

# 1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture  
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service



## PRAIRIE MONTANA

### Land in farms

Decreased 10 percent from 683,088 acres in 1992 to 612,906 acres in 1997.

### Average size of farms

Decreased 6 percent from 4,140 acres in 1992 to 3,879 acres in 1997.

### Full time farms

Decreased 7 percent from 141 farms in 1992 to 131 farms in 1997.

### Market value of agricultural products sold

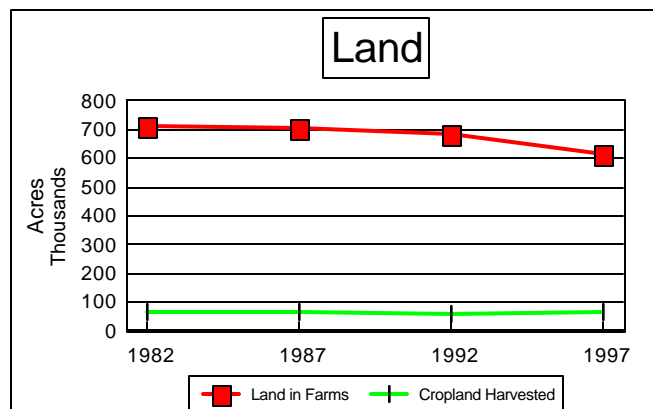
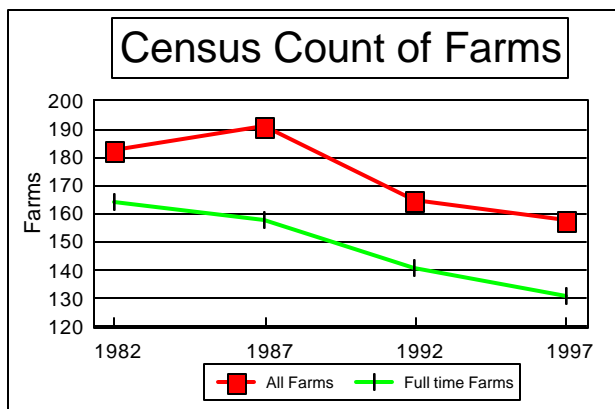
Increased 7 percent to \$20,292,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 31 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 69 percent of the market value.

### Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 12 percent from \$114,856 in 1992 to \$128,428 in 1997.



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### Ranked Items Within State and U.S., 1997

Item	Quantity	State		U.S.	
		Rank	Universe*	Rank	Universe*
<b>MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)</b>					
Total value of agricultural products sold	20,292	40	56	2,096	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	14,024	33	56	1,580	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	6,267	35	56	2,009	3,070
<b>TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)</b>					
Cattle and calves	13,498	27	56	674	3,063
Wheat	2,941	34	54	538	2,578
Other crops: potatoes, peanuts, etc	2,059	11	43	357	2,237
Barley	424	35	54	201	1,167
Sheep, lambs, and wool	390	26	56	264	2,787
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)</b>					
Cattle and calves sold	26,821	28	56	731	3,063
Sheep and lambs sold	4,214	28	56	271	2,765
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	(D)	11	26	1,127	1,882
Hogs and pigs sold	(D)	44	54	2,422	2,976
Horses and ponies sold	56	38	56	1,529	3,015
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)</b>					
Cattle and calves inventory	33,547	35	56	1,008	3,064
Sheep and lamb inventory	5,199	27	56	245	2,864
Horse and pony inventory	391	46	56	1,905	3,066
Broiler inventory	(D)	15	47	1,068	2,620
Hogs and pigs inventory	(D)	42	56	2,350	3,005
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA</b>					
Wheat-acres	37,493	32	55	375	2,612
Hay crops-acres	17,038	50	56	1,189	3,061
Barley-acres	5,572	34	56	181	1,411
Sugarbeets, sugar-acres	2,738	7	13	82	199
Corn for silage-acres	1,365	8	30	880	2,473

Some counties do not have five commodities in a group.

### Other County Summary Highlights

Item	1997	1992	Percent Change
<b>Farms by value of sales:</b>			
Less than \$10,000 .....	31	27	15
\$10,000 or more .....	127	138	-8
Total farm production expenses .....\$1,000..	17,429	14,758	18
Average per farm .....dollars..	110,310	89,443	23
<b>Net cash return from agricultural sales</b>			
for the farm unit .....\$1,000..	2,147	3,538	-39
Average per farm .....dollars..	13,588	21,441	-37
<b>Farms by type of organization:</b>			
Individual or family .....	109	130	-16
Partnership or corporation .....	46	35	31
Other .....	3	-	
<b>OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS</b>			
<b>Operators by principal occupation:</b>			
Farming .....	131	141	-7
Other .....	27	24	13
<b>Operators by sex:</b>			
Male .....	146	153	-5
Female .....	12	12	
<b>Operators by race:</b>			
White .....	156	165	-5
Black and other races .....	2	-	
Average age of operator .....	52.7	52.0	1

(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.