

Beaverhead County

January 2021

Beaverhead County is a rural county located in the southwestern part of the state, and borders Idaho for much of its southern border. Over 34% of land in Beaverhead County is classified as farmland.

Overview (2017 Data)

Population	9,404
County Size (acres)	3,547,320
Land in Farms (%)	34.8
Number of Farms	494
Median Farm Size (acres)	115
Average Farm Size (acres)	2,498

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) topped \$123 million in 2017 while production expenses were \$95 million. Government payments accounted for only 0.05% of revenues.

Market Value of Products Sold	\$118,202,000
Government Payments	\$577,000
Farm-Related Income	\$4,839,000
Total Farm Production Expenses	\$95,350,000
Net Cash Farm Income	\$28,268,000

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

Taxation

The market value of all property in Beaverhead County was approximately \$1.2 billion in 2019. Agricultural Property (as defined by Montana

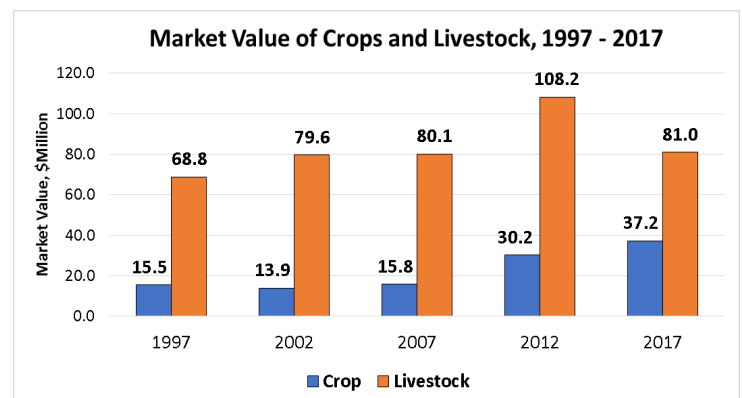
Department of Revenue as Class 3 Property) comprised 12% of the county's taxable value.

Property Tax Summary	2019	2014
Market Value of All Property	\$1,288,769,420	\$1,133,322,350
Taxable Value of All Property	\$24,049,312	\$18,482,656
Taxable Value of Agricultural Property	\$2,823,709	\$2,717,143
Ag Taxable Value as % of All Property	12%	15%

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

Market Value of Crops and Livestock

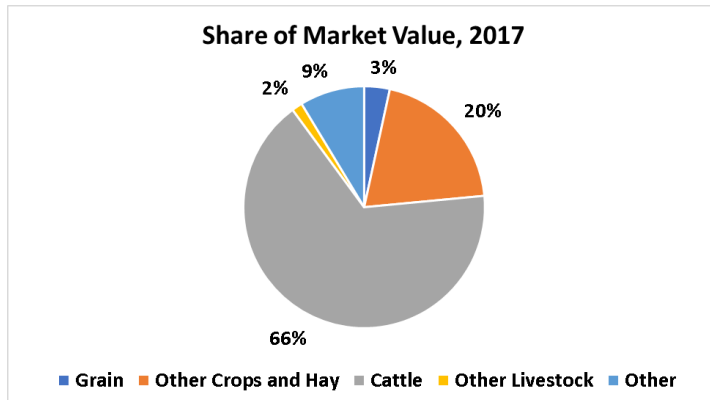
After adjusting for inflation, the market value of crops increased by over two fold, while the market value of livestock increased by nearly 18%, from 1997 to 2017.



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

Crops and Livestock

Cattle (66%) and Other Crops and Hay (20%) comprised 86% 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 59% to 67%, while the percentage of larger farms, 500 acres or more, decreased from 41% to 33% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Acres	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
1 to 9	72	15	54	13
10 to 49	130	26	85	20
50 to 179	81	16	62	14
180 to 499	49	10	51	12
500 to 999	14	3	27	6
1,000 or more	148	30	151	35
TOTAL	494	100	430	100

Source: [Census of Agriculture](#): Table 2: County Summary Highlights: 2017

Farm Size by Sales

The proportion of total sales from the smallest farms with less than \$100,000 in sales increased from 68% to 75%, while the proportion of total sales from the largest farms with sales of \$100,000 or more decreased from 32% to 25% from 2012 to 2017.

Farm Size by Sales	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
Less than 2,500	166	34	112	26
2,500 to 4,999	34	7	47	11
5,000 to 9,999	51	10	22	5
10,000 to 24,999	27	5	43	10
25,000 to 49,999	42	9	27	6
50,000 to 99,999	49	10	40	9
100,000 or more	125	25	139	32
TOTAL	494	100	430	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 decreased from 2012 to 2017.

Tillage	2017		2012	
	Number of Farms	%	Number of Farms	%
No tillage	10	2	6	1
Reduced tillage	12	2	5	1
Intensive tillage	41	8	59	14
Cover crops	25	5	16	4
TOTAL FARMS	494		430	

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

Producer Profile

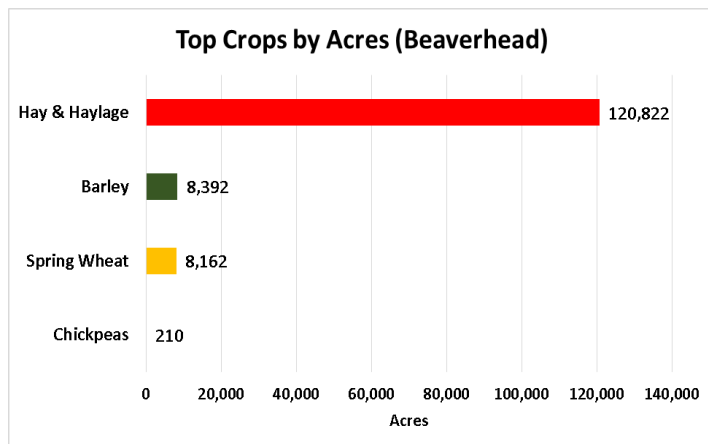
The county producer population was older than the Montana producer population. Thirty-two percent of county producers were under 55 years of age, while 38% were over 65 years of age. Thirty-four percent of the Montana producer population were under 55, while 36% were over 65 years of age. Sixty percent of producers in the county were males, while 60% of Montana producers were also males. Farming was the primary occupation for 55% 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	14	2	570	1
25 to 34	64	7	3,285	7
35 to 44	86	10	5,179	11
45 to 54	127	14	7,309	15
55 to 64	255	28	13,838	29
65 to 74	237	26	11,469	24
75 and older	104	12	5,587	12
Gender				
Male	534	60	28,563	60
Female	363	40	18,673	40
Primary Occupation				
Yes	491	55	23,847	50
No	406	45	24,314	50
TOTAL PRODUCERS	897	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, barley, spring wheat and chickpeas.



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

Top Livestock

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

Livestock	Number of Head
Cattle	126,752
Sheep	13,290
Chickens-Layers	773
Chickens-Broilers	56
Turkeys	12

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

Employment Impact

Agricultural production employed 1,191 workers, or 24% of the county's labor force. According to IMPLAN, economic impact model, 607 of the workers were directly employed in production agriculture. An additional 398 workers were employed in businesses supporting agricultural production, such as feed and fertilizer dealers, and another 186 workers were employed in other related businesses, such as grocery and drugs stores. For every job on farms and ranches, about 1 additional job is generated in the county.

Impact Type	Labor Force	Impact Multipliers
County Labor Force	5,048	
Direct Impact	607	
Indirect Impact	398	0.66
Induced Impact	186	0.31
Total Impact	1,191	0.96
Agriculture's Share (%)	24	

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

Value Added Impacts

Farms and ranches generated \$81.9 million of value-added, or 19% of the county's total gross domestic product of \$438 million in 2017. According to IMPLAN, \$51.5 million was directly contributed by farmers and ranchers. An additional \$19.5 million was generated by businesses supporting agricultural production and \$10.9 million was generated by other related businesses. Each dollar of value-added in agriculture by a farmer or rancher contributes an additional \$0.59 of value-added in other sectors of the county's economy.

Impact Type	Value-Added (\$1 million)	Impact Multipliers
County GDP*	438.0	
Direct Impact**	51.5	
Indirect Impact**	19.5	0.38
Induced Impact**	10.9	0.21
Total Impact**	81.9	0.59
Agriculture's Share (%)	19	

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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