

Powell County

January 2021

Powell County is a rural county located in the western part of the state. About 38% of land in Powell County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	6,968
County Size (acres)	1,488,674
Land in Farms (%)	38.4
Number of Farms	254
Median Farm Size (acres)	305
Average Farm Size (acres)	2,253

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) topped \$33 million while production expenses were \$26 million. Government payments were 1.1% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$31,845,000
Government Payments	\$377,000
Farm-Related Income	\$1,272,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$26,112,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$7,382,000

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Powell County was approximately \$849 million in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$18 million. Agricultural Property

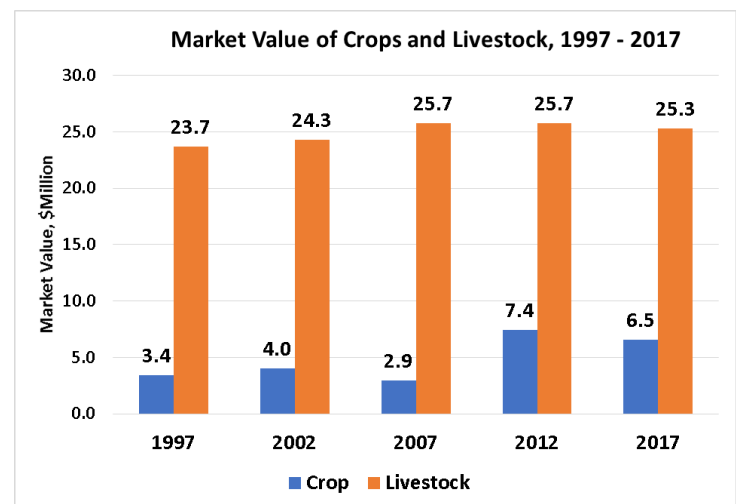
(as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 6% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$849,747,099	\$640,024,833
Taxable Value of All Property	\$18,417,428	\$14,531,062
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$1,194,456	\$1,129,094
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	6%	8%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

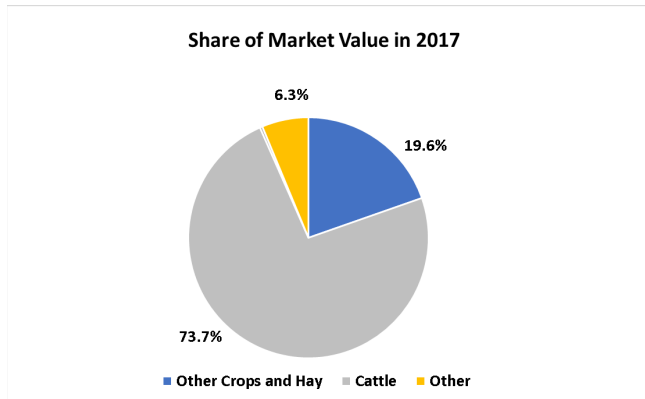
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 91%, while the market value of livestock increased by 7%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (74%) and hay (20%) comprised 94% 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 61% to 57%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, increased from 39% to 43% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	23	9	27	10
10 to 49	39	15	55	21
50 to 179	45	18	41	16
180 to 499	39	15	38	14
500 to 999	35	14	23	9
1,000 or more	73	29	79	30
TOTAL	254	100	263	100

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 decreased slightly from 76% to 75%, while the percentage of the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased from 24% to 25% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	90	35	92	35
2,500 to 4,999	19	7	20	8
5,000 to 9,999	25	10	23	9
10,000 to 24,999	19	7	28	11
25,000 to 49,999	19	7	13	5
50,000 to 99,999	18	7	25	10
100,000 or more	64	25	62	24
TOTAL	254	100	263	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 decreased from 2012 to 2017.

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	0	0	3	1
Reduced tillage	4	2	7	3
Intensive tillage	20	8	26	10
Cover crops	8	3	11	4
TOTAL FARMS	254		263	

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

Producer Profile

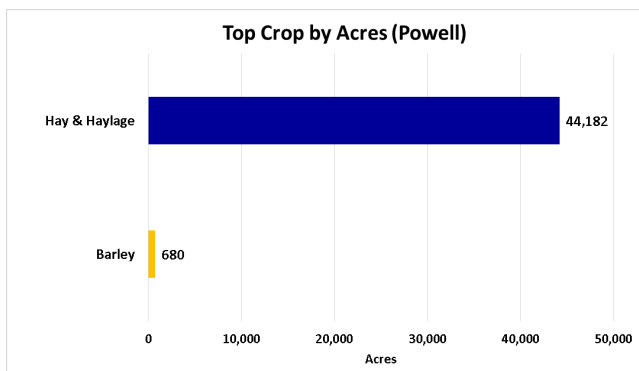
The county producer population was slightly older than the Montana producer population. Thirty-three percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 37% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Sixty-four percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 44% 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	3	1	570	1
25 to 34	24	5	3,285	7
35 to 44	49	11	5,179	11
45 to 54	76	16	7,309	15
55 to 64	123	26	13,838	29
65 to 74	102	22	11,469	24
75 and older	72	15	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	299	64	28,563	60
Female	166	36	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	203	44	23,847	50
No	262	56	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	465	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, poultry (chickens) and hogs.

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	35,243
Chicken - Layers	736
Sheep	495
Chicken - Broilers	72
Hogs	32

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 789 workers, or 27% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 477 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 279 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 33 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	2,887	
Direct Impact	477	
Indirect Impact	279	0.58
Induced Impact	33	0.07
Total Impact	789	0.65
Agriculture's Share (%)	27	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$29 million of value-added, or 14% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$212 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$14.2 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$12.9 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$2 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$1.04 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	212.0	
Direct Impact**	14.2	
Indirect Impact**	12.9	0.91
Induced Impact**	2.0	0.14
Total Impact**	29.0	1.04
Agriculture's Share (%)	14	

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

- 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>

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