

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE

Silver Bow County



January 2021

Silver Bow County is a small county located in the southwestern part of the state, and contains the major town of Butte. About 13% of land in Silver Bow County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	34,993
County Size (acres)	459,509
Land in Farms (%)	13.1
Number of Farms	142
Median Farm Size (acres)	100
Average Farm Size (acres)	425

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 \$3 million while production expenses were slightly over \$3 million.

Market Value of Products Sold	2,729,000
Government Payments	0
Farm-Related Income	141,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	3,022,000
Net Cash Farm Income	(151,000)

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Silver Bow County was approximately \$3.6 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$77 million. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class

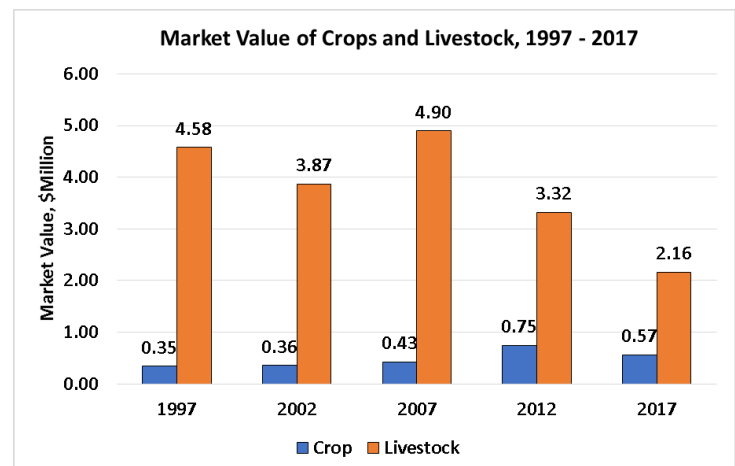
3 Property) comprised 1% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$3,664,222,616	\$2,129,955,318
Taxable Value of All Property	\$77,633,385	\$64,271,453
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$396,519	\$456,486
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	1%	1%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

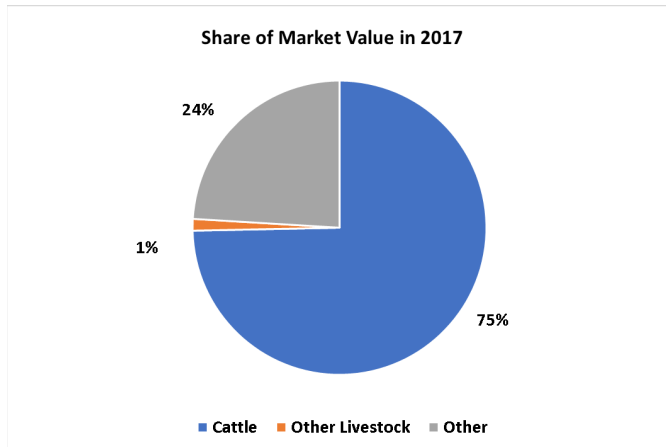
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 64%, while the market value of livestock decreased by 53%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle comprised 75% 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 77% to 80%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 23% to 20% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	15	11	8	6
10 to 49	50	35	26	19
50 to 179	30	21	51	36
180 to 499	19	13	23	16
500 to 999	12	8	14	10
1,000 or more	16	11	18	13
TOTAL	142	100	140	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 increased from 93% to 95%, while the percentage of the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more decreased from 7% to 5% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	80	56	74	53
2,500 to 4,999	17	12	7	5
5,000 to 9,999	8	6	16	11
10,000 to 24,999	16	11	12	9
25,000 to 49,999	7	5	15	11
50,000 to 99,999	7	5	6	4
100,000 or more	7	5	10	7
TOTAL	142	100	140	100

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

Tillage and Land Use

No farms used reduced or intensive tillage or cover crops in 2017.

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	1	1	0	0
Reduced tillage	0	0	0	0
Intensive tillage	0	0	9	6
Cover crops	0	0	4	3
TOTAL FARMS	142		140	

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

Producer Profile

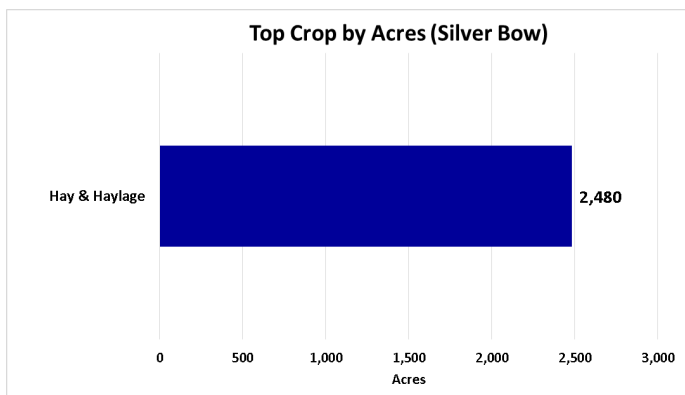
The county producer population was younger than the Montana producer population. Forty-one percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 31% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-nine percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 59% 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	10	4	570	1
25 to 34	10	4	3,285	7
35 to 44	48	19	5,179	11
45 to 54	36	14	7,309	15
55 to 64	70	28	13,838	29
65 to 74	48	19	11,469	24
75 and older	31	12	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	150	59	28,563	60
Female	103	41	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	63	25	23,847	50
No	190	75	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	253	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.



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

Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	3,679
Sheep	272
Chicken-Layers	229
Hogs	12

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 154 workers, or less than 1% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 50 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 50 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 54 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 21 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	17,135	
Direct Impact	50	
Indirect Impact	50	1.00
Induced Impact	54	1.08
Total Impact	154	2.08
Agriculture's Share (%)	1	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$6.2 million of value-added, or less than 1% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$1,492 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$1.2 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$3.7 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$1.2 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$4.00 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy. Please note: there is minimal agricultural production in Silver Bow County; hence these IMPLAN estimates must be used with caution.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	1,492.0	
Direct Impact**	1.2	
Indirect Impact**	3.7	3.00
Induced Impact**	1.2	1.00
Total Impact**	6.2	4.00
Agriculture's Share (%)	0.4	

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#>
- 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>
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