

# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE



## Lake County

January 2021

Lake County is a fairly populated county located in the northwestern part of the state, and contains the Flathead Reservation as well as Flathead Lake. Over 67% of land in Lake County is classified as farm land.

### Overview (2017 Data)

Population	30,250
County Size (acres)	953,900
Land in Farms (%)	67.2
Number of Farms	1,170
Median Farm Size (acres)	40
Average Farm Size (acres)	548

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 nearly \$70 million while production expenses were over \$65 million. Government payments were 2.1% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$64,796,000
Government Payments	\$1,442,000
Farm-Related Income	\$3,670,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$65,636,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$4,271,000

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

### Taxation

The market value of all property in Lake County was approximately \$4 billion in 2019. The taxable value

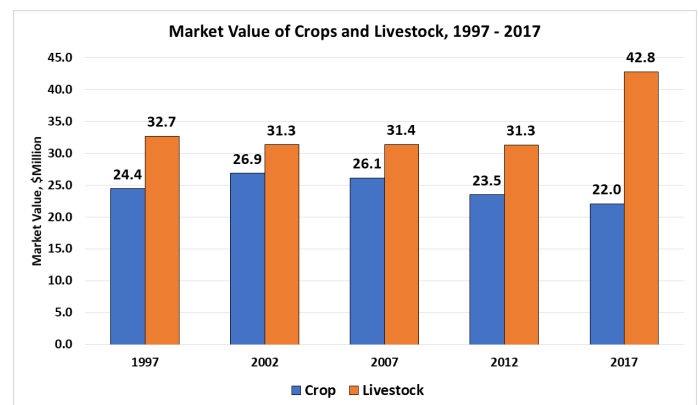
assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$67 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 property) comprised 3% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$4,720,782,133	\$3,532,526,095
Taxable Value of All Property	\$67,261,170	\$76,233,003
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$1,708,759	\$1,455,376
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	2.54%	1.91%

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

### Market Value of Crops and Livestock

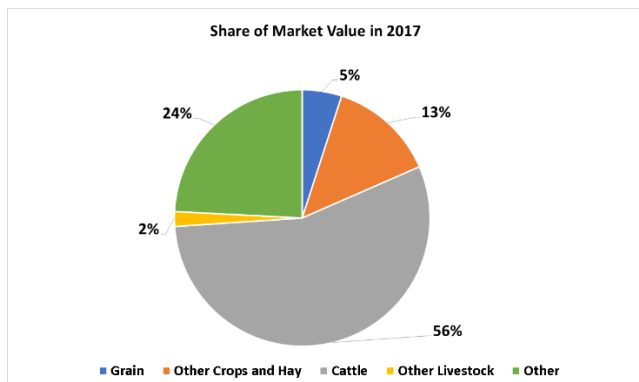
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops decreased by 10%, while the market value of livestock increased by 31%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

## Crops and Livestock

Cattle (56%) and other (24%) comprised nearly 80% 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 91% to 87%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, increased from 9% to 13% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	245	21	196	17
10 to 49	407	35	438	38
50 to 179	256	22	292	25
180 to 499	118	10	123	11
500 to 999	67	6	38	3
1,000 or more	77	7	69	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,156</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 from 89% to 87%, while the proportion of total sales from the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased from 11% to 13% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	445	38	407	35
2,500 to 4,999	124	11	104	9
5,000 to 9,999	133	11	159	14
10,000 to 24,999	139	12	195	17
25,000 to 49,999	109	9	96	8
50,000 to 99,999	68	6	73	6
100,000 or more	152	13	122	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,156</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 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	38	3	39	3
Reduced tillage	25	2	13	1
Intensive tillage	104	9	143	12
Cover crops	53	5	41	4
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	<b>1,170</b>		<b>1,156</b>	

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

## Producer Profile

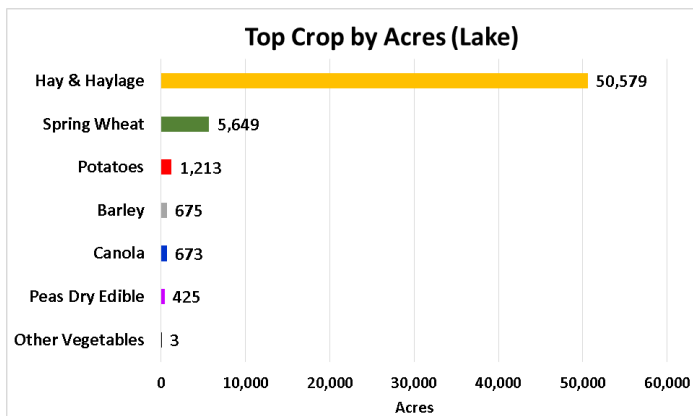
The county producer population was somewhat older than the Montana producer population. Thirty-five percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 38% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-eight percent of the producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 44% 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	18	1	570	1
25 to 34	71	4	3,285	7
35 to 44	220	11	5,179	11
45 to 54	391	19	7,309	15
55 to 64	536	27	13,838	29
65 to 74	487	24	11,469	24
75 and older	280	14	5,587	12
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	1,181	58	28,563	60
Female	839	42	18,673	40
<b>Primary Occupation</b>				
Yes	880	44	23,847	50
No	1,140	56	24,314	50
<b>TOTAL PRODUCERS</b>	<b>2,020</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, spring wheat, potatoes, barley, canola, peas dry edible, and other vegetables.



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

## Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	56,119
Chickens-Layers	14,273
Sheep	1,444
Hogs	146
Chickens-Broilers	114
Turkeys	10

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

## Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 2,281 workers, or 17% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 1,434 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 748 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 99 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	13,133	
Direct Impact	1,434	
Indirect Impact	748	0.52
Induced Impact	99	0.07
<b>Total Impact</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>0.59</b>
<b>Agriculture's Share (%)</b>	<b>17</b>	

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

## Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$55.9 million of value-added, or 7% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$776 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$30.4 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$19.7 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$5.8 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.84 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	776.0	
Direct Impact**	30.4	
Indirect Impact**	19.7	0.65
Induced Impact**	5.8	0.19
Total Impact**	55.9	0.84
Agriculture's Share (%)	7	

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/mv1.pdf](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_1_State_Level/Montana/mv1.pdf)
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### Report produced by MSU Extension:

- George Haynes, MSU Extension, Professor and Specialist
- Joel Schumacher, MSU Extension, Associate Specialist
- Jeff Peterson, Economic Impact Analyst, Impacts Montana

### Contact Us:

MSU Extension Economics  
P.O. Box 172800  
Bozeman, MT 5971  
406-994-3511



For more information: [www.montana.edu/agimpact](http://www.montana.edu/agimpact)

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