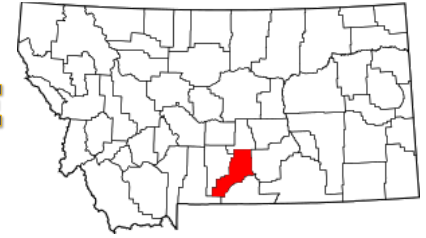


ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE

Stillwater County



January 2021

Stillwater County is a rural county located in the south central part of the state. Over 66% of land in Stillwater County is classified as farm land.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	9,534
County Size (acres)	1,149,917
Land in Farms (%)	66.3
Number of Farms	562
Median Farm Size (acres)	280
Average Farm Size (acres)	1,357

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

Farm Revenue

Farm revenues (which includes the market value of products sold, government payments, and farm-related income) were over \$61 million while production expenses were \$48 million. Government payments were 6.8% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$51,455,000
Government Payments	\$4,175,000
Farm-Related Income	\$5,843,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$48,040,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$13,432,000

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Stillwater County was approximately \$2 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$50 million. Agricultural Property (as

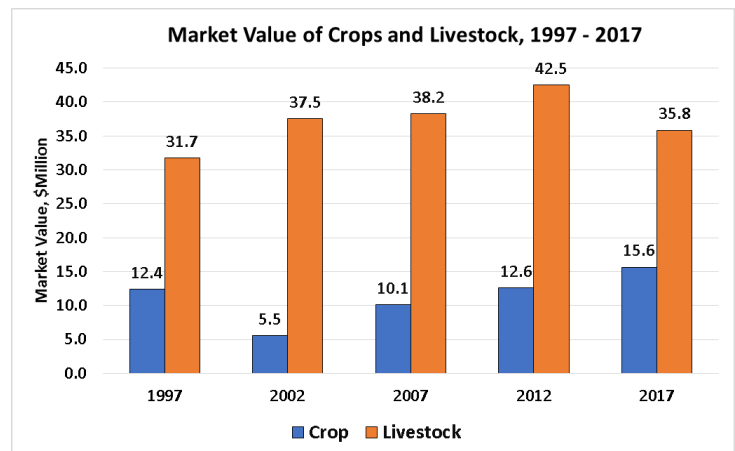
defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 4% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$2,097,188,647	\$1,186,286,850
Taxable Value of All Property	\$50,054,082	\$36,702,942
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$1,996,167	\$1,938,769
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	4%	5%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

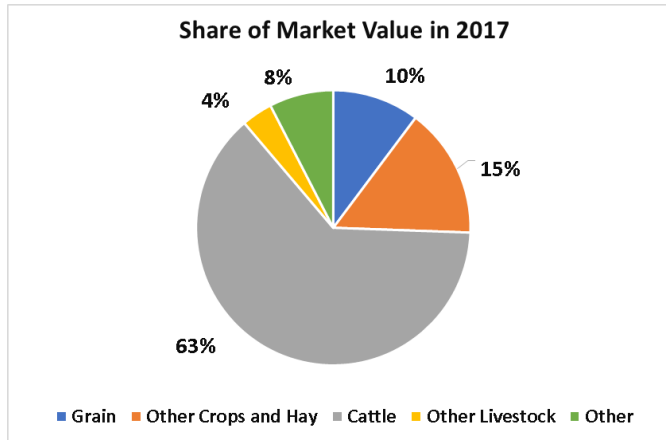
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by 26%, while the market value of livestock increased by 13%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (63%) and hay and other crops (15%) comprised 78% 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 56% to 59%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 44% to 41% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	25	4	39	7
10 to 49	103	18	90	15
50 to 179	102	18	113	19
180 to 499	100	18	92	16
500 to 999	70	12	76	13
1,000 or more	162	29	183	31
TOTAL	562	100	593	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 81% to 80%, while the percentage of the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more increased slightly from 19% to 20% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	183	33	212	36
2,500 to 4,999	31	6	42	7
5,000 to 9,999	35	6	51	9
10,000 to 24,999	67	12	70	12
25,000 to 49,999	65	12	52	9
50,000 to 99,999	67	12	55	9
100,000 or more	114	20	111	19
TOTAL	562	100	593	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	69	12	57	10
Reduced tillage	29	5	21	4
Intensive tillage	50	9	83	14
Cover crops	25	4	24	4
TOTAL FARMS	562		593	

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

Producer Profile

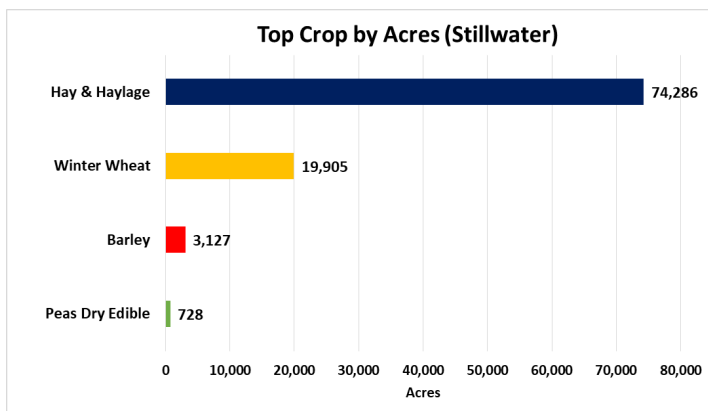
The county producer population was slightly younger than the Montana producer population. Thirty-two percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 34% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Fifty-nine percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 57% 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	20	2	570	1
25 to 34	58	6	3,285	7
35 to 44	108	11	5,179	11
45 to 54	135	13	7,309	15
55 to 64	336	33	13,838	29
65 to 74	246	24	11,469	24
75 and older	94	9	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	594	59	28,563	60
Female	420	41	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	581	57	23,847	50
No	433	43	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	1,014	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, winter wheat, barley, and peas dry edible.



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	46,755
Sheep	13,497
Chickens-Layers	896
Hogs	291
Turkeys	23
Chickens-Broilers	21

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 1,172 workers, or 24% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 717 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 423 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 32 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 6 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	4,841	
Direct Impact	717	
Indirect Impact	423	0.59
Induced Impact	32	0.04
Total Impact	1,172	0.63
Agriculture's Share (%)	24	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$38.1 million of value-added, or 7% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$552 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$20.5 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$15.6 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 \$0.86 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	552.0	
Direct Impact**	20.5	
Indirect Impact**	15.6	0.76
Induced Impact**	2.0	0.10
Total Impact**	38.1	0.86
Agriculture's Share (%)	7	

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>

Report produced by MSU Extension:

- George Haynes, MSU Extension, Professor and Specialist
- Joel Schumacher, MSU Extension, Associate Specialist
- Jeff Peterson, Economic Impact Analyst, Impacts Montana

Contact Us:

MSU Extension Economics
P.O. Box 172800
Bozeman, MT 5971
406-994-3511



For more information: www.montana.edu/agimpact

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.