



Ravalli County

January 2021

Ravalli County is a fast growing county located in the western part of the state, just south of Missoula. About 15% of land in Ravalli County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	43,172
County Size (acres)	1,530,228
Land in Farms (%)	15.8
Number of Farms	1,576
Median Farm Size (acres)	20
Average Farm Size (acres)	153

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 nearly \$48 million while production expenses were \$46 million. Government payments were only 0.5% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	42,662,000
Government Payments	245,000
Farm-Related Income	4,811,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	46,264,000
Net Cash Farm Income	1,455,000

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Ravalli County was approximately \$6 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was

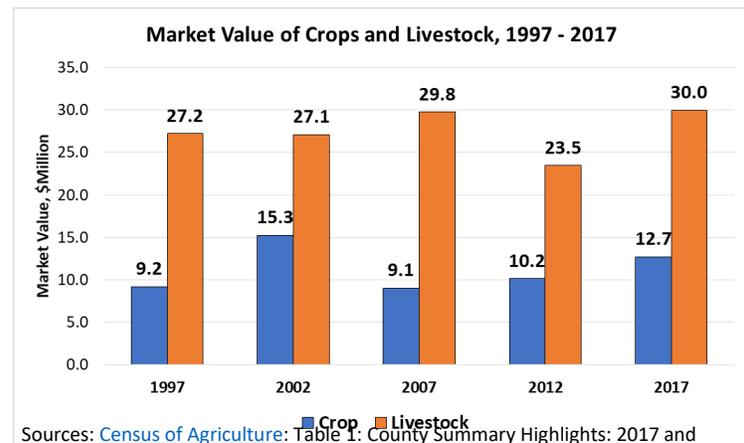
\$89 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 1.35% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$5,963,822,909	\$3,731,346,912
Taxable Value of All Property	\$89,134,942	\$79,394,481
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$1,204,428	\$1,024,817
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	1.35%	1.29%

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

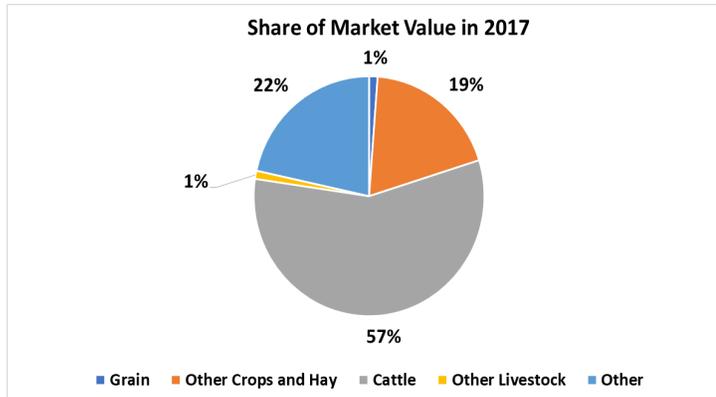
Market Value of Crops and Livestock

After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 38%, while the market value of livestock increased by 10%, from 1997 to 2017.



Crops and Livestock

Cattle (57%) and hay (19%) comprised 76% 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 the smallest farms with less than \$100,000 in sales and the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more were unchanged from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	431	27	297	21
10 to 49	744	47	704	49
50 to 179	201	13	256	18
180 to 499	121	8	99	7
500 to 999	31	2	43	3
1,000 or more	48	3	39	3
TOTAL	1576	100	1438	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 and the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more decreased were unchanged from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	828	53	701	49
2,500 to 4,999	194	12	207	14
5,000 to 9,999	174	11	165	11
10,000 to 24,999	150	10	169	12
25,000 to 49,999	82	5	72	5
50,000 to 99,999	76	5	46	3
100,000 or more	72	5	78	5
TOTAL	1576	100	1438	100

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

Tillage and Land Use

The percentage of farms using no till or reduced tillage 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	43	3	32	2
Reduced tillage	26	2	11	1
Intensive tillage	76	5	124	9
Cover crops	50	3	42	3
TOTAL FARMS	1576		1438	

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

Producer Profile

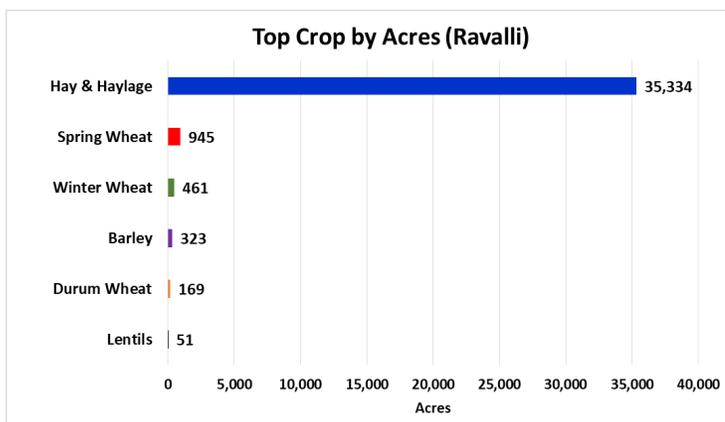
The county producer population was older than the Montana producer population. Twenty-six percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 42% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-three percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 39% 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	25	1	570	1
25 to 34	101	4	3,285	7
35 to 44	223	8	5,179	11
45 to 54	362	13	7,309	15
55 to 64	888	32	13,838	29
65 to 74	833	30	11,469	24
75 and older	323	12	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	1,460	53	28,563	60
Female	1,314	47	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	1,084	39	23,847	50
No	1,690	61	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	2,774	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, spring wheat, winter wheat, barley, durum wheat and lentils.



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

Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	27,032
Chicken-Layers	6,031
Sheep	2,216
Chicken-Broilers	566
Turkeys	347
Hogs	227

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 2,472 workers, or 13% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 1,917 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 535 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 20 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as a 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	19,763	
Direct Impact	1,917	
Indirect Impact	535	0.28
Induced Impact	20	0.01
Total Impact	2,472	0.29
Agriculture's Share (%)	13	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$33.1 million of value-added, or 3% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$1,059 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$20.2 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$12 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$1 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.64 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	1,059.0	
Direct Impact**	20.2	
Indirect Impact**	12.0	0.59
Induced Impact**	1.0	0.05
Total Impact**	33.1	0.64
Agriculture's Share (%)	3	

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

- 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>

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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