

## Chouteau County

January 2021

Chouteau County is a rural county located in North Central Montana, and contains part of the Rocky Boy Reservation. Over 81% of land in Chouteau County is classified as farm land.

### Overview (2017 Data)

Population	5,745
County Size (acres)	2,542,424
Land in Farms (%)	81.4
Number of Farms	633
Median Farm Size (acres)	1,829
Average Farm Size (acres)	3,271

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) were over \$204 million while production expenses were \$154 million. Government payments were 11% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$170,741,000
Government Payments	\$21,813,000
Farm-Related Income	\$12,032,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$154,305,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$50,282,000

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

### Taxation

The market value of all property in Chouteau County was approximately \$1 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of

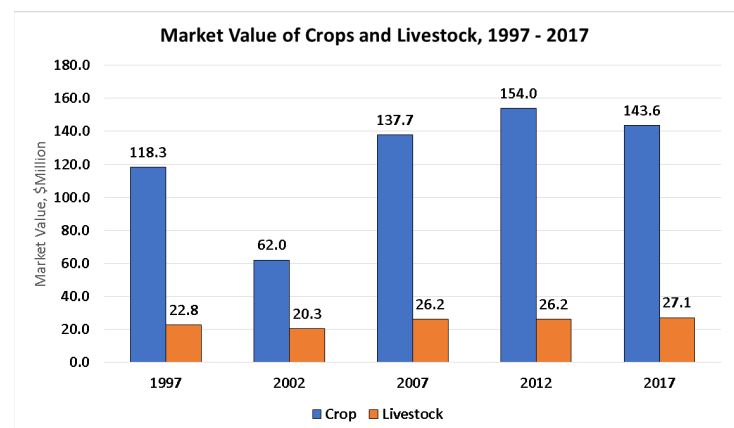
Revenue was \$9.7 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 35% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	1,082,582,883	1,185,252,694
Taxable Value of All Property	27,848,525	20,023,419
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	9,755,612	7,492,755
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	35%	37%

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

### Market Value of Crops and Livestock

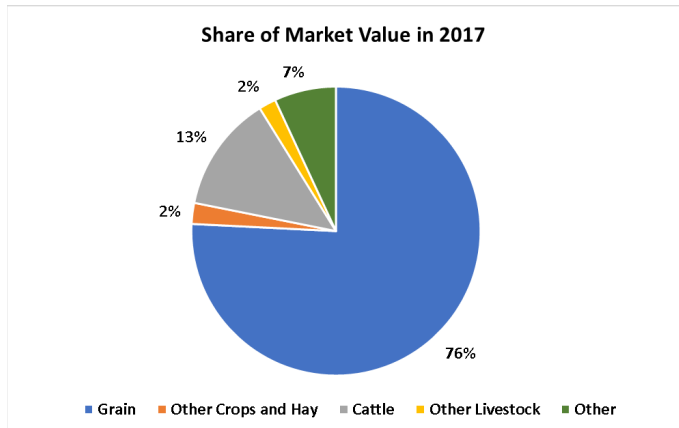
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 21%, while the market value of livestock increased by 19%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

## Crops and Livestock

Grain (76%) and cattle (13%) comprised 89% 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 25% to 27%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased slightly from 75% to 73% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	2	0	17	2
10 to 49	25	4	26	3
50 to 179	68	11	67	9
180 to 499	70	11	79	10
500 to 999	79	12	96	12
1,000 or more	389	61	489	63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>100</b>

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 50% to 48%, while the proportion of total sales from the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased from 50% to 52% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	156	25	219	28
2,500 to 4,999	3	0	23	3
5,000 to 9,999	11	2	17	2
10,000 to 24,999	38	6	40	5
25,000 to 49,999	42	7	36	5
50,000 to 99,999	52	8	49	6
100,000 or more	331	52	390	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>100</b>

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

## Tillage and Land Use

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

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	358	57	357	46
Reduced tillage	52	8	78	10
Intensive tillage	35	6	116	15
Cover crops	18	3	24	3
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	<b>633</b>		<b>774</b>	

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

## Producer Profile

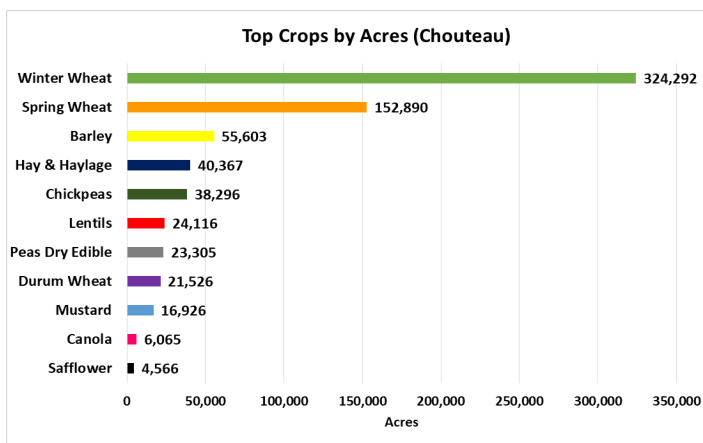
The county producer population was about the same age as the Montana producer population. Thirty-five percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 32% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Sixty-four percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 66% 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	12	1	570	1
25 to 34	98	8	3,285	7
35 to 44	156	13	5,179	11
45 to 54	150	13	7,309	15
55 to 64	360	30	13,838	29
65 to 74	227	19	11,469	24
75 and older	154	13	5,587	12
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	761	64	28,563	60
Female	423	36	18,673	40
<b>Primary Occupation</b>				
Yes	782	66	23,847	50
No	402	34	24,314	50
<b>TOTAL PRODUCERS</b>	<b>1,184</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 winter and spring wheat, barley, hay and haylage, chickpeas, lentils, peas dry edible, durum wheat, mustard, canola and safflower.



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

## Top Livestock

The top livestock were chickens-layers, cattle and sheep.

Livestock	Number of Head
Chickens-Layers	93,291
Cattle	37,644
Sheep	577

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

## Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 1,622 workers, or 65% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 1,004 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 569 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 49 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	2,491	
Direct Impact	1,004	
Indirect Impact	569	0.57
Induced Impact	49	0.05
<b>Total Impact</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>0.62</b>
Agriculture's Share (%)	65	

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

## Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$52.5 million of value-added, or 38% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$137 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$23.8 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$25.9 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$2.8 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$1.21 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	137.0	
Direct Impact**	23.8	
Indirect Impact**	25.9	1.09
Induced Impact**	2.8	0.12
Total Impact**	52.5	1.21
Agriculture's Share (%)	38	

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](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Montana/mtv1.pdf)

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