

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE



Meagher County

January 2021

Meagher County is a rural sparsely populated county located in the west central part of the state. Over 57% of land in Meagher County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	1,866
County Size (acres)	1,530,796
Land in Farms (%)	57.6
Number of Farms	145
Median Farm Size (acres)	1,800
Average Farm Size (acres)	6,084

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 \$39 million while production expenses were over \$32 million. Government payments were 2.3% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$36,769,000
Government Payments	\$887,000
Farm-Related Income	\$1,677,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$32,556,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$6,777,000

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Meagher County was approximately \$424 million in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department

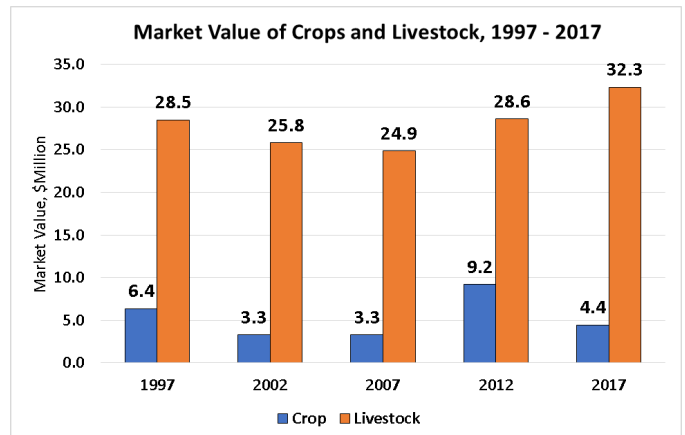
of Revenue was \$9 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 property) comprised 18% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$424,805,168	\$399,544,938
Taxable Value of All Property	\$9,051,194	\$8,114,804
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$1,704,472	\$1,507,761
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	18.83%	18.58%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

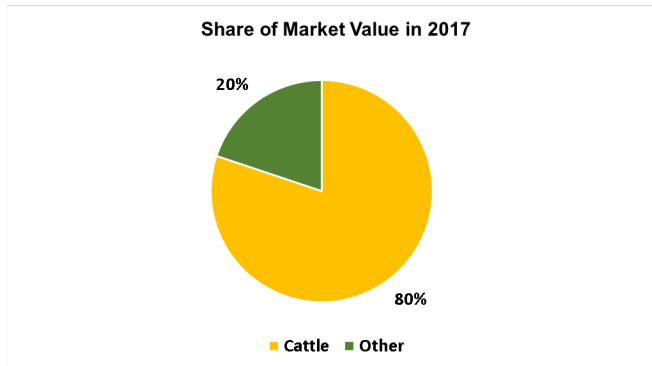
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops decreased by 30%, while the market value of livestock increased by 14%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle 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, decreased from 40% to 37%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, increased from 60% to 63% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	11	8	11	8
10 to 49	20	14	20	15
50 to 179	9	6	10	7
180 to 499	14	10	13	10
500 to 999	3	2	4	3
1,000 or more	88	61	78	57
TOTAL	145	100	136	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 60% to 54%, while the proportion of total sales from the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased from 40% to 46% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	36	25	44	32
2,500 to 4,999	9	6	5	4
5,000 to 9,999	12	8	3	2
10,000 to 24,999	5	3	9	7
25,000 to 49,999	7	5	7	5
50,000 to 99,999	10	7	13	10
100,000 or more	66	46	55	40
TOTAL	145	100	136	100

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

Tillage and Land Use

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

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	13	9	9	7
Reduced tillage	5	3	3	2
Intensive tillage	24	17	22	16
Cover crops	10	7	5	4
TOTAL FARMS	145		136	

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

Producer Profile

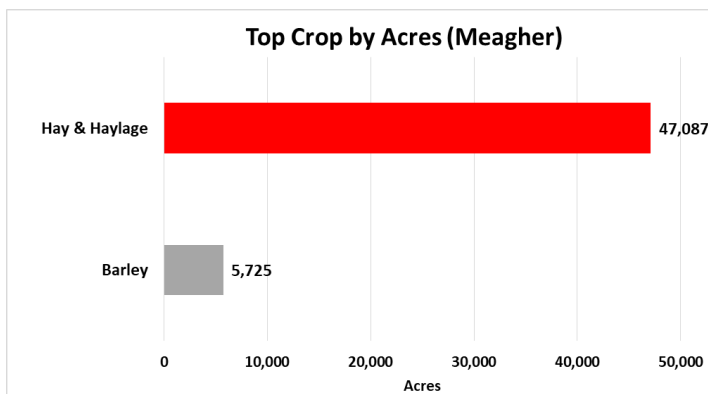
The county producer population was older than the Montana producer population. Thirty-six percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 46% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Sixty-five percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 63% 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	6	2	570	1
25 to 34	23	9	3,285	7
35 to 44	37	14	5,179	11
45 to 54	27	10	7,309	15
55 to 64	45	17	13,838	29
65 to 74	76	29	11,469	24
75 and older	44	17	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	168	65	28,563	60
Female	92	35	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	165	63	23,847	50
No	95	37	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	260	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 barley.



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	50,989
Sheep	3,051
Chicken-Layers	98

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 407 workers, or 44% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 244 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 116 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 47 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 7 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	930	
Direct Impact	244	
Indirect Impact	116	0.48
Induced Impact	47	0.19
Total Impact	407	0.67
Agriculture's Share (%)	44	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$24.1 million of value-added, or 35% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$69 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$14.5 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$7.3 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$2.3 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*	69.0	
Direct Impact**	14.5	
Indirect Impact**	7.3	0.51
Induced Impact**	2.3	0.16
Total Impact**	24.1	0.67
Agriculture's Share (%)	35	

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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