



# MONTANA AGRICULTURAL FACTS 2023



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

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## Montana Facts and Figures

Montana's 2020 population, at 1,084,225, was up 9.6 percent from 2010, according to the United States Census Bureau. Population density, measured in people per square mile, was 7.4 in 2020, third lowest in the United States. Montana's 57.6 million acres of land in farms and ranches ranks second in the nation behind Texas.

Montana Population <sup>1</sup>		Land and Land Utilization	
Total, 2020 Census	1,084,225	Montana Total Land Area, Square Miles <sup>1</sup>	145,509.2
People Per Square Mile	7.4	Montana Total Land Area, Acres <sup>1</sup>	93,125,888
		All Land in Farms & Ranches, Acres <sup>2</sup>	57,601,320
		Proportion of Land in Farms & Ranches <sup>2</sup>	61.9%

<sup>1</sup> 2020 U.S. Population Census.

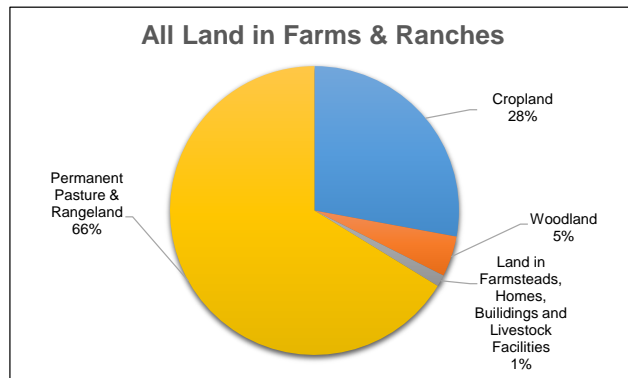
<sup>2</sup> 2022 U.S. Census of Agriculture.

Farm Financial Indicators <sup>1</sup>			(\$1,000)	
Number of Farms & Ranches	24,300		Value of Crop Production <sup>2</sup>	\$2,741,864
Average Size of Farm or Ranch	2,370	acres	Value of Animals & Products Production <sup>2</sup>	\$1,912,083
Gross Farm Income <sup>2</sup>	\$6.87	billion	Farm-Related Income <sup>2</sup>	\$1,566,485
Value of Agriculture Sector Production <sup>2</sup>	\$6.22	billion	Net Farm Income <sup>2</sup>	\$2,602,848

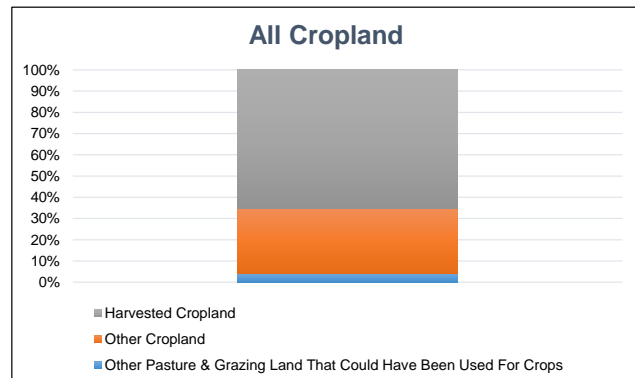
<sup>1</sup> Places with annual sales of agricultural products of \$1,000 or more.

<sup>2</sup> Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Farm Financial Indicators State Rankings, February 7, 2024.

## Land in Farms & Ranches: Utilization as a Percentage of Total



Source: 2022 Census of Agriculture



## Montana Annual Crop Summary: 2022 & 2023

Crops	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production	Season Average Price <sup>1</sup>	Value of Production <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Total Production
	(1,000)	(1,000)		(1,000)	(dollars)	(\$1,000)	(1,000)
Winter Wheat (bu) ..... 2022	2,050.0	1,800.0	33.0	59,400	8.86	526,284	1,103,062
..... 2023	1,850.0	1,680.0	51.0	85,680	6.75	578,340	1,247,748
Durum Wheat (bu) ..... 2022	710.0	675.0	28.0	18,900	11.20	211,680	63,981
..... 2023	705.0	675.0	31.0	20,925	9.60	200,880	59,329
Spring Wheat (bu) ..... 2022	2,700.0	2,440.0	25.0	61,000	9.03	550,830	482,670
..... 2023	2,700.0	2,670	30.0	80,100	7.45	596,745	504,900
All Wheat (bu) ..... 2022	5,460.0	4,915.0	28.3	139,300	9.24	1,288,794	1,649,713
..... 2023	5,255.0	5,025.0	37.2	186,705	7.35	1,375,965	1,811,977
Barley (bu) ..... 2022	1,030.0	840.0	41.0	34,440	4.93	169,789	173,920
..... 2023	1,190.0	1,015.0	49.0	49,735	7.30	363,066	185,036
Oats (bu) ..... 2022	85.0	24.0	38.0	912	(D)	(D)	57,669
..... 2023	65.0	22.0	37.0	814	3.60	2,930	57,045
Corn for Grain (bu) <sup>2</sup> ..... 2022	130.0	69.0	112.0	7,728	7.16	55,332	13,650,531
..... 2023	135.0	68.0	129.0	8,772	4.85	42,544	15,341,595
Corn for Silage (tons) ..... 2022	--	54.0	21.0	1,134	--	--	128,287
..... 2023	--	62.0	23.0	1,426	--	--	129,994
Sugarbeets (tons) ..... 2022	33.7	33.6	30.5	1,025	41.00	42,025	32,644
..... 2023	23.7	23.3	31.6	736	--	--	35,226
Alfalfa Hay (tons) <sup>3</sup> ..... 2022	--	1,430.0	2.05	2,932	242.00	709,544	48,838
..... 2023	--	1,650.0	2.10	3,465	188.00	651,420	49,916
Other Hay (tons) <sup>3</sup> ..... 2022	--	860.0	1.40	1,204	227.00	273,308	62,900
..... 2023	--	1,050.0	1.75	1,838	173.00	317,974	68,853
All Hay (tons) <sup>3</sup> ..... 2022	--	2,290.0	1.81	4,136	238.00	982,852	111,738
..... 2023	--	2,700.0	1.96	5,303	186.00	969,394	118,769
Chickpeas (cwt) ..... 2022	185.0	171.4	760.0	1,299	35.30	46,649	3,686
..... 2023	174.0	164.5	1,210.0	1,987	36.00	70,074	4,722
Lentils (cwt) ..... 2022	520.0	463.0	890.0	4,121	32.80	135,169	5,650
..... 2023	390.0	373.0	1,090.0	4,066	38.80	157,761	5,742
Dry Edible Peas (cwt) ..... 2022	550.0	510.0	1,450.0	7,395	12.70	93,917	15,517
..... 2023	580.0	570.0	1,740.0	9,918	14.70	145,795	18,086
Canola (lbs) ..... 2022	180.0	167.0	1,030.0	172,010	24.40	41,970	3,814,823
..... 2023	165.0	160.0	1,420.0	227,200	23.10	52,483	4,157,420
Flaxseed (bu) ..... 2023	98.0	80.0	11.0	880	19.90	17,512	4,282
..... 2023	68.0	57.0	14.0	798	14.00	11,172	2,961
Safflower (lbs) ..... 2022	44.0	35.0	590.0	20,650	28.70	5,927	161,450
..... 2023	47.0	46.0	760.0	34,960	35.40	12,376	130,570

-- Not Available

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> 2023 Season Average Price and Value of Production are preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Planted for all purposes.

<sup>3</sup> Price of baled hay.

## Selected Montana Livestock: 2023 & 2024

Item	January 1, 2023	January 1, 2024	Percent of Previous Year
All Cattle & Calves..... (head)	2,160,000	2,120,000	98%
Cows & Heifers That Have Calved..... (head)	1,280,000	1,260,000	98%
Beef Cows..... (head)	1,271,000	1,251,000	98%
Milk Cows..... (head)	9,000	9,000	100%
Heifers 500 Pounds & Over			
For Beef Cow Replacement..... (head)	300,000	305,000	102%
For Milk Cow Replacement..... (head)	4,000	4,000	100%
Other Heifers..... (head)	186,000	186,000	100%
Steers 500 Pounds & Over..... (head)	220,000	200,000	91%
Bulls 500 Pounds & Over..... (head)	95,000	90,000	95%
Calves Less Than 500 Pounds..... (head)	75,000	75,000	100%
Cattle On Feed..... (head)	38,000	38,000	100%
Calf Crop <sup>1</sup> ..... (head)	1,270,000	1,250,000	98%

Item	January 1, 2023	January 1, 2024	Percent of Previous Year
All Sheep & Lambs..... (head)	190,000	180,000	95%
Breeding Sheep..... (head)	156,000	149,000	96%
Ewes..... (head)	118,000	114,000	97%
Rams..... (head)	5,000	5,000	100%
Replacement Lambs..... (head)	33,000	30,000	91%
Market Sheep & Lambs..... (head)	34,000	31,000	91%
Sheep..... (head)	2,000	2,000	100%
Lambs..... (head)	32,000	29,000	91%
Lamb Crop <sup>1</sup> ..... (head)	150,000	144,000	96%
Wool Production <sup>1</sup> ..... (lbs)	1,400,000	1,380,000	99%
Number of Sheep Shorn <sup>1</sup> ..... (head)	160,000	160,000	100%
Average Pounds per Fleece <sup>1</sup> ..... (lbs)	8.8	8.6	98%

Item	December 1, 2022	December 1, 2023	Percent of Previous Year
All Hogs & Pigs..... (head)	225,000	240,000	107%
Kept for Breeding..... (head)	50,000	57,000	114%
Market..... (head)	175,000	183,000	105%
Sows Farrowing Dec-Nov <sup>1</sup> ..... (head)	101,000	106,000	105%
Pig Crop Dec-Nov <sup>1</sup> ..... (head)	1,235,000	1,309,000	106%
Pigs per litter Dec-Nov <sup>1</sup> ..... (head)	12.23	12.35	101%

<sup>1</sup> Results are from one year before column header.

## Market Year Average Prices Received by Montana Producers: 2000-2023 <sup>1</sup>

Item	2000	2005	2010	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 <sup>2</sup>
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
All Wheat..... (bu)	3.02	3.63	6.29	4.69	5.24	8.84	9.24	7.35
Winter Wheat..... (bu)	2.87	3.51	5.81	4.55	5.05	7.66	8.86	6.75
Spring Wheat..... (bu)	3.03	3.80	6.87	4.81	5.30	8.89	9.03	7.45
Durum Wheat..... (bu)	3.52	3.45	6.22	4.84	5.78	13.50	11.20	9.60
Barley..... (bu)	2.38	2.92	4.08	4.43	4.40	6.27	4.93	7.30
Oats..... (bu)	1.13	1.63	2.66	3.14	3.12	3.98	(D)	3.60
Alfalfa Hay..... (tons)	86.50	71.00	79.00	143.00	132.00	228.00	242.00	188.00
Milk, All..... (cwt)	12.80	15.30	16.90	18.30	18.60	18.10	25.30	--
Wool..... (lbs)	0.37	0.98	1.60	2.50	2.20	2.20	2.25	2.00

-- Not Available

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Crops are season average prices for each crop's respective marketing year. Other prices are averages weighted by monthly sales.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary

## Rank in Agriculture: Montana's Rank among States – 2023

Commodity	Unit	Montana		Leading State		United States
		Rank	Production	State	Production	
<b>Field Crops</b>						
Barley .....	(1,000 bu)	2	49,735	Idaho	60,480	185,036
Lentils .....	(1,000 cwt)	1	4,066	Montana	4,066	5,742
Dry Edible Peas.....	(1,000 cwt)	1	9,918	Montana	9,918	18,086
Chickpeas .....	(1,000 cwt)	1	1,987	Montana	1,987	4,722
Small Chickpeas .....	(1,000 cwt)	2	414	Washington	484	1,403
Large Chickpeas .....	(1,000 cwt)	1	1,573	Montana	1,573	3,319
Canola .....	(1,000 lbs)	3	227,200	North Dakota	3,466,150	4,157,420
Corn, Grain .....	(1,000 bu)	35	8,772	Iowa	2,522,550	15,341,595
Corn, Silage.....	(1,000 tons)	24	1,426	Wisconsin	16,380	129,994
Flaxseed.....	(1,000 bu)	2	798	North Dakota	2,163	2,961
Hay, All .....	(1,000 tons)	5	5,303	Texas	8,748	118,769
Hay, Alfalfa .....	(1,000 tons)	3	3,465	Idaho	4,500	49,916
Hay, Other .....	(1,000 tons)	12	1,838	Texas	8,280	68,853
Oats .....	(1,000 bu)	19	814	North Dakota	7,980	57,045
Safflower.....	(1,000 lbs)	2	34,960	California	45,150	130,570
Sugarbeets .....	(1,000 tons)	8	736	Minnesota	12,571	35,226
Wheat, All .....	(1,000 bu)	3	186,705	North Dakota	307,845	1,811,977
Wheat, Other Spring.....	(1,000 bu)	2	80,100	North Dakota	267,720	504,900
Wheat, Durum .....	(1,000 bu)	2	20,925	North Dakota	32,005	59,329
Wheat, Winter.....	(1,000 bu)	3	85,680	Kansas	201,250	1,247,748
<b>Livestock <sup>1</sup></b>						
All Cattle & Calves.....	(1,000 head)	13	2,120.0	Texas	12,000.0	87,157.4
All Cows <sup>2</sup> .....	(1,000 head)	9	1,260.0	Texas	4,750.0	37,579.8
Calf Crop .....	(1,000 head)	9	1,250.0	Texas	4,250.0	33,593.0
Beef Cows <sup>2</sup> .....	(1,000 head)	7	1,251.0	Texas	4,115.0	28,223.0
Milk Cows <sup>2</sup> .....	(1,000 head)	37	9.0	California	1,715.0	9,356.8
Milk Production.....	(mil lbs)	37	210	California	40,902	226,364
Cattle on Feed <sup>3</sup> .....	(1,000 head)	22	38.0	Texas	2,870.0	14,423.3
All Chickens (Excl Broilers) .....	(1,000 head)	32	1,605	Iowa	54,957	522,578
All Layers.....	(1,000 head)	32	1,247	Iowa	43,443	386,408
Egg Production <sup>4</sup> .....	(mil eggs)	31	376.0	Iowa	13,421.4	109,526.0
All Hogs & Pigs.....	(1,000 head)	20	240.0	Iowa	24,900.0	75,816
Breeding Hogs & Pigs .....	(1,000 head)	16	57.0	Iowa	870.0	5,998.7
Pig Crop <sup>4</sup> .....	(1,000 head)	16	1,309.0	Iowa	21,934.0	135,163.9
Market Hogs & Pigs.....	(1,000 head)	20	183.0	Iowa	24,030.0	68,972.6
Honey Production .....	(1,000 lbs)	4	9,690	North Dakota	38,325	138,571
All Sheep & Lambs .....	(1,000 head)	8	180.0	Texas	655.0	5,030.0
Breeding Sheep & Lambs .....	(1000 head)	8	149.0	Texas	515.0	3,670.0
Lamb Crop.....	(1,000 head)	7	144.0	Texas	335.0	3,030.0
Market Sheep & Lambs.....	(1,000 head)	10	31.0	California	230.0	1,360.0
Wool Production .....	(1,000 lbs)	7	1,380	California, Wyoming	2,300	22,700
<b>Miscellaneous</b>						
Farms .....	(number)	31	24,300	Texas	231,000	1,894,950
Land in Farms.....	(1,000 acres)	2	57,600	Texas	125,000	878,560
Average Size of Farm.....	(acres)	2	2,370	Wyoming	2,743	464

<sup>1</sup> Inventory January 1, 2024 for cattle and sheep; December 1, 2023 for hogs and chickens.

<sup>2</sup> Cows and heifers that have calved.

<sup>3</sup> Feedlots greater than 1,000 head.

<sup>4</sup> Pig crop & Egg production for the marketing Year December 1, 2022-November 30, 2023.