

1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service



FERGUS MONTANA

Land in farms

Increased slightly from 2,232,575 acres in 1992 to 2,248,705 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Decreased slightly from 2,777 acres in 1992 to 2,756 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Decreased 9 percent from 626 farms in 1992 to 571 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

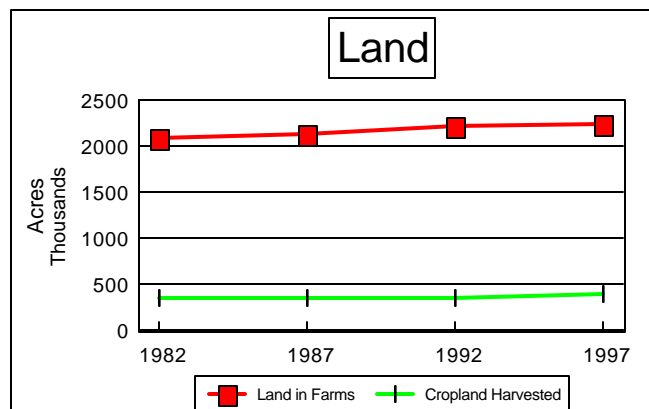
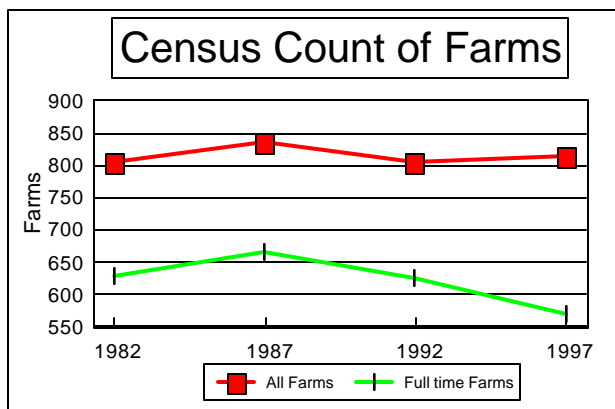
Increased 21 percent to \$71,841,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 45 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 55 percent of the market value.

Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 19 percent from \$74,080 in 1992 to \$88,041 in 1997.



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Ranked Items Within State and U.S., 1997

Item	Quantity	State		U.S.	
		Rank	Universe*	Rank	Universe*
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	71,841	4	56	805	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	39,752	3	56	678	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	32,090	6	56	886	3,070
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Cattle and calves	37,420	3	56	189	3,063
Wheat	21,622	10	54	63	2,578
Barley	7,156	5	54	27	1,167
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	2,874	8	56	240	3,043
Sheep, lambs, and wool	597	18	56	184	2,787
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Cattle and calves sold	71,839	3	56	169	3,063
Sheep and lambs sold	6,161	18	56	195	2,765
Hogs and pigs sold	4,019	19	54	1,308	2,976
Ducks, geese, and other poultry sold	(D)	21	36	995	2,200
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	(D)	16	26	1,312	1,882
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Cattle and calves inventory	109,566	3	56	104	3,064
Sheep and lamb inventory	7,010	21	56	206	2,864
Broiler inventory	3,020	6	47	676	2,620
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	2,520	13	55	914	3,002
Hogs and pigs inventory	2,290	18	56	1,289	3,005
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Wheat-acres	189,671	11	55	69	2,612
Hay crops-acres	146,401	1	56	8	3,061
Barley-acres	75,936	5	56	18	1,411
Oats-acres	3,215	2	56	216	2,332
Total canola and other rapeseed-acres	514	12	24	76	208

Some counties do not have five commodities in a group.

Other County Summary Highlights

Item	1997	1992	Percent Change
Farms by value of sales:			
Less than \$10,000	227	215	6
\$10,000 or more	589	589	
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	52,404	47,282	11
Average per farmdollars..	64,221	58,809	9
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	17,614	13,042	35
Average per farmdollars..	21,586	16,221	33
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	689	660	4
Partnership or corporation	119	139	-14
Other	8	5	60
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	571	626	-9
Other	245	178	38
Operators by sex:			
Male	759	739	3
Female	57	65	-12
Operators by race:			
White	813	802	1
Black and other races	3	2	50
Average age of operator	53.4	52.3	2

(D) Cannot be disclosed. See "Census of Agriculture Volume 1 Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

* Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.