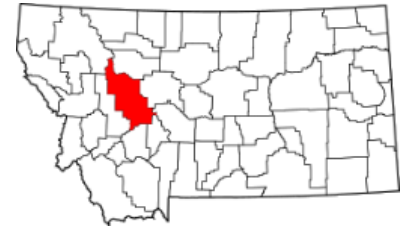


# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE



## Lewis and Clark County

January 2021

Lewis and Clark County is located in the west central portion of the state, and contains the state capital, Helena. Over 36% of land in Lewis & Clark County is classified as farm land.

### Overview (2017 Data)

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Population                | 68,700    |
| County Size (acres)       | 2,213,363 |
| Land in Farms (%)         | 36.2      |
| Number of Farms           | 707       |
| Median Farm Size (acres)  | 25        |
| Average Farm Size (acres) | 1,132     |

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 \$47 million while production expenses were over \$44 million. Government payments were 2.3% of farm revenues.

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Market Value of Products Sold  | \$43,187,000 |
| Government Payments            | \$1,081,000  |
| Farm-Related Income            | \$3,218,000  |
| Total Farm Production Expenses | \$44,426,000 |
| Net Cash Farm Income           | \$3,060,000  |

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

### Taxation

The market value of all property in Lewis and Clark County was approximately \$8 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$145 million. Agricultural Property

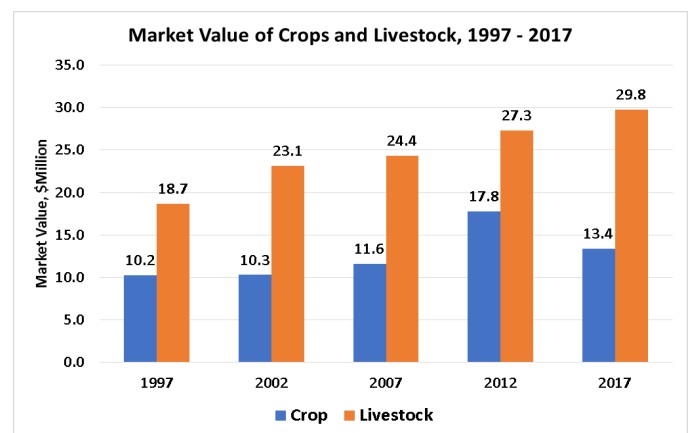
(as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 property) comprised 1.4% of the county's taxable value.

| Property Tax Summary                   | 2019            | 2014            |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Market Value of All Property           | \$8,484,058,113 | \$4,699,476,292 |
| Taxable Value of All Property          | \$145,474,049   | \$117,022,597   |
| Taxable Value of Agricultural Property | \$2,035,354     | \$1,989,633     |
| Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property  | 1.40%           | 1.70%           |

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

### Market Value of Crops and Livestock

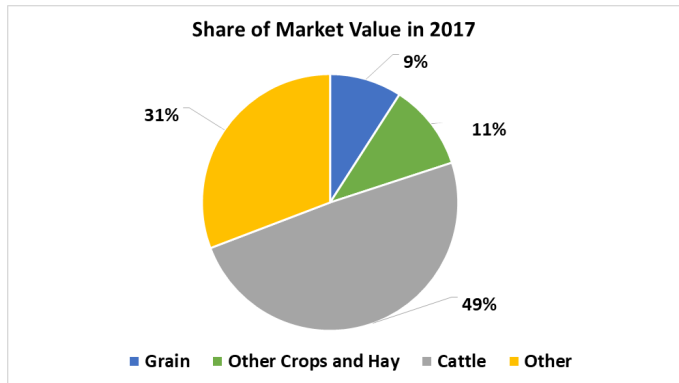
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 31%, while the market value of livestock increased by 60%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

## Crops and Livestock

Cattle (49%) and other (31%) comprised 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, increased from 83% to 87%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 17% to 13% from 2012 to 2017.

| Farm Size by Acres | 2017            |            | 2012            |            |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
|                    | Number of Farms | %          | Number of Farms | %          |
| 1 to 9             | 112             | 16         | 82              | 12         |
| 10 to 49           | 355             | 50         | 334             | 48         |
| 50 to 179          | 108             | 15         | 113             | 16         |
| 180 to 499         | 38              | 5          | 53              | 8          |
| 500 to 999         | 15              | 2          | 35              | 5          |
| 1,000 or more      | 79              | 11         | 86              | 12         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>707</b>      | <b>100</b> | <b>703</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 and the proportion of total sales from the largest farms of \$100,000 remained virtually unchanged from 2012 to 2017.

| Farm Size by Sales | 2017            |            | 2012            |            |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
|                    | Number of Farms | %          | Number of Farms | %          |
| Less than 2,500    | 345             | 49         | 360             | 51         |
| 2,500 to 4,999     | 81              | 11         | 75              | 11         |
| 5,000 to 9,999     | 98              | 14         | 76              | 11         |
| 10,000 to 24,999   | 55              | 8          | 73              | 10         |
| 25,000 to 49,999   | 46              | 7          | 36              | 5          |
| 50,000 to 99,999   | 17              | 2          | 24              | 3          |
| 100,000 or more    | 65              | 9          | 59              | 8          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>707</b>      | <b>100</b> | <b>703</b>      | <b>100</b> |

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

## Tillage and Land Use

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

| Tillage            | 2017            |   | 2012            |    |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|----|
|                    | Number of Farms | % | Number of Farms | %  |
| No tillage         | 30              | 4 | 32              | 5  |
| Reduced tillage    | 8               | 1 | 15              | 2  |
| Intensive tillage  | 64              | 9 | 68              | 10 |
| Cover crops        | 36              | 5 | 10              | 1  |
| <b>TOTAL FARMS</b> | <b>707</b>      |   | <b>703</b>      |    |

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

## Producer Profile

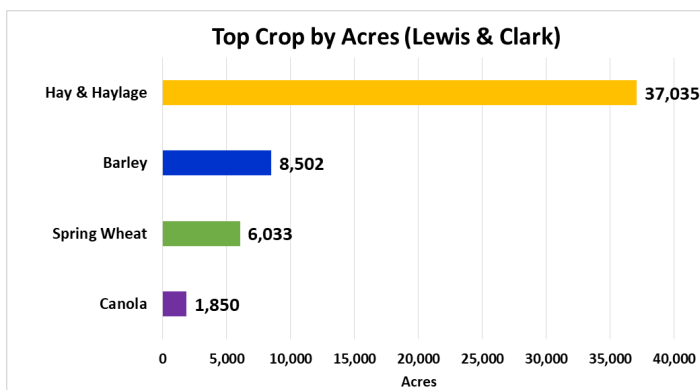
The county producer population was younger than the Montana producer population. Thirty-nine percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 32% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-three percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 58% 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                   | 14                  | 1          | 570                 | 1          |
| 25 to 34                  | 90                  | 7          | 3,285               | 7          |
| 35 to 44                  | 139                 | 11         | 5,179               | 11         |
| 45 to 54                  | 246                 | 19         | 7,309               | 15         |
| 55 to 64                  | 350                 | 28         | 13,838              | 29         |
| 65 to 74                  | 307                 | 24         | 11,469              | 24         |
| 75 and older              | 98                  | 8          | 5,587               | 12         |
| <b>Sex</b>                |                     |            |                     |            |
| Male                      | 674                 | 53         | 28,563              | 60         |
| Female                    | 593                 | 47         | 18,673              | 40         |
| <b>Primary Occupation</b> |                     |            |                     |            |
| Yes                       | 406                 | 32         | 23,847              | 50         |
| No                        | 861                 | 68         | 24,314              | 50         |
| <b>TOTAL PRODUCERS</b>    | <b>1,267</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, barley, spring wheat and canola.



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

## Top Livestock

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

| Livestock         | Number of Head |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Cattle            | 40,202         |
| Sheep             | 2,359          |
| Turkeys           | 2,037          |
| Chickens-Broilers | 38             |

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

## Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 1,272 workers, or 4% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 777 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 328 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 167 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      | 35,249       |                    |
| Direct Impact           | 777          |                    |
| Indirect Impact         | 328          | 0.42               |
| Induced Impact          | 167          | 0.21               |
| <b>Total Impact</b>     | <b>1,272</b> | <b>0.64</b>        |
| Agriculture's Share (%) | 4            |                    |

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

## Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$48.5 million of value-added, or 1% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$3,348 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$18.6 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$18.7 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$11.3 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$1.62 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

| Impact Type             | Value-Added (\$1 million) | Impact Multipliers |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| County GDP*             | 3,348.0                   |                    |
| Direct Impact**         | 18.6                      |                    |
| Indirect Impact**       | 18.7                      | 1.01               |
| Induced Impact**        | 11.3                      | 0.61               |
| Total Impact**          | 48.5                      | 1.62               |
| Agriculture's Share (%) | 1                         |                    |

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)
- Dept. of Revenue "Montana Taxes by County in 2014" <https://mtrevenue.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2014-Taxes-by-County.pdf>

- Dept. of Revenue "Montana Taxes by County in 2018" <https://mtrevenue.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2018-Taxes-by-County.pdf>
- 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#>
- St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank (2020). Producer price index for all commodities, St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, retrieved from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/PPIACO>
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (2017), Montana labor force, retrieved from <https://bls.gov/lau/#cntyaa>

### 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)

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.