

2002 Census of Agriculture County Profile

Fergus, Montana

Number of farms

830 farms in 2002, 893 farms in 1997, down 7 percent.

Land in farms

2,281,789 acres in 2002, 2,229,507 acres in 1997, up 2 percent.

Average size of farm

2,749 acres in 2002, 2,497 acres in 1997, up 10 percent.

Market Value of Production

\$61,207,000 in 2002, \$72,817,000 in 1997, down 16 percent.

Crop sales accounted for \$18,860,000 of the total value in 2002.

Livestock sales accounted for \$42,346,000 of the total value in 2002.

Market Value of Production, average per farm

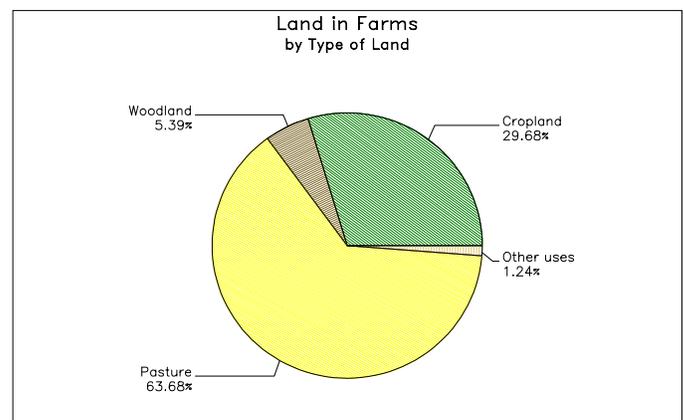
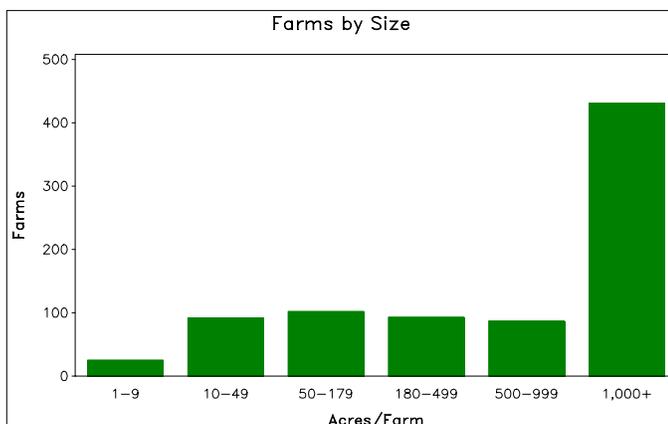
\$73,743 in 2002, \$81,542 in 1997, down 10 percent.

Government Payments

\$6,125,000 in 2002, \$6,245,000 in 1997, down 2 percent.

Government Payments, average per farm receiving payments

\$14,480 in 2002, \$12,902 in 1997, up 12 percent.



**2002 Census of Agriculture
County Profile
United States Department of Agriculture, Montana Agricultural Statistics Service**

Fergus, Montana

Ranked items among the 56 state counties and 3,078 U.S. counties, 2002

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe ¹	U.S. Rank	Universe ¹
MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)					
Total value of agricultural products sold	61,207	8	56	939	3,075
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	18,860	17	56	1,216	3,070
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	42,346	4	56	681	3,070
VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	16,647	12	55	769	2,871
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	560
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	656
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	(D)	(D)	41	(D)	2,747
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	-	-	22	-	2,638
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	(D)	(D)	41	(D)	2,708
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	(D)	(D)	8	(D)	1,774
Other crops and hay	1,881	29	56	693	3,046
Poultry and eggs	17	25	52	1,780	2,918
Cattle and calves	38,500	4	56	213	3,053
Milk and other dairy products from cows	1,440	8	46	1,182	2,493
Hogs and pigs	51	30	53	1,698	2,919
Sheep, goats, and their products	393	22	56	233	2,997
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	(D)	(D)	56	(D)	3,014
Aquaculture	(D)	(D)	14	(D)	1,520
Other animals and other animal products	606	15	52	223	2,727
TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)					
Cattle and calves	96,825	3	56	142	3,059
Sheep and lambs	6,576	17	56	180	2,867
Layers 20 weeks old and older	2,364	16	54	943	2,983
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	2,154	10	47	748	2,599
Horses and ponies	1,979	16	56	496	3,065
TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)					
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	163,614	1	56	9	3,059
All Wheat for grain	151,901	12	54	66	2,517
Barley	43,118	7	55	21	1,246
Oats	1,982	5	55	249	2,215
Canola	1,335	8	22	60	165

Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	173	Farming	571
\$1,000 to \$2,499	59	Other	259
\$2,500 to \$4,999	27		
\$5,000 to \$9,999	61	Principal operators by sex:	
\$10,000 to \$19,999	56	Male	748
\$20,000 to \$24,999	26	Female	82
\$25,000 to \$39,999	48		
\$40,000 to \$49,999	30	Average age of principal operator (years)	55.2
\$50,000 to \$99,999	132		
\$100,000 to \$249,999	175	All operators ² by race:	
\$250,000 to \$499,999	31	White	1,251
\$500,000 or more	12	Black or African American	-
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	57,405	American Indian or Alaska Native	-
Average per farm (\$)	69,414	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	-
		Asian	-
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	12,518	More than one race	3
Average per farm (\$)	15,137	All operators ² of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	7

(D) Cannot be disclosed. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

¹ Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.

² Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.