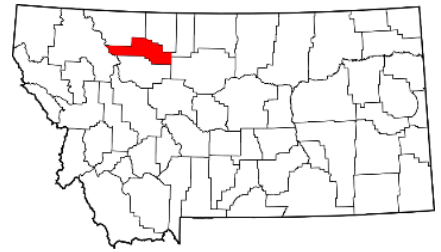


# ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE



## Pondera County

January 2021

Pondera County is a rural county located in the northern part of the state, containing a portion of the Blackfeet Reservation. Over 77% of land in Pondera County is classified as farm land.

### Overview (2017 Data)

Population	5,972
County Size (acres)	1,039,723
Land in Farms (%)	77.4
Number of Farms	486
Median Farm Size (acres)	530
Average Farm Size (acres)	1,656

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 \$129 million while production expenses were over \$98 million. Government payments were 8.2% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$111,526,000
Government Payments	\$10,629,000
Farm-Related Income	\$7,154,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$98,608,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$30,700,000

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

### Taxation

The market value of all property in Pondera County was approximately \$808 million in 2019. The taxable

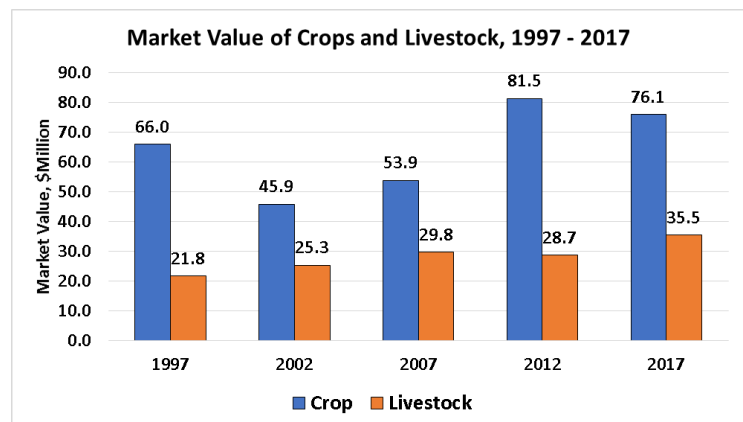
value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$17 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 25% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$808,285,566	\$712,757,826
Taxable Value of All Property	\$17,481,778	\$13,014,361
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$4,392,605	\$3,870,412
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	25%	30%

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

### Market Value of Crops and Livestock

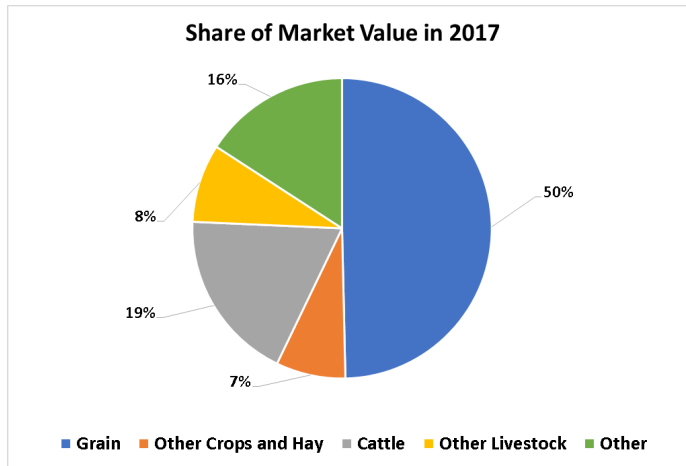
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 15%, while the market value of livestock increased by 63%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

## Crops and Livestock

Grain (50%) and cattle (19%) comprised 69% 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 41% to 49%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 59% to 51% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	15	3	21	4
10 to 49	53	11	50	10
50 to 179	71	15	59	12
180 to 499	98	20	76	15
500 to 999	55	11	59	12
1,000 or more	194	40	240	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 2: County Summary Highlights: 2017

## Farm Size by Sales

The percentage of the smallest farms with less than \$100,000 in sales increased from 58% to 64%, while the percentage of the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more decreased from 42% to 36% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	117	24	130	26
2,500 to 4,999	15	3	12	2
5,000 to 9,999	38	8	23	5
10,000 to 24,999	41	8	42	8
25,000 to 49,999	48	10	33	7
50,000 to 99,999	51	10	54	11
100,000 or more	176	36	211	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>100</b>

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 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	10	2	6	1
Reduced tillage	12	2	5	1
Intensive tillage	41	8	59	14
Cover crops	25	5	16	4
<b>TOTAL FARMS</b>	<b>486</b>		<b>505</b>	

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

## Producer Profile

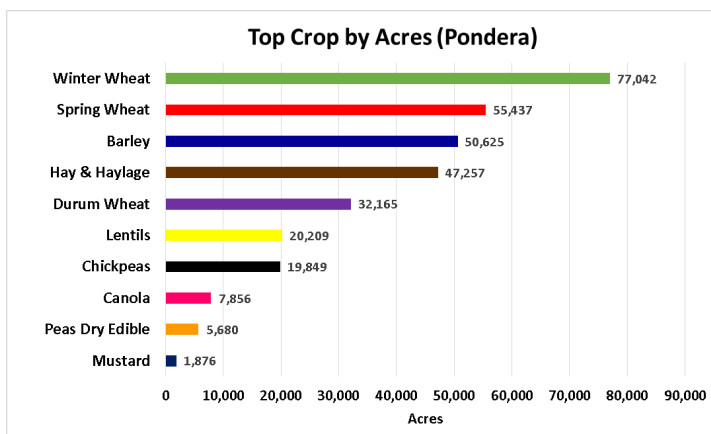
The county producer population was slightly younger than the Montana producer population. Thirty-seven percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 34% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Sixty-six percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 54% 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	27	3	570	1
25 to 34	89	10	3,285	7
35 to 44	74	9	5,179	11
45 to 54	130	15	7,309	15
55 to 64	239	28	13,838	29
65 to 74	196	23	11,469	24
75 and older	97	11	5,587	12
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	569	66	28,563	60
Female	291	34	18,673	40
<b>Primary Occupation</b>				
Yes	467	54	23,847	50
No	393	46	24,314	50
<b>TOTAL PRODUCERS</b>	<b>860</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 winter wheat, spring wheat, barley, hay & haylage, durum wheat, lentils, chickpeas, canola, peas dry edible, and mustard.



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

## Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Chicken-Layers	115,236
Hogs	24,539
Cattle	24,285
Sheep	4,601
Turkeys	4,302

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

## Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 1,224 workers, or 45% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 693 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 465 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 66 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drug stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 8 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	2,740	
Direct Impact	693	
Indirect Impact	465	0.67
Induced Impact	66	0.10
<b>Total Impact</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>0.77</b>
<hr/>		
Agriculture's Share (%)	45	

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

## Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$50.7 million of value-added, or 25% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$204 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$27.4 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$19.5 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$3.9 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.85 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	204.0	
Direct Impact**	27.4	
Indirect Impact**	19.5	0.71
Induced Impact**	3.9	0.14
Total Impact**	50.7	0.85
Agriculture's Share (%)	25	

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)
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