

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE

Lincoln County



January 2021

Lincoln County is located in the very northwestern part of the state, and borders Canada to the North and Idaho to the West. Only about 2% of land in Lincoln County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	19,794
County Size (acres)	2,312,004
Land in Farms	2.1%
Number of Farms	345
Median Farm Size (acres)	45
Average Farm Size (acres)	139

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-rated income) were nearly \$7 million while production expenses were nearly \$9 million. Government payments comprise only 0.7% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$3,111,000
Government Payments	\$47,000
Farm-Related Income	\$3,534,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$8,645,000
Net Cash Farm Income	(\$1,953,000)

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Lincoln County was approximately \$2 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department

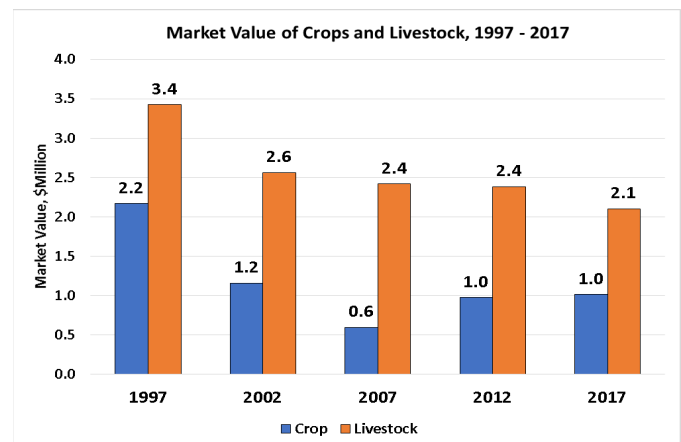
of Revenue was \$36 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 property) comprised 0.72% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$2,701,486,621	\$1,847,806,048
Taxable Value of All Property	\$36,656,106	\$35,312,465
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$263,849	\$299,784
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	0.72%	0.85%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

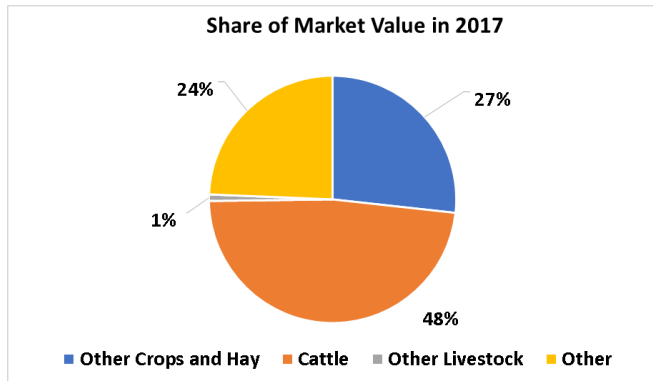
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops decreased by 53%, while the market value of livestock decreased by 39%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (48%) and other crops(27%) comprised 75% 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 94% to 96%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 6% to 4% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	50	14	30	9
10 to 49	133	39	132	41
50 to 179	99	29	103	32
180 to 499	49	14	41	13
500 to 999	6	2	12	4
1,000 or more	8	2	7	2
TOTAL	345	100	325	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 and the largest farms with sales 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	213	62	195	60
2,500 to 4,999	54	16	39	12
5,000 to 9,999	25	7	30	9
10,000 to 24,999	28	8	37	11
25,000 to 49,999	12	3	8	2
50,000 to 99,999	4	1	10	3
100,000 or more	9	3	6	2
TOTAL	345	100	325	100

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

Tillage and Land Use

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

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	13	4	8	2
Reduced tillage	1	0	2	1
Intensive tillage	23	7	21	6
Cover crops	7	2	12	4
TOTAL FARMS	345		325	

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

Producer Profile

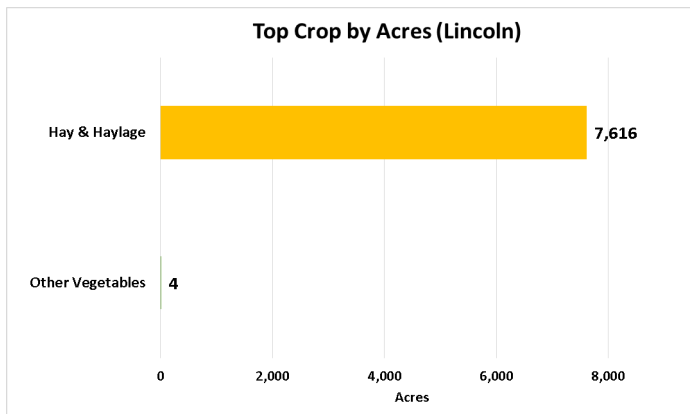
The county producer population was older than the Montana producer population. Twenty-five percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 41% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-nine percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 40% 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	0	0	570	1
25 to 34	28	5	3,285	7
35 to 44	44	7	5,179	11
45 to 54	73	12	7,309	15
55 to 64	194	33	13,838	29
65 to 74	158	27	11,469	24
75 and older	81	14	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	344	59	28,563	60
Female	243	41	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	233	40	23,847	50
No	354	60	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	587	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 other vegetables.



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

Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	2,101
Chicken-Layers	1,105
Chicken-Broilers	240
Hogs	53

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 310 workers, or 4% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 234 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 73 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 3 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 3 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	7,887	
Direct Impact	234	
Indirect Impact	73	0.31
Induced Impact	3	0.01
Total Impact	310	0.32
Agriculture's Share (%)	4	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$2.9 million of value-added, or 1% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$537 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$1.7 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$1.1 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$0.2 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.72 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	537.0	
Direct Impact**	1.7	
Indirect Impact**	1.1	0.62
Induced Impact**	0.2	0.10
Total Impact**	2.9	0.72
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
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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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