

MONTANA AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is Montana's #1 industry!



Montana ranks #2 in the U.S. with land in farms and ranches - totaling nearly 59.8 million acres!

Top 10 counties in agriculture cash receipts:

1. Yellowstone
6. Beaverhead
2. Choteau
7. Teton
3. Hill
8. Richland
4. Valley
9. Sheridan
5. Fergus
10. Roosevelt

Montana's top 10 cash receipt commodities:

- #1 Wheat and barley
- #2 Cattle and calves
- #3 Alfalfa and hay
- #4 Sugar beets
- #5 Dry peas
- #6 Hogs
- #7 Dairy products
- #8 Potatoes
- #9 Lentils
- #10 Corn

Top 5 winter wheat producing counties: Choteau, Hill, Fergus, Cascade, and Big Horn

Top 5 spring wheat producing counties: Valley, Roosevelt, Hill, McCone, and Daniels

Montana farmers produce over 203 million bushels of wheat varieties for bread, pasta, cereals, animal feed, and more each year. Montana ranks as one of the top 5 wheat producing states in the U.S. Choteau County is the #3 overall wheat producing county in the U.S.

Montana's livestock inventory includes:
2,550,000 cattle
220,000 sheep
166,000 swine

Montana's top 5 cattle producing counties: Beaverhead, Fergus, Big Horn, Yellowstone, and Phillips. Beaverhead County is the #5 beef producing county in the U.S.

Pulse crops such as dry peas, dry beans, lentils, and garbanzo beans have been rising in production acres in Montana for the last several years. Dry peas made the top 5 commodity list for Montana in 2012, and production continues to grow. Montana now ranks as the #1 producer of lentils and dry edible peas, and the #3 producer of garbanzo beans in the U.S.

There are over 265,000 head of cattle and 17,000 head of horses on the 7 Indian reservations in our state. Total value of agricultural products sold on reservations in Montana by Indians was \$96,372,000. Indian owned farms produced over 435,000 tons of hay for feed and sales.

Approximately 6% of Montana farms and ranchlands are owned by Indians, both on and off reservations.



MAP KEY

ALFALFA AND HAY FORAGES

BEEF CATTLE

CHERRIES

CHRISTMAS TREES

CORN

DAIRY

FARMER'S MARKET

HONEY

HOGS

HORSES

OILSEED CROPS
safflower, canola, sunflower

POTATOES

POULTRY

PULSE CROPS
dried peas & beans, lentils, and garbanzo beans

SMALL GRAINS
wheat, barley, and oats

SHEEP

SUGAR BEETS

Montana Department of Agriculture, Agriculture in the Classroom Program. Data based upon USDA-NASS statistics.



Bees visit 50 to 100 flowers during one collection trip, tapping two million flowers to produce one pound of honey. U.S. per capita consumption of honey is just over one pound. Montana ranks 2nd in the U.S. for honey production. Apiaries (groups of hives) are found all across Montana.

Montana Agriculture in the Classroom offers many resources for agriculture literacy in Pre-K to grade 12 classrooms which are ready to integrate into your subject areas. Find us at: <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/AgClassroom/> and on Facebook!

This agriculture literacy education project was funded in part by:

- Montana Department of Agriculture
- Montana Pulse Growers Association
- Montana Wheat & Barley Association

The State of Montana is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (agr.mt.gov)

Copyright © 2015 This work is distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0 license.

