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

Report prepared with funding from the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers
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September 23, 2005

This summary report provides county-level statistics for Lyon County, Iowa as a supplement to ***The Economic Importance of Agri-food Industries in Iowa***[1] (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 Lyon County had 1,045 farms in 2002. These farms averaged 327 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 Lyon County was $834,019 in 2002, compared to $808,152 for Iowa and $604,403, nationwide. In 2002, Lyon County farms marketed an average of $237,221 worth of farm products according to the US Census of Agriculture.

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

	Lyon County		Iowa		United States	
	2002	1997	2002	1997	2002	1997
Number of farms	1,045	1,201	90,655	96,705	2,128,982	2,215,876
Land in farms (acres)	341,534	356,082	31,729,490	32,313,119	938,279,056	954,752,502
Average farm size (acres)	327	296	350	334	441	431
Market value, per farm, of						
Land and buildings ($)	742,370	551,220	707,730	559,678	537,833	416,007
Machinery and equipment ($)	91,649	77,467	100,422	79,607	66,570	53,861
Farm products sold ($)	237,221	167,714	135,388	125,766	94,245	90,880

Table 2 shows employment data for Lyon 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[2]. 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 Lyon County. Detail is restricted in this summary, due to the smaller employment base and privacy issues at the county level.

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[1] Mark Imerman, David Swenson, Liesl Eathington, Daniel Otto. Iowa State University Department of Economics. 2005.

[2] 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)

	Lyon County			Iowa	
		As a percent of			
	Jobs	County total	State Category	Jobs	% of state total
Farm and closely-related	1,661	26.09	0.82	201,967	10.57
Peripherally-related	417	6.55	0.22	191,669	10.04
Total farm and farm-related	2,078	32.64	0.53	393,636	20.61
Total employment	6,366	100.00	0.33	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 Lyon 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)[3].

Table 3 provides value estimates for an industry-only aggregation of the economic activity that takes place within Lyon 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[4] and labor income (compensation for employees and proprietors) within the agri-food industries in Lyon County.

Table 3 shows that, in 2002, the total output value of Lyon County's agricultural production industry was $221.986 million. $54.429 million of this output (24.52 percent of the total output value) was the value added to the output by Lyon 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). 43.72 percent of this value added, or $23.798 million, was paid out as compensation to the 1,695 production agriculture jobs in Lyon County.

[3] 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.

[4] 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

Lyon County Agricultural Production	**Output***	**Jobs**	**Labor Income***	**Value-Added Value***	**Pct. Of Tot.**
Oilseeds	29.763	168	9.765	16.002	7.20
Grain	39.873	339	9.404	18.057	8.13
Other Crops	3.757	9	0.703	1.971	0.89
Cattle	76.555	306	-0.167	5.519	2.48
Poultry	8.731	10	1.008	2.850	1.28
Hogs and Pigs	*54.188*	*722*	*2.370*	*8.415*	3.79
Other Ag Production	9.119	141	0.715	1.615	0.73
Sum of Ag Production	**221.986**	**1,695**	**23.798**	**54.429**	**24.50**
Primary Food Processing					
Crop	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0.00
Dairy	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0.00
Meat	1.125	3	0.061	0.074	0.03
Sum of Primary Food Proc.	**1.125**	**3**	**0.061**	**0.074**	**0.03**
Other Food/Ag Processing					
Animal and Pet Foods	1.603	3	0.046	0.065	0.03
Other Food Processing	1.844	24	0.462	0.808	0.36
Sum of Other Ag Proc.	**3.447**	**27**	**0.508**	**0.873**	**0.39**
Ag Input Manufacturing					
Ag Chemical and Fertilizer	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0.00
Farm Machinery	33.095	195	-0.925	3.553	1.60
Sum of Ag Input Mfg.	**33.095**	**195**	**-0.925**	**3.553**	**1.60**
Sum of All Agri-food Ind.	**259.653**	**1,920**	**23.442**	**58.929**	**26.52**
NonAg Industries	**297.815**	**3,553**	**106.253**	**163.240**	**73.48**
Totals	**557.468**	**5,473**	**129.695**	**222.169**	**100.00**

* Numbers represent millions of dollars

If we add food and other ag processing and ag input manufacturing to agricultural production, the value of Lyon County's agri-food industry output was $259.653 million, or 46.58 percent of Lyon County's total industrial production. Of this, $58.929 million (22.70 percent) was value added within these industries in Lyon County. $23.442 million of this value added was paid out as wages and salaries to the 1,920 agri-food industry jobs in the county.

Overall, Table 3 shows that Lyon County's agri-food industries directly accounted for 46.58 percent of the county's total output, 26.52 percent of total value added, 18.07 percent of labor income, and 35.08 percent of the county's jobs[5].

[5] 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

Lyon County			**Value Added**		
Agricultural Production	**Output***	**Income***	**Value Added***	**As a Percent of Total V.A.**	**As a Percent of Nonhousehold Demand**
Oilseeds	37.069	14.697	20.572	9.26	10.70
Grain	39.492	12.939	19.097	8.60	9.93
Other Crops	0.431	0.142	0.233	0.10	0.12
Cattle	92.774	7.908	15.565	7.01	8.09
Poultry	10.426	2.464	3.929	1.77	2.04
Hogs and Pigs	*67.620*	*9.424*	*16.328*	7.35	8.49
Other Ag Production	10.850	1.512	2.620	1.18	1.36
Sum of Ag Production	**258.662**	**49.086**	**78.345**	**35.26**	**40.74**
Primary Food Processing					
Crop	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
Dairy	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
Meat	0.544	0.050	0.082	0.04	0.04
Sum of Primary Food Proc.	**0.544**	**0.050**	**0.082**	**0.04**	**0.04**
Other Food/Ag Processing					
Animal and Pet Foods	2.077	0.262	0.382	0.17	0.20
Other Food Processing	1.276	0.413	0.608	0.27	0.32
Sum of Other Ag Proc.	**3.354**	**0.674**	**0.989**	**0.45**	**0.51**
Ag Input Manufacturing					
Ag Chemical and Fertilizer	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
Farm Machinery	38.587	3.177	7.594	3.42	3.95
Sum of Ag Input Mfg.	**38.587**	**3.177**	**7.594**	**3.42**	**3.95**
Sum of All Agri-food Ind.	**301.147**	**52.987**	**87.011**	**39.16**	**45.24**
NonAg Industries	**208.547**	**79.842**	**105.306**	**47.40**	**54.76**
Household Consumption	**47.774**	**144.999**	**29.852**	**13.44**	**15.52**
Totals	**557.468**	**277.829**	**222.169**	**100.00**	**115.52**

* 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[6]. 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[7].

[6] Goods not sold out of county were counted under the heading of "Household Consumption" and not in industry totals in Table 4.

[7] 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 Lyon County's agricultural production industry was $258.662 million. $78.345 million of this output (30.29 percent of the total output value) was the value added to the output by economic activity within Lyon County (value added). The remainder came from inputs purchased from out-of-county sources. 62.65 percent of this value added, or $49.086 million, was paid out as personal income to residents of Lyon 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 Lyon County's agri-food industry output was $301.147 million, or 54.02 percent of Lyon County's total industrial production. Of this, $87.011 million (28.89 percent) was value added within these industries in Lyon County. $52.987 million of this value added was paid out as personal income.

Overall, Table 4 shows that exports from Lyon County's agri-food industries accounted for 54.02 percent of the county's total output, 39.16 percent of total value added, and 19.07 percent of the county's personal income.

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

	Lyon County		Iowa	
	2002	1997	2002	1997
Value of All Farm Products Sold*	247,896	201,424	12,273,634	12,162,165
Value of Crops Sold*	67,239	72,118	6,071,272	6,381,676
Total Cropland Harvested (acres)	294,141	299,009	23,994,343	24,008,826
Corn for grain	137,862	144,190	11,761,392	11,930,542
Corn for silage and green-chop	10,003	7,196	247,269	244,913
Soybeans	134,125	136,710	10,418,621	10,258,681
Oats	1,710	2,529	143,513	214,485
Harvested forage crops	11,896	(NA)	1,533,027	(NA)
Bushels harvested				
Corn	20,460,665	18,361,270	1,851,276,224	1,581,093,092
Soybeans	6,420,553	6,136,855	487,380,897	459,309,682
Oats	148,658	195,981	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 Lyon County crop inventories and sales for 1997 and 2002. State statistics are included for comparison. Table 6 provides similar information for Lyon 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

	Lyon County		Iowa	
	2002	1997	2002	1997
Value of All Farm Products Sold	247,896	201,424	12,273,634	12,162,165
Value of Livestock and Livestock Products Sold*	180,657	129,306	6,202,362	5,780,489
Hogs and Pigs				
Total inventory	428,010	324,434	15,486,531	14,513,319
Inventory of breeding stock	35,872	27,299	1,145,323	1,354,166
Number sold	1,405,771	629,936	41,232,492	27,340,921
Value of sales*	92,622	65,923	3,078,455	3,012,764
Cattle and Calves				
Total inventory	88,926	80,517	3,535,945	3,717,394
Beef cows	10,365	9,879	987,670	1,051,178
Milk cows	5,384	4,324	206,965	222,090
Number sold	94,331	76,933	2,929,704	2,936,978
Value of sales*	73,927	51,243	2,119,935	1,886,416
Value of Dairy Products Sold*	11,645	8,696	442,431	407,897
Poultry and Poultry Products				
Value of sales*	(D)	2,686	511,949	414,587
Inventory of layers 20 weeks and older	(D)	(D)	38,650,210	21,514,768
Broiler and meat-type chicken inventory	(D)	(D)	1,730,091	1,023,349
Broiler and meat-type chickens sold	(D)	404,682	9,558,127	6,919,963
Turkey inventory	(D)	35	3,681,862	2,552,845
Turkeys sold	(D)	(D)	9,145,415	7,279,822
Sheep and Goats and Related Products				
Value of sales	(D)	(NA)	23,366	(NA)
Inventory of sheep and lambs	4,452	5,618	249,908	272,913
Number of sheep and lambs sold	4,271	6,095	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 Lyon 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	36,237	68,126	104,363	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1991	35,811	72,327	108,138	-426	4,201	3,775
1992	40,370	78,009	118,379	4,559	5,682	10,241
1993	22,226	83,464	105,690	-18,144	5,455	-12,689
1994	42,798	85,406	128,204	20,572	1,942	22,514
1995	34,500	86,814	121,314	-8,298	1,408	-6,890
1996	61,807	90,726	152,533	27,307	3,912	31,219
1997	52,011	94,245	146,256	-9,796	3,519	-6,277
1998	35,567	99,189	134,756	-16,444	4,944	-11,500
1999	25,547	101,514	127,061	-10,020	2,325	-7,695
2000	28,600	103,763	132,363	3,053	2,249	5,302
2001	24,572	104,146	128,718	-4,028	383	-3,645
2002	16,938	108,479	125,417	-7,634	4,333	-3,301
2003	16,772	112,711	129,483	-166	4,232	4,066

Data from the US Bureau of Economic Analysis