

# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE



## Blaine County

January 2021

Blaine County is a rural sparsely populated county located in the north central portion of the state bordering Canada. Over 75% of land in Blaine County is classified as farm land.

Department of Revenue was \$15 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 35% of the county's taxable value.

### Overview (2017 Data)

Population	6,807
County Size (acres)	2,705,358
Land in Farms (%)	75.4
Number of Farms	491
Median Farm Size (acres)	1,000
Average Farm Size (acres)	4,155

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 1: County Summary Highlights: 2017

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$643,936,055	\$1,578,056,530
Taxable Value of All Property	\$15,026,273	\$12,637,616
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$5,248,250	\$4,970,098
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	35%	39%

Source: Montana Dept. of Rev. Montana Taxes by County in [2018](#) and Montana Taxes by County in [2014](#)

## Farm Revenue

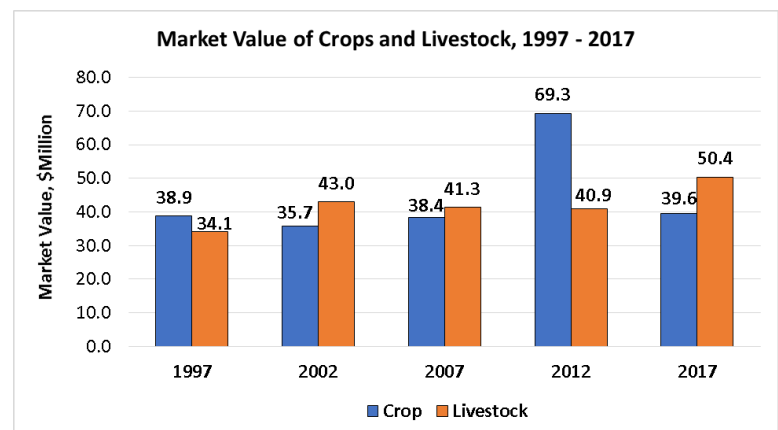
Farm revenue (which includes the market value of products sold, government payments, and farm-related income) were nearly \$115 million while production expenses were \$82 million. Government payments were over 9% of revenues.

## Market Value of Crops and Livestock

After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 1.8%, while the market value of livestock increased by nearly 48%, from 1997 to 2017.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$89,977,000
Government Payments	\$10,435,000
Farm-Related Income	\$14,318,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$81,987,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$32,743,000

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Tables 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6: 2017



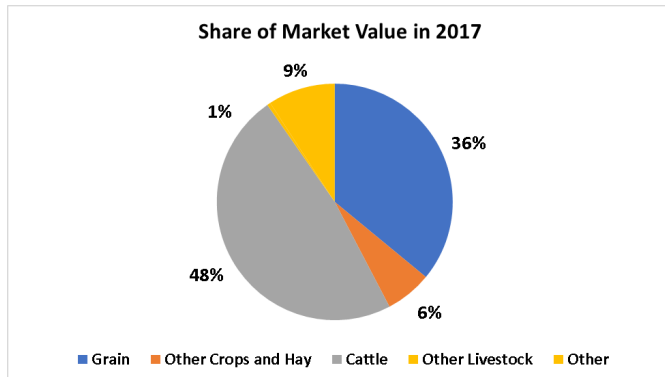
Sources: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 1: County Summary Highlights: 2017 and [St. Louis Fed Producer Price Index](#)

## Taxation

The market value of all property in Blaine County was approximately \$643 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana

## Crops and Livestock

Cattle (48%) and grain (36%) comprised nearly 85% of total crop and livestock sales in 2017.



Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 2: County Summary Highlights: 2017

## Farm Size by Acres

The proportion of total sales from smaller farms, less than 500 acres, increased from 33% to 37%, while the proportion of total sales of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 67% to 63% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	16	3	29	5
10 to 49	21	4	20	4
50 to 179	63	13	54	10
180 to 499	81	16	79	14
500 to 999	61	12	65	12
1,000 or more	249	51	299	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 1: County Summary Highlights: 2017

## Farm Size by Sales

The proportion of total sales from the smallest farms with less than \$100,000 in sales decreased slightly from 60% to 59%, while the proportion of total sales from the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased slightly from 40% to 41% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	127	26	136	25
2,500 to 4,999	11	2	6	1
5,000 to 9,999	11	2	28	5
10,000 to 24,999	31	6	30	5
25,000 to 49,999	57	12	61	11
50,000 to 99,999	55	11	68	12
100,000 or more	199	41	217	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 1: County Summary Highlights: 2017

## Tillage and Land Use

The percentage of farms using reduced tillage increased, while the percentage of farms using no till, intensive tillage, or cover crops decreased from 2012 to 2017.

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	102	21	134	25
Reduced tillage	62	13	41	8
Intensive tillage	101	21	144	26
Cover crops	10	2	22	4
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	<b>491</b>		<b>546</b>	

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 41 Land Use Practices

## Producer Profile

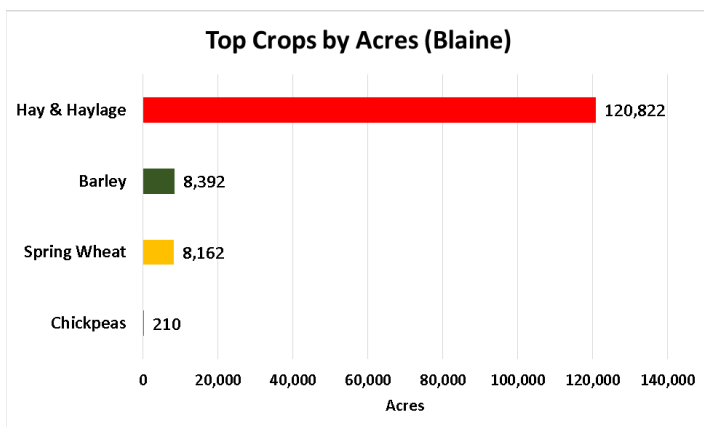
The county producer population was about the same age as the Montana producer population. Thirty-five percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 37% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Sixty-three percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 62% of county producers, while farming was the primary occupation for 50% of Montana producers.

Characteristics	County		State	
	Number of Producers	%	Number of Producers	%
<b>Age</b>				
18 – 25	5	1	570	1
25 to 34	59	7	3,285	7
35 to 44	111	13	5,179	11
45 to 54	117	14	7,309	15
55 to 64	240	28	13,838	29
65 to 74	192	23	11,469	24
75 and older	115	14	5,587	12
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	534	63	28,563	60
Female	317	37	18,673	40
<b>Primary Occupation</b>				
Yes	528	62	23,847	50
No	323	38	24,314	50
<b>TOTAL PRODUCERS</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48,161</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 45 Selected Operation and Producer Characteristics

## Top Crops by Acres

The top crops were hay and haylage, barley, spring wheat, and chickpeas.



Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 1: County Summary Highlights: 2017

## Top Livestock

The top livestock were cattle and sheep.

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	70,698
Sheep	3,036

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Tables 11 (Cattle) and 13 (Sheep)

## Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 721 workers, or 31% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 538 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 143 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 40 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drug stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 3 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	2,352	
Direct Impact	538	
Indirect Impact	143	0.27
Induced Impact	40	0.07
<b>Total Impact</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>0.34</b>
Agriculture's Share (%)	31	

Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), [www.bls.gov/#cntvya](http://www.bls.gov/#cntvya) and IMPLAN Estimates

## Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$38.2 million of value-added, or 24% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$156 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$27.4 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$8.5 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$2.2 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.39 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	156.0	
Direct Impact**	27.4	
Indirect Impact**	8.5	0.31
Induced Impact**	2.2	0.08
<b>Total Impact**</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>0.39</b>
Agriculture's Share (%)	24	

Sources: \* [St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank](#), \*\* IMPLAN

## References

- 2017 Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana, State and County Data, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, part 26 [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full\\_Report/Volume\\_1,\\_Chapter\\_1\\_State\\_Level/Montana/mtv1.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Montana/mtv1.pdf)
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- St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank (2017). Current dollar gross domestic product by county for Montana, retrieved from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/release/tables?rid=397&eid=1062609&od=2017-01-01#>
- St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank (2020). Producer price index for all commodities, St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, retrieved from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/PPIACO>
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (2017), Montana labor force, retrieved from <https://bls.gov/lau/#cntyaa>

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