

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE

Yellowstone County



January 2021

Yellowstone County is the most populated county in the state, containing the major town of Billings. Over 95% of land in Yellowstone County is classified as farm land.

(as defined by Montana Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 1% of the county's taxable value.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	160,137
County Size (acres)	1,685,441
Land in Farms (%)	95.1
Number of Farms	1,314
Median Farm Size (acres)	60
Average Farm Size (acres)	1,220

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

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$21,814,044,437	\$11,181,311,047
Taxable Value of All Property	\$390,133,029	\$307,533,037
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$3,659,212	\$3,439,242
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	0.94%	1.1%

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

Farm Revenue

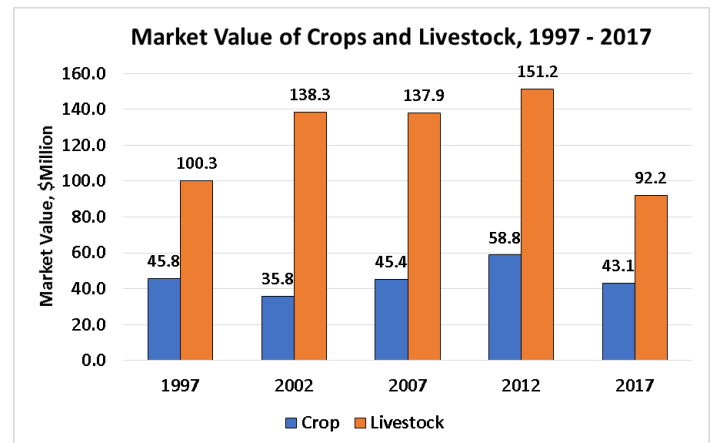
Farm revenues (which includes the market value of products sold, government payments, and farm-related income) were nearly \$150 million while production expenses were over \$127 million. Government payments were 3.7% of farm revenues.

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops decreased by 6%, while the market value of livestock decreased by 8%, from 1997 to 2017.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$135,287,000
Government Payments	\$5,615,000
Farm-Related Income	\$8,851,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$127,316,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$22,437,000

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



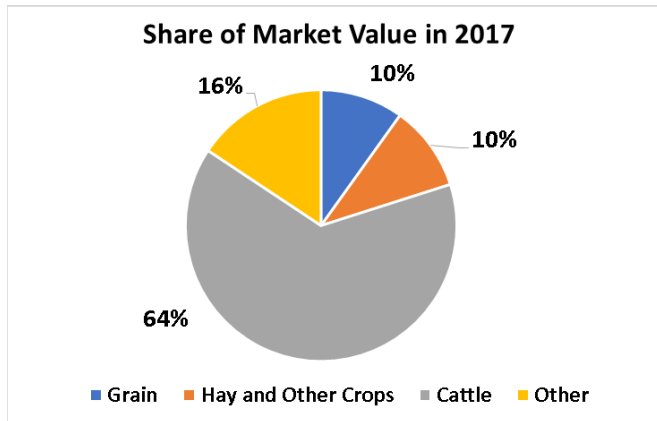
Sources: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 1: County Summary Highlights: 2017 and [St. Louis Fed Producer Price Index](#)

Taxation

The market value of all property in Yellowstone County was approximately \$21 billion in 2019. The taxable value assigned by the Montana Department of Revenue was \$390 million. Agricultural Property

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (64%) and other (16%) comprised 80% 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 slightly from 78% to 79%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 22% to 21% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	201	15	211	16
10 to 49	402	31	428	32
50 to 179	262	20	242	18
180 to 499	172	13	159	12
500 to 999	86	7	97	7
1,000 or more	191	15	193	15
TOTAL	1314	100	1330	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 was unchanged from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	571	43	611	46
2,500 to 4,999	98	7	107	8
5,000 to 9,999	122	9	106	8
10,000 to 24,999	149	11	129	10
25,000 to 49,999	107	8	85	6
50,000 to 99,999	66	5	86	6
100,000 or more	201	15	206	15
TOTAL	1314	100	1330	100

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

Tillage and Land Use

The percentage of farms using reduced tillage increased, while the percentage of farms using no till or intensive tillage decreased from 2012 to 2017.

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	84	6	94	7
Reduced tillage	50	4	46	3
Intensive tillage	124	9	191	14
Cover crops	32	2	20	2
TOTAL FARMS	1314		1330	

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

Producer Profile

The county producer population was younger than the Montana producer population. Thirty-five percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 32% 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-eight percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were males. Farming was the primary occupation for 36% 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	13	1	570	1
25 to 34	119	5	3,285	7
35 to 44	309	13	5,179	11
45 to 54	379	16	7,309	15
55 to 64	710	30	13,838	29
65 to 74	534	22	11,469	24
75 and older	237	10	5,587	12
Sex				
Male	1,386	58	28,563	60
Female	988	42	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	848	36	23,847	50
No	1,526	64	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	2,374	100	48,161	100

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 45 Selected Operation and Producer Characteristics

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	110,710
Chicken-Layers	20,552
Sheep	2,082

Employment Impact

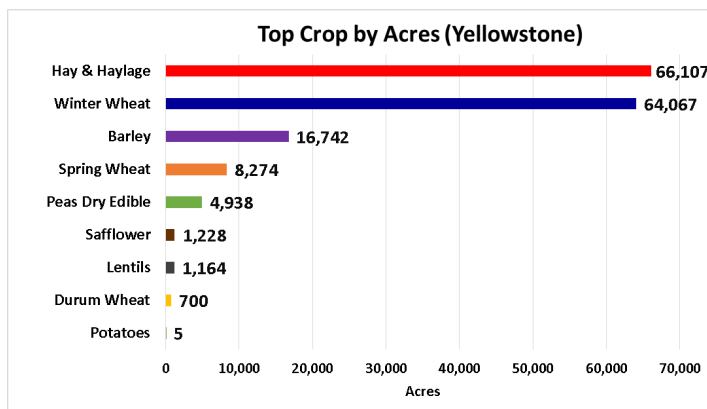
Agricultural production employed 3,323 workers, or 4% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 1,393 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 1,386 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 544 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every 10 jobs on farms and ranches, 14 additional jobs are generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	81,289	
Direct Impact	1,393	
Indirect Impact	1,386	0.99
Induced Impact	544	0.39
Total Impact	3,323	1.39
Agriculture's Share (%)	4	

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

Top Crops by Acres

The top crops were hay and haylage, winter wheat, barley, spring wheat, peas dry edible, safflower, lentils, durum wheat, and potatoes.



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

Top Livestock

The top livestock were cattle, chicken-layers, and sheep.

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$211.8 million of value-added, or 2% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$8,898 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$48.1 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$123 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$40.8 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$3.41 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy. This significant contribution to the local economy is because Billings is an economic hub for southern Montana.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	8,898.0	
Direct Impact**	48.1	
Indirect Impact**	123.0	2.56
Induced Impact**	40.8	0.85
Total Impact**	211.8	3.41
Agriculture's Share (%)	2	

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

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