

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE

Jefferson County



January 2021

Jefferson County is a rural county located in the west central part of the state, between the major towns of Helena and Butte. Over 33% of land in Jefferson County is classified as farm land.

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	\$1,680,828,377	\$1,145,563,000
Taxable Value of All Property	\$31,841,547	\$28,424,358
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$1,006,152	\$992,760
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	3.16%	3.49%

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

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	12,097
County Size (acres)	1,060,392
Land in Farms (%)	33.2
Number of Farms	370
Median Farm Size (acres)	103
Average Farm Size (acres)	952

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

Farm Revenue

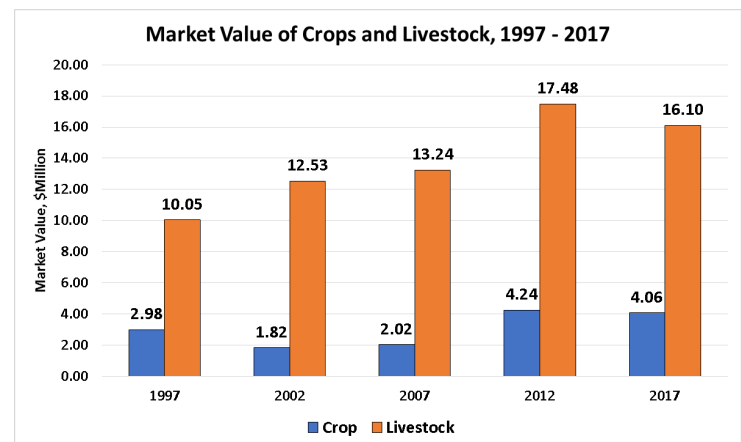
Farm revenue (which includes the market value of products sold, government payments, and farm-related income) were over \$21 million while production expenses were \$18 million. Government payments were 2.9% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 36%, while the market value of livestock increased by 60%, from 1997 to 2017.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$20,164,000
Government Payments	\$634,000
Farm-Related Income	\$788,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$18,069,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$3,517,000

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



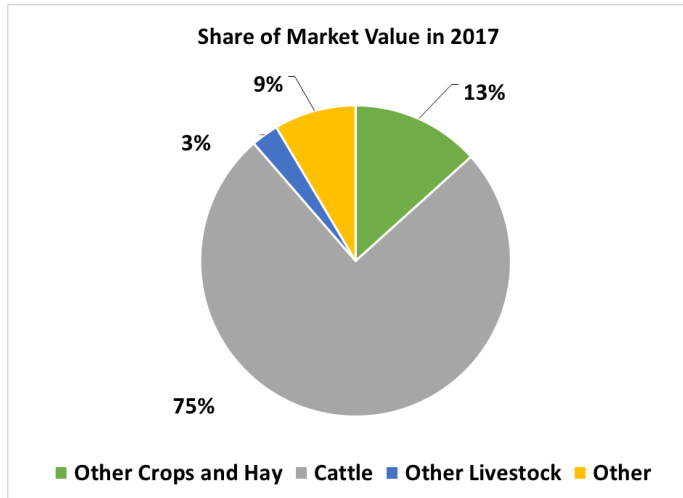
Sources: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 1: County Summary Highlights: 2017 and [St. Louis Fed Producer Price Index](#)

Taxation

The market value of all property in Jefferson County was approximately \$1 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$31 million. Agricultural Property (as

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (75%) and other crops and hay (13%) comprised 88% 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, decreased from 79% to 77%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, increased from 21% to 23% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	30	8	39	10
10 to 49	107	29	123	31
50 to 179	88	24	98	24
180 to 499	61	16	58	14
500 to 999	22	6	26	6
1,000 or more	62	17	57	14
TOTAL	370	100	401	100

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 from 90% to 88%, while the proportion of total sales from the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased from 10% to 12% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	193	52	205	51
2,500 to 4,999	29	8	30	7
5,000 to 9,999	29	8	33	8
10,000 to 24,999	34	9	52	13
25,000 to 49,999	18	5	21	5
50,000 to 99,999	23	6	20	5
100,000 or more	44	12	40	10
TOTAL	370	100	401	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	5	1	11	3
Reduced tillage	25	7	2	0
Intensive tillage	18	5	31	8
Cover crops	26	7	8	2
TOTAL FARMS	370		401	

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

Producer Profile

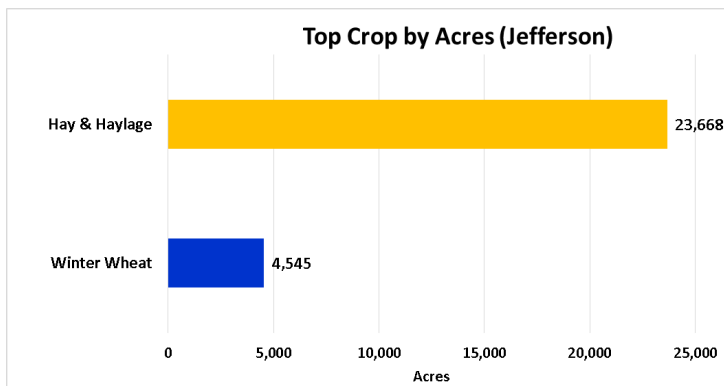
The county producer population was older than the Montana producer population. Thirty-one percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 42% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-four percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 32% 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	11	2	570	1
25 to 34	47	7	3,285	7
35 to 44	41	6	5,179	11
45 to 54	123	17	7,309	15
55 to 64	175	25	13,838	29
65 to 74	213	30	11,469	24
75 and older	83	12	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	382	54	28,563	60
Female	328	46	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	228	32	23,847	50
No	482	68	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	710	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 and winter wheat.



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

Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	24,879
Sheep	2,996
Chicken-Layers	717
Hogs	85

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 557 workers, or 10% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 400 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 141 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 16 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 4 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	5,625	
Direct Impact	400	
Indirect Impact	141	0.35
Induced Impact	16	0.04
Total Impact	557	0.39
Agriculture's Share (%)	10	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$13.3 million of value-added, or 5% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$266 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$8.4 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$4.1 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$0.8 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.59 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	266.0	
Direct Impact**	8.4	
Indirect Impact**	4.1	0.49
Induced Impact**	0.8	0.10
Total Impact**	13.3	0.59
Agriculture's Share (%)	5	

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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