

1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service



CUSTER MONTANA

Land in farms

Decreased 9 percent from 2,085,181 acres in 1992 to 1,897,536 acres in 1997.

Average size of farms

Decreased 15 percent from 5,487 acres in 1992 to 4,685 acres in 1997.

Full time farms

Unchanged from 256 farms in 1992 to 256 farms in 1997.

Market value of agricultural products sold

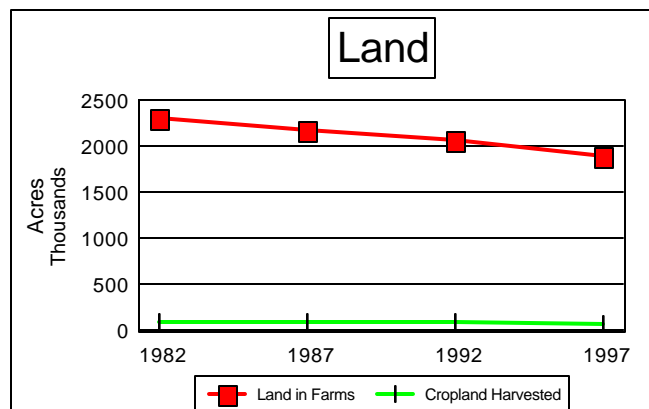
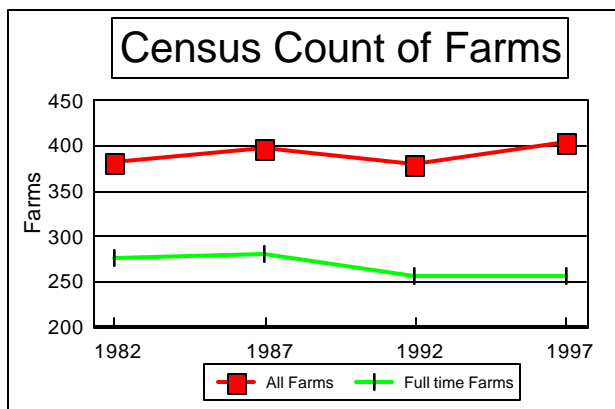
Decreased 26 percent to \$32,586,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 22 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 78 percent of the market value.

Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Decreased 30 percent from \$115,373 in 1992 to \$80,459 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	32,586	26	56	1,641	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	25,468	11	56	1,018	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	7,118	32	56	1,945	3,070
TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)					
Cattle and calves	24,685	8	56	315	3,063
Hay, silage, field seeds, grass seeds	2,484	14	56	295	3,043
Wheat	2,336	37	54	612	2,578
Other crops: potatoes, peanuts, etc	(D)	14	43	394	2,237
Sheep, lambs, and wool	439	24	56	234	2,787
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)					
Cattle and calves sold	49,292	8	56	297	3,063
Sheep and lambs sold	5,202	23	56	230	2,765
Hogs and pigs sold	365	40	54	2,191	2,976
All goats sold	(D)	4	31	696	2,686
Horses and ponies sold	86	29	56	1,076	3,015
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)					
Cattle and calves inventory	78,871	7	56	254	3,064
Sheep and lamb inventory	6,463	22	56	219	2,864
Colony of bees inventory	(D)	21	44	302	2,588
Horse and pony inventory	1,244	22	56	535	3,066
Hogs and pigs inventory	497	34	56	1,879	3,005
TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA					
Hay crops-acres	46,607	24	56	318	3,061
Wheat-acres	29,809	34	55	433	2,612
Corn for silage-acres	3,370	3	30	440	2,473
Barley-acres	3,074	41	56	224	1,411
Sugarbeets, sugar-acres	2,077	9	13	92	199

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	137	131	5
\$10,000 or more	268	249	8
Total farm production expenses\$1,000..	28,123	35,909	-22
Average per farmdollars..	69,438	94,497	-27
Net cash return from agricultural sales			
for the farm unit\$1,000..	4,909	6,908	-29
Average per farmdollars..	12,121	18,179	-33
Farms by type of organization:			
Individual or family	332	300	11
Partnership or corporation	70	73	-4
Other	3	7	-57
OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS			
Operators by principal occupation:			
Farming	256	256	
Other	149	124	20
Operators by sex:			
Male	373	356	5
Female	32	24	33
Operators by race:			
White	403	380	6
Black and other races	2	-	
Average age of operator	51.0	52.9	-4

(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.