proc.</b>	<b>0.742</b>	<b>0.101</b>	<b>0.142</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>0.06</b>
<b>Other Food/Ag Processing</b>					
Animal and Pet Foods	37.007	7.077	9.587	3.19	4.28
Other Food Processing	0.044	0.016	0.022	0.01	0.01
<b>Sum of Other Ag Proc.</b>	<b>37.050</b>	<b>7.093</b>	<b>9.608</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>4.29</b>
<b>Ag Input Manufacturing</b>					
Ag Chemical and Fertilizer	0.021	0.004	0.005	0.00	0.00
Farm Machinery	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
<b>Sum of Ag Input Mfg.</b>	<b>0.021</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Sum of All Agri-food Ind.</b>	<b>174.658</b>	<b>51.852</b>	<b>69.177</b>	<b>23.03</b>	<b>30.88</b>
<b>NonAg Industries</b>	<b>287.990</b>	<b>120.902</b>	<b>154.861</b>	<b>51.56</b>	<b>69.12</b>
<b>Household Consumption</b>	<b>114.269</b>	<b>340.441</b>	<b>76.303</b>	<b>25.41</b>	<b>34.06</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>576.917</b>	<b>513.195</b>	<b>300.340</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>134.06</b>

\* Numbers represent millions of dollars

Table 4 shows a different aggregation of the county's industrial output. Table 4 is derived from the same data as is Table 3, and total values for Table 4 are identical to total values for Table 3. The difference is the point at which values were counted. In Table 3, values were counted in each industry where productive activity took place. In Table 4, values were counted at the industry that made the final export (out-of-county) sale of goods and services produced<sup>6</sup>. This is final demand analysis. It helps illustrate the magnitude of inter-industrial linkages and the value of those linkages to local income generation from export sales<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Goods not sold out of county were counted under the heading of "Household Consumption" and not in industry totals in Table 4.

<sup>7</sup> The point at which final products are sold out-of-county was chosen as an endpoint because it coincides with the point at which industrial output brings revenue into the county. This point also avoids problems

Table 4 reallocates all industrial activity in the county to the sectors producing goods for sale beyond the county's borders (export sale). This means that if there is a local meat packer that purchases all of its live cattle from local farmers, the output value, value-added, and personal income generated in the production of those cattle is aggregated up to the meat packing industry. Similarly, the value of locally produced farm machinery purchased for use on local farms is not included in the aggregation under farm machinery, but is subsumed under agricultural production (and partially subsumed, again, into food processing if the farm output that it was used to produce passes through local food processors on its journey to final sale outside of the county). In a nutshell, the output, value-added, and income estimates in Table 4 estimate the total share of the local economic activity utilized to generate final output from the agri-food sectors.

Under this aggregation, the total exported output value of locally produced goods and services supporting Cedar County's agricultural production industry was \$136.844 million. \$59.421 million of this output (43.42 percent of the total output value) was the value added to the output by economic activity within Cedar County (value added). The remainder came from inputs purchased from out-of-county sources. 75.15 percent of this value added, or \$44.655 million, was paid out as personal income to residents of Cedar County that were involved (as workers, owners, investors, etc) in these activities.

If we add food and other ag processing and ag input manufacturing to agricultural production, the export value of goods and services supporting Cedar County's agri-food industry output was \$174.658 million, or 30.27 percent of Cedar County's total industrial production. Of this, \$69.177 million (39.61 percent) was value added within these industries in Cedar County. \$51.852 million of this value added was paid out as personal income.

Overall, Table 4 shows that exports from Cedar County's agri-food industries accounted for 30.27 percent of the county's total output, 23.03 percent of total value added, and 10.10 percent of the county's personal income.

Table 5. Crop Statistics From the U.S. Census of Agriculture

	Cedar County		Iowa	
	2002	1997	2002	1997
Value of All Farm Products Sold*	123,000	130,902	12,273,634	12,162,165
Value of Crops Sold*	82,311	82,241	6,071,272	6,381,676
Total Cropland Harvested (acres)	273,846	272,753	23,994,343	24,008,826
Corn for grain	141,468	144,001	11,761,392	11,930,542
Corn for silage and green-chop	1,132	1,543	247,269	244,913
Soybeans	120,278	113,646	10,418,621	10,258,681
Oats	853	2,259	143,513	214,485
Harvested forage crops	11,373	(NA)	1,533,027	(NA)
Bushels harvested				
Corn	25,424,296	19,555,256	1,851,276,224	1,581,093,092
Soybeans	6,047,648	5,755,500	487,380,897	459,309,682
Oats	64,776	171,266	10,761,952	14,451,930

\* Values are in \$1,000s

---

that would accompany trying to separate local household consumption between that which consumes local food products and that which consumes food products imported from outside the county.

Table 5 shows Cedar County crop inventories and sales for 1997 and 2002. State statistics are included for comparison. Table 6 provides similar information for Cedar County livestock. Data in both tables comes from the US Census of Agriculture. In both tables “(NA)” entries denote categories where data was not collected or compiled, and “(D)” entries designate that data was collected but results were suppressed to comply with personal disclosure restrictions.

Table 6. Livestock Statistics From the U.S. Census of Agriculture

	Cedar County		Iowa	
	2002	1997	2002	1997
Value of All Farm Products Sold	123,000	130,902	12,273,634	12,162,165
Value of Livestock and Livestock Products Sold*	40,689	48,661	6,202,362	5,780,489
<b>Hogs and Pigs</b>				
Total inventory	141,678	150,944	15,486,531	14,513,319
Inventory of breeding stock	8,596	16,815	1,145,323	1,354,166
Number sold	351,223	283,284	41,232,492	27,340,921
Value of sales*	27,183	31,918	3,078,455	3,012,764
<b>Cattle and Calves</b>				
Total inventory	22,194	30,252	3,535,945	3,717,394
Beef cows	9,229	9,970	987,670	1,051,178
Milk cows	479	899	206,965	222,090
Number sold	17,261	22,116	2,929,704	2,936,978
Value of sales*	12,407	14,748	2,119,935	1,886,416
Value of Dairy Products Sold*	865	1,613	442,431	407,897
<b>Poultry and Poultry Products</b>				
Value of sales*	8	12	511,949	414,587
Inventory of layers 20 weeks and older	715	457	38,650,210	21,514,768
Broiler and meat-type chicken inventory	398	439	1,730,091	1,023,349
Broiler and meat-type chickens sold	761	1,011	9,558,127	6,919,963
Turkey inventory	(D)	(D)	3,681,862	2,552,845
Turkeys sold	-	(D)	9,145,415	7,279,822
<b>Sheep and Goats and Related Products</b>				
Value of sales	140	(NA)	23,366	(NA)
Inventory of sheep and lambs	2,382	2,698	249,908	272,913
Number of sheep and lambs sold	2,030	2,446	257,130	326,868

\* Values are in \$1,000s

The first three data columns of Table 7 show aggregated annual earnings in thousands of dollars from farm employment, nonfarm employment, and totals employment in Cedar County from 1990 through 2003. The values are not adjusted for inflation. Note that nonfarm earnings steadily rise throughout the period. Total earnings rise, but with somewhat more variation. Farm earnings swing significantly from year-to-year. This is typical of earnings in economies with a substantial ag production sector.

The final three data columns of Table 7 show the data again. In Table 7, however, the data is differenced year-by-year. Entries for 1991, for example, are the difference between, change from, 1990 to 1991. Positive numbers denote unadjusted growth. Negative numbers denote unadjusted decline. This representation shows that nonfarm earnings tend to be growing over time, causing total earnings to trend upward over time. The variability in this growth, however, is strongly associated with the variability of farm earnings. This is due to the weather and market factors that make production agriculture returns highly variable (which is also true of many basic mining industries).

While ag production's growth in most areas is limited by the availability of suitable land, its variability has a substantial effect upon rural areas. Even in urbanized areas, the difference between a good earnings year and a bad earnings year is often heavily influenced by conditions affecting agricultural production and marketing.

A more detailed state-level discussion and illustrations are included in the state report on pages 22 through 24.

Table 7. Annual Earnings and Annual Earnings Changes

Year	Annual County Earnings by Source			Annual Changes in County Earnings		
	Farm	Nonfarm	Total	Farm	Nonfarm	Total
1990	27,631	112,834	140,465	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1991	16,262	116,325	132,587	-11,369	3,491	-7,878
1992	22,841	122,027	144,868	6,579	5,702	12,281
1993	9,395	126,146	135,541	-13,446	4,119	-9,327
1994	27,997	131,041	159,038	18,602	4,895	23,497
1995	17,039	134,007	151,046	-10,958	2,966	-7,992
1996	40,550	138,437	178,987	23,511	4,430	27,941
1997	39,681	146,431	186,112	-869	7,994	7,125
1998	30,539	153,740	184,279	-9,142	7,309	-1,833
1999	14,172	166,610	180,782	-16,367	12,870	-3,497
2000	16,800	185,326	202,126	2,628	18,716	21,344
2001	15,469	182,352	197,821	-1,331	-2,974	-4,305
2002	17,530	185,624	203,154	2,061	3,272	5,333
2003	13,582	194,231	207,813	-3,948	8,607	4,659

Data from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis