



Sanders County

January 2021

Sanders County is located in the northwest portion of the state, bordering Idaho to the west. About 36% of land in Sanders County is classified as farm land.

3 Property) comprised 1.4% of the county's taxable value.

Overview
(2017 Data)

Population	11,844
County Size (acres)	1,766,656
Land in Farms (%)	36.4
Number of Farms	521
Median Farm Size (acres)	90
Average Farm Size (acres)	1,233

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

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$1,859,354,507	\$1,608,989,729
Taxable Value of All Property	\$44,196,248	\$33,657,548
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$598,734	\$627,344
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	1.4%	1.9%

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

Farm Revenue

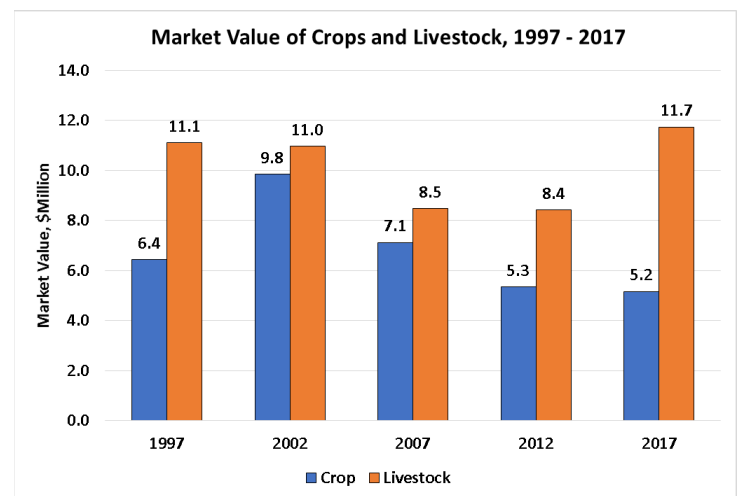
Farm revenue (which includes the market value of products sold, government payments, and farm-related income) were \$20 million while production expenses were \$16 million. Government payments were 3.5% of farm revenue.

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops decreased by 20%, while the market value of livestock increased by 6%, from 1997 to 2017.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$16,910,000
Government Payments	\$570,000
Farm-Related Income	\$2,707,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$16,098,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$4,090,000

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



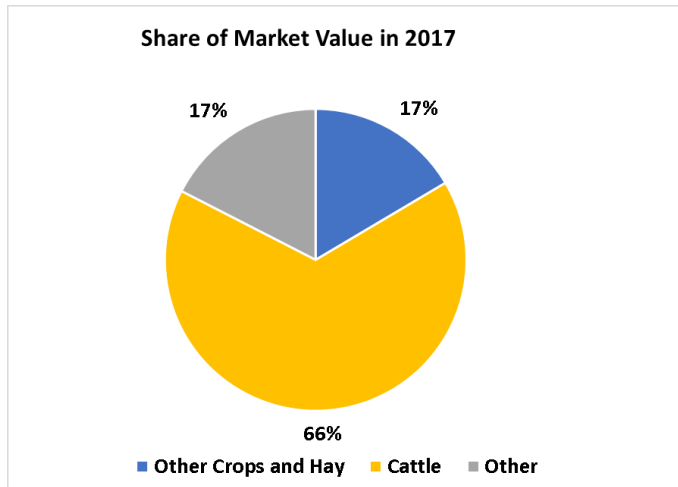
Sources: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 1: County Summary Highlights: 2017 and [St. Louis Fed Producer Price Index](#)

Taxation

The market value of all property in Sanders County was approximately \$1 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$44 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (66%) and hay and other crops (17%) comprised 83% 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 slightly from 84% to 83%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, increased from 16% to 17% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	33	6	16	3
10 to 49	161	31	137	28
50 to 179	155	30	153	31
180 to 499	86	17	106	22
500 to 999	36	7	41	8
1,000 or more	50	10	39	8
TOTAL	521	100	492	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 94% to 93%, while the percentage of the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased from 6% to 7% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	240	46	216	44
2,500 to 4,999	53	10	61	12
5,000 to 9,999	46	9	68	14
10,000 to 24,999	77	15	53	11
25,000 to 49,999	46	9	31	6
50,000 to 99,999	22	4	32	7
100,000 or more	37	7	31	6
TOTAL	521	100	492	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 increased, while the percentage of farms using intensive tillage remained constant from 2012 to 2017.

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	30	6	5	1
Reduced tillage	21	4	3	1
Intensive tillage	53	10	51	10
Cover crops	30	6	23	5
TOTAL FARMS	521	100	492	100

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

Producer Profile

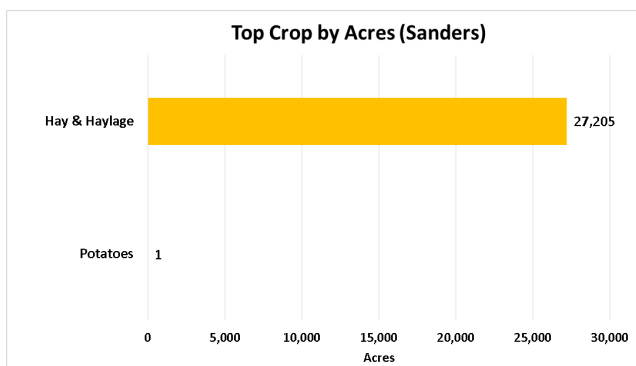
The county producer population was older than the Montana producer population. Twenty-five percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 44% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-five 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	4	0	570	1
25 to 34	41	5	3,285	7
35 to 44	51	6	5,179	11
45 to 54	119	14	7,309	15
55 to 64	272	31	13,838	29
65 to 74	268	31	11,469	24
75 and older	111	13	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	477	55	28,563	60
Female	394	45	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	386	44	23,847	50
No	485	56	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	871	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 potatoes.



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

Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	15,539
Chicken-Layers	5,335
Hogs	270
Sheep	192
Chicken-Broilers	113
Turkeys	24

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 709 workers, or 15% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 532 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 170 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 7 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as 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	4,776	
Direct Impact	532	
Indirect Impact	170	0.32
Induced Impact	7	0.01
Total Impact	709	0.33
Agriculture's Share (%)	15	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$11.5 million of value-added, or 3% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$337 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$8 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$3.1 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$0.3 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.43 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	337.0	
Direct Impact**	8.0	
Indirect Impact**	3.1	0.39
Induced Impact**	0.3	0.04
Total Impact**	11.5	0.43
Agriculture's Share (%)	3	

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>
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- 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#>
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- Bureau of Labor Statistics (2017), Montana labor force, retrieved from <https://bls.gov/lau/#cntyaa>

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