



Cascade County

January 2021

Cascade County is a heavy populated county in Central Montana that contains the city of Great Falls. Over 73.6% of land in Cascade County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	81,643
County Size (acres)	1,726,831
Land in Farms (%)	73.6
Number of Farms	1,027
Median Farm Size (acres)	104
Average Farm Size (acres)	1,237

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

Farm Revenue

Farm revenues (which includes the market value of products sold, government payments, and farm-related income) topped \$120 million in 2017 while production expenses were \$98 million. Government payments accounted for only 6% of revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$107,273,000
Government Payments	\$7,780,000
Farm-Related Income	\$5,022,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$98,309,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$21,766,000

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Cascade County was approximately \$9 billion in 2019.

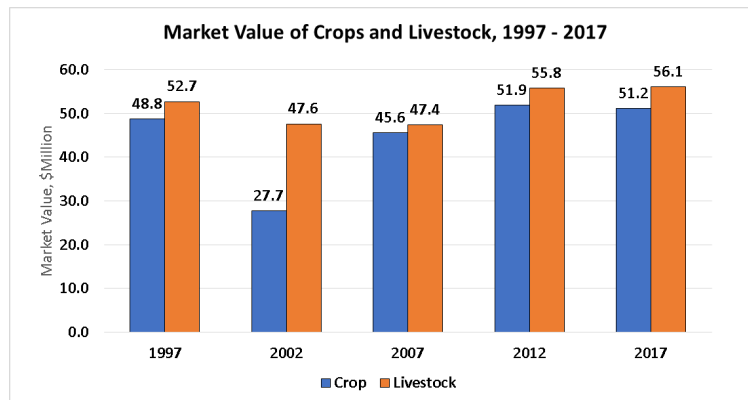
The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$175 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 3% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$9,211,098,315	\$4,666,431,263
Taxable Value of All Property	\$175,594,517	\$133,276,565
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$4,708,204	\$4,539,403
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	2.68%	3.41%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

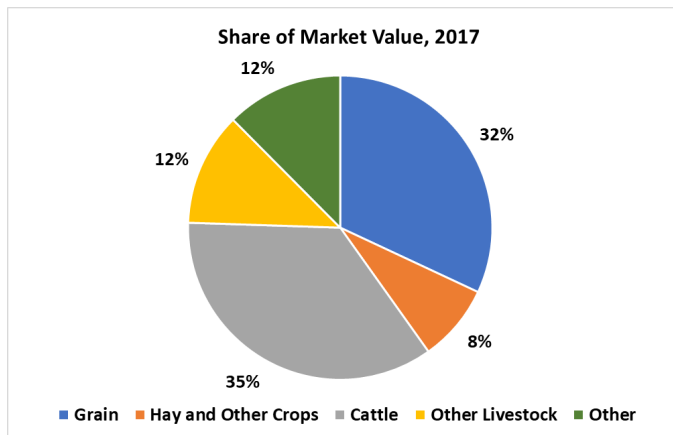
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 1.8% from 2002 – 2017. While the market value of livestock increased by nearly 1%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (35%) and grain (32%) comprised nearly 67% of total crop and livestock sales in 2017.



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

Farm Size by Acres

The percentage of smaller farms, less than 500 acres, increased slightly from 71% to 72%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased slightly from 29% to 28% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	113	11	110	10
10 to 49	274	27	288	26
50 to 179	226	22	217	20
180 to 499	123	12	166	15
500 to 999	59	6	69	6
1,000 or more	232	23	255	23
TOTAL	1,027	100	1,105	100

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 2: 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 from 84% to 81%, while the proportion of total sales from the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased from 16% to 19% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	467	45	482	44
2,500 to 4,999	52	5	80	7
5,000 to 9,999	69	7	91	8
10,000 to 24,999	82	8	93	8
25,000 to 49,999	74	7	101	9
50,000 to 99,999	93	9	79	7
100,000 or more	190	19	179	16
TOTAL	1,027	100	1,105	100

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

Tillage and Land Use

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

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	118	11	116	10
Reduced tillage	51	5	41	4
Intensive tillage	124	12	162	15
Cover crops	41	4	30	3
TOTAL FARMS	1,027		1,105	

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

Producer Profile

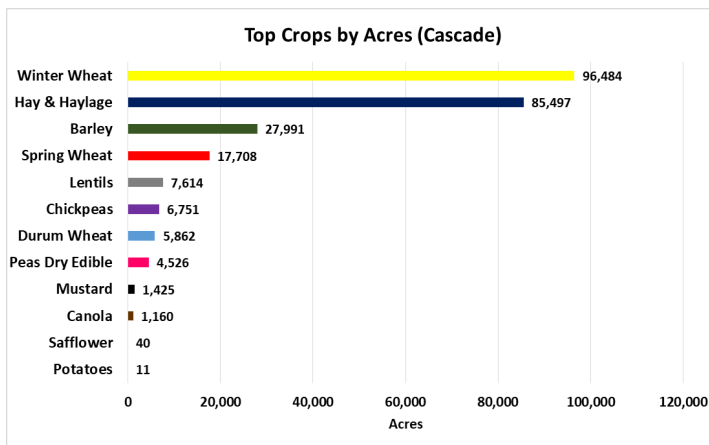
The county producer population was older than the Montana producer population. Thirty-one percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 39% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-nine percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 42% of county producers, while farming was the primary occupation for 50% of Montana producers.

Characteristics	County		State	
	Number of Producers	%	Number of Producers	%
Age				
18 – 25	14	1	570	1
25 to 34	114	6	3,285	7
35 to 44	185	10	5,179	11
45 to 54	243	14	7,309	15
55 to 64	504	28	13,838	29
65 to 74	513	29	11,469	24
75 and older	195	11	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	1,064	59	28,563	60
Female	732	41	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	756	42	23,847	50
No	1,040	58	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	1,796	100	48,161	100

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

Top Crops by Acres

The top crops were winter wheat, hay and haylage, barley, spring wheat, lentils, chickpeas, durum wheat, peas dry edible, mustard, canola, safflower, and potatoes.



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

Top Livestock

The top livestock were cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry (chickens and turkeys).

Livestock	Number of Head
Chicken-Layers	76,469
Cattle	64,816
Hogs	30,135
Chicken-Broilers	8,708
Sheep	6,449
Turkeys	2,169

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Tables 11 (Cattle), 13 (Sheep) and 19 (Poultry)

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 2,278 workers, or 6% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 1,432 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 651 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 195 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 6 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	37,753	
Direct Impact	1,432	
Indirect Impact	651	0.45
Induced Impact	195	0.14
Total Impact	2,278	0.59
Agriculture's Share (%)	6	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$88.7 million of value-added, or 2% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$3,921 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$36.1 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$39.9 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$12.6 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$1.45 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy. This significant contribution to the local economy is because Great Falls is an economic hub for the north central region.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	3,921.0	
Direct Impact**	36.1	
Indirect Impact**	39.9	1.11
Induced Impact**	12.6	0.35
Total Impact**	88.7	1.45
Agriculture's Share (%)	2	

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

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

- Dept. of Revenue “Montana Taxes by County in 2014” <https://mtrevenue.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2014-Taxes-by-County.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#>
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- Bureau of Labor Statistics (2017), Montana labor force, retrieved from <https://bls.gov/lau/#cntyaa>

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