

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE



McCone County

January 2021

McCone County is a rural sparsely populated county located in the eastern part of the state near the east end of Fort Peck Lake. Over 79% of land in McCone County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	1,675
County Size (acres)	1,691,008
Land in Farms (%)	79.2
Number of Farms	437
Median Farm Size (acres)	1,694
Average Farm Size (acres)	3,065

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 \$86 million while production expenses were \$75 million. Government payments were 15.6% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$61,277,000
Government Payments	\$13,400,000
Farm-Related Income	\$11,409,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$75,019,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$11,067,000

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in McCone County was approximately \$371 million in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department

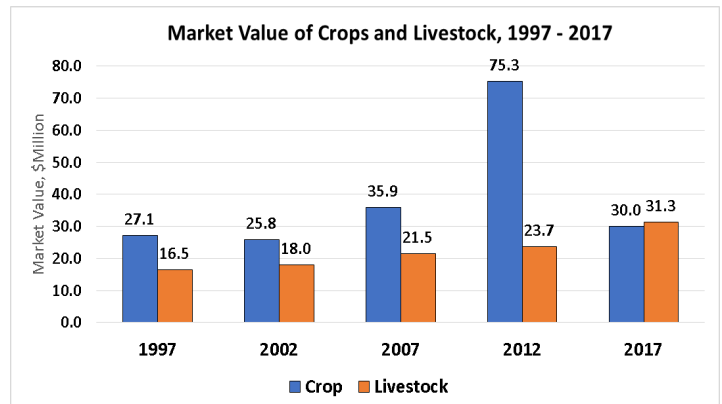
of Revenue was \$7 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 property) comprised 53.9% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$371,069,378	\$283,012,353
Taxable Value of All Property	\$7,731,578	\$6,740,299
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$4,166,664	\$4,009,797
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	53.9%	59.9%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

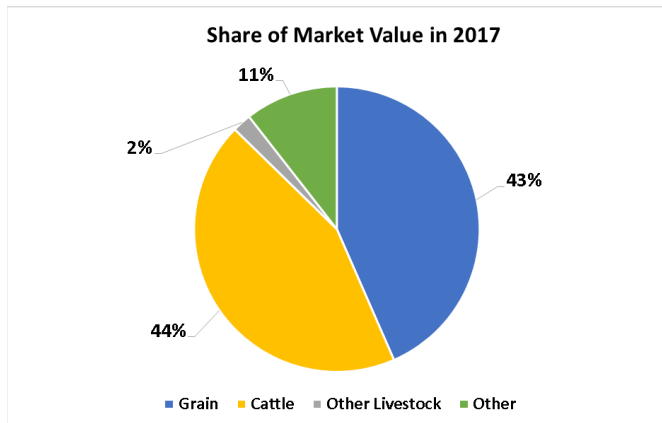
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 11%, while the market value of livestock increased by 89%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (44%) and grain (43%) comprised 87% 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, larger farms, 500 acres or more, remained virtually unchanged from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	4	1	4	1
10 to 49	14	3	12	2
50 to 179	24	5	33	7
180 to 499	72	16	81	17
500 to 999	65	15	65	13
1,000 or more	258	59	294	60
TOTAL	437	100	489	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 increased from 56% to 64%, while the proportion of total sales from the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more decreased from 44% to 36% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	123	28	114	23
2,500 to 4,999	11	3	9	2
5,000 to 9,999	11	3	22	4
10,000 to 24,999	35	8	41	8
25,000 to 49,999	54	12	33	7
50,000 to 99,999	47	11	54	11
100,000 or more	156	36	216	44
TOTAL	437	100	489	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 decreased somewhat, while the percentage of farms using intensive tillage decreased substantially from 2012 to 2017.

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	172	39	194	40
Reduced tillage	54	12	82	17
Intensive tillage	28	6	88	18
Cover crops	7	2	22	4
TOTAL FARMS	437		489	

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

Producer Profile

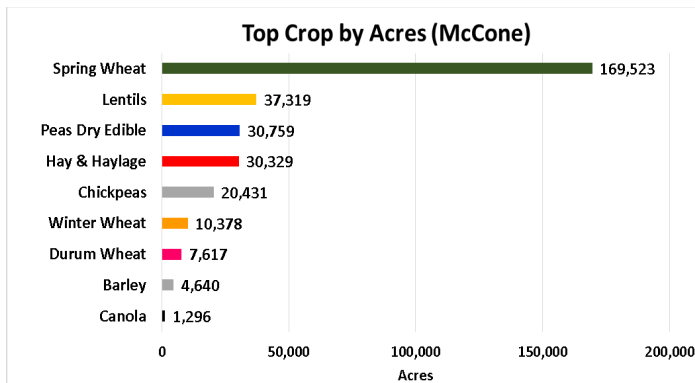
The county producer population was about the same age as the Montana producer population. Thirty-six percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 35% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Sixty-five percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 60% 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	5	1	570	1
25 to 34	68	9	3,285	7
35 to 44	77	10	5,179	11
45 to 54	119	16	7,309	15
55 to 64	192	26	13,838	29
65 to 74	155	21	11,469	24
75 and older	106	14	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	485	65	28,563	60
Female	266	35	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	451	60	23,847	50
No	300	40	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	751	100	48,161	100

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

Top Crops by Acres

The top crops were spring wheat, lentils, peas dry edible, hay & haylage, chickpeas, winter wheat, durum wheat, barley and canola.



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

Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	40,349
Sheep	8,279
Chicken-Layers	424
Chicken-Broilers	36

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 516 workers, or 50% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 355 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 147 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 14 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	1,022	
Direct Impact	355	
Indirect Impact	147	0.41
Induced Impact	14	0.04
Total Impact	516	0.45
Agriculture's Share (%)	50	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$27.9 million of value-added, or 29% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$96 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$16.7 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$10.1 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$1.1 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.67 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	96.0	
Direct Impact**	16.7	
Indirect Impact**	10.1	0.61
Induced Impact**	1.1	0.06
Total Impact**	27.9	0.67
Agriculture's Share (%)	29	

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

- 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>

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>
- Dept. of Revenue “Montana Taxes by County in 2018” <https://mtrevenue.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2018-Taxes-by-County.pdf>

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