

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE



Garfield County

January 2021

Garfield County is a rural sparsely populated county located in the central part of the state, and bordered on the north by Fort Peck Lake. Over 74% of land in Garfield County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	1,268
County Size (acres)	2,992,998
Land in Farms(%)	74
Number of Farms	260
Median Farm Size (acres)	4,267
Average Farm Size	8,519

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

Farm Revenue

Farm revenue (which includes the market value of products sold, government payments, and farm-related income) were \$64 million while production expenses were nearly \$50 million. Government payments were 8.7% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$54,538,000
Government Payments	\$5,608,000
Farm-Related Income	\$3,968,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$49,975,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$14,139,000

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Garfield County was approximately \$285 million in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$5 million. Agricultural Property (as

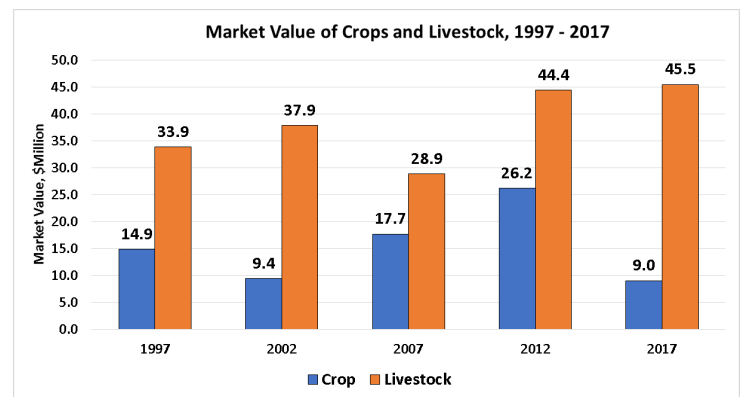
defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 property) comprised 65% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$285,010,882	\$2,320,430,153
Taxable Value of All Property	\$5,544,173	\$4,974,077
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$3,623,255	\$3,674,685
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	65.35%	73.88%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

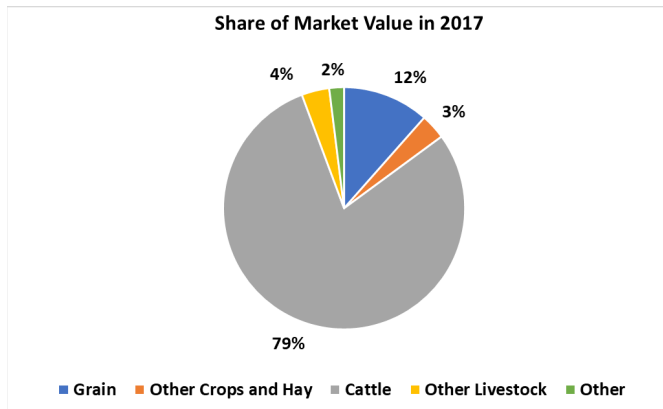
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops decreased by 39%, while the market value of livestock increased by 34%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (79%) and grain (12%) comprised nearly 91% 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 17% to 18%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 83% to 82% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	0	0	17	6
10 to 49	8	3	9	3
50 to 179	19	7	16	5
180 to 499	20	8	8	3
500 to 999	24	9	18	6
1,000 or more	189	73	229	77
TOTAL	260	100	297	100

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

Farm Size by Sales

The percentage of the smallest farms with less than \$100,000 in sales, and the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more were virtually unchanged from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	54	21	47	16
2,500 to 4,999	4	2	7	2
5,000 to 9,999	6	2	10	3
10,000 to 24,999	26	10	18	6
25,000 to 49,999	8	3	28	9
50,000 to 99,999	29	11	35	12
100,000 or more	133	51	152	51
TOTAL	260	100	297	100

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

Tillage and Land Use

The percentage of farms using no till and reduced tillage 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	46	18	49	16
Reduced tillage	34	13	37	12
Intensive tillage	44	17	105	35
Cover crops	10	4	12	4
TOTAL FARMS	260		297	

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

Producer Profile

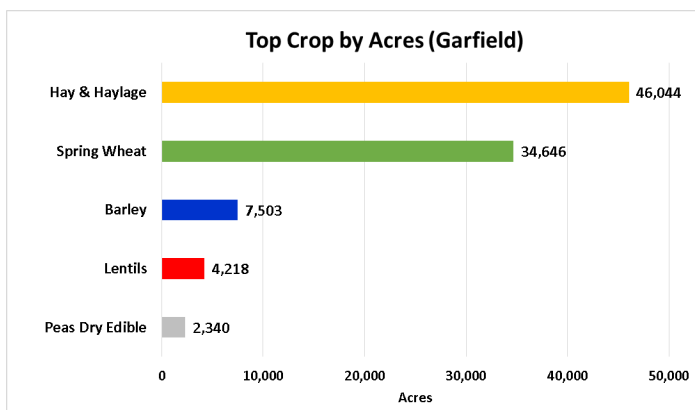
The county producer population was about the same age as the Montana producer population. Thirty-eight percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Sixty-two percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 56% 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	1	0	570	1
25 to 34	62	12	3,285	7
35 to 44	55	11	5,179	11
45 to 54	76	15	7,309	15
55 to 64	123	24	13,838	29
65 to 74	123	24	11,469	24
75 and older	60	12	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	316	62	28,563	60
Female	193	38	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	370	73	23,847	50
No	139	27	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	509	100	48,161	100

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

Top Crops by Acres

The top crops were hay and haylage, spring wheat, barley, lentils, and peas dry edible.



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

Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	74,262
Sheep	12,587
Chickens-Layers	226
Hogs	91

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 327 workers, or 43% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 215 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 84 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 28 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 5 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	760	
Direct Impact	215	
Indirect Impact	84	0.39
Induced Impact	28	0.13
Total Impact	327	0.52
Agriculture's Share (%)	43	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$28.2 million of value-added, or 54% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$52 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$19.7 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$6.8 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$1.8 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.43 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	52.0	
Direct Impact**	19.7	
Indirect Impact**	6.8	0.34
Induced Impact**	1.8	0.09
Total Impact**	28.2	0.43
Agriculture's Share (%)	54	

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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