



USDA-NASS Montana Field Office

Fact Finders for Agriculture



U.S. American Indian Agriculture at a Glance

NASS MISSION

To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture.

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The 2012 Census of Agriculture shows us that U.S. farmers and ranchers are becoming more diverse and that the number of American Indian or Alaska Native farm operators continues to rise.

The 2012 Census counted a total of 71,947 American Indian or Alaska

Native operators on 56,092 farms and ranches across the United States.

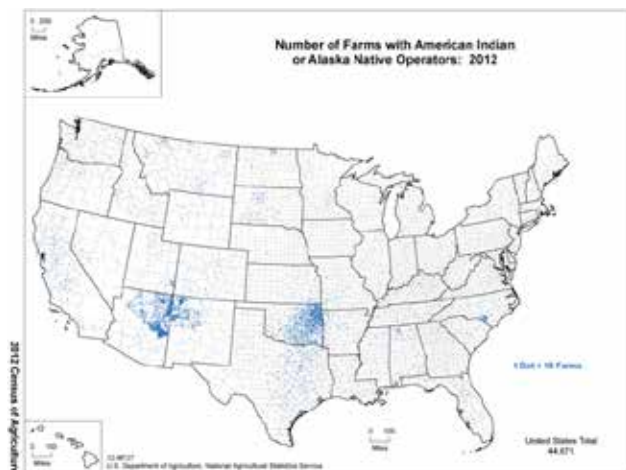
When compared to all farms nationwide, those with American Indian or Alaska Native principal operators tend to be smaller in terms of sales but significantly larger in size. These operations are also less likely to have Internet access.

Farm/Ranch Operations	All Farms	American Indian Operated Farms
Average Size of Farm	434 acres	1,021 acres
Average Value of Sales	\$187,097	\$57,801
Sales & Government Payments <\$10,000	54%	78%
Farms with Internet Access	70%	46%

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Thirty-seven percent of all American Indian-operated farms are classified as beef cattle farms and ranches, compared to 29 percent of all farms. Another 16 percent are classified as sheep and goat farms, compared to 3 percent of farms overall. And, while 18 percent of farms overall are classified as grain and oilseed farms, only 5 percent of American Indian-operated farms fall into this category.

American Indian principal farm operators are more likely than their counterparts nationwide to report farming as their primary occupation and they are also more likely to live on the acres they operate. They are also more likely to own all of the land that they operate, rather than renting or leasing land.



Farm/Ranch Operators	All Operators	American Indian Operators
Male	70%	60%
Farming as Primary Occupation	44%	50%
Worked Off Farm	62%	64%
4 Years or Less on Present Farm	8%	11%
65 Years or Older	29%	28%
Average Age of Operators	56.3	55.5

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

2012 Blackfeet Reservation Information



The Blackfeet Indian Reservation is located in northwestern Montana along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains and includes most of Glacier County. On the north the reservation borders the Canadian province of Alberta. The reservation shares its western border with Glacier National Park and its southwest border with the Badger-Two Medicine portion of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Other natural boundaries include Birch Creek and Cut Bank Creek. Elevations vary from a low of 3,400 feet in the southwest to a high of over 9,000 feet at Chief Mountain on the northwest boundary. The Blackfeet Indian Tribe organized in 1935 under the Indian Reorganization Act. The Blackfeet Reservation is the third largest Indian reservation in Montana.

Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	
Farms	Number	526	335	Operators	Number	797	422	
Land in Farms Reservation Acres in Farms	Acres	1,771,525	957,476	Operator Gender	Male	563	307	
	Acres	1,329,854	874,564		Female	234	115	
Total Cropland	Farms	296	153	Primary Occupation	Farming	452	211	
	Acres	497,108	113,118		Other	345	211	
Harvested Cropland	Farms	254	129	All Operators	Average Age	54	55	
	Acres	313,138	72,080					
Irrigated Land	Farms	130	69	Farms with Internet Access	Number	330	183	
	Acres	72,027	72,027					
All Wheat for Grain	Farms	95	27	Renewable Energy Providing Systems	Farms	16	6	
	Acres	121,889	23,448					
	Bushels	4,210,226	889,467					
Barley for Grain	Farms	100	32	Forage Land	Farms	204	116	
	Acres	98,224	20,806		Acres	61,802	25,216	
	Bushels	3,823,633	673,551		Tons, dry	97,435	37,030	
Horses and Ponies Inventory	Farms	308	227	Horses and Ponies Sold	Farms	69	50	
	Number	5,437	4,816		Number	787	743	
Cattle and Calves Inventory	Farms	315	210	Cattle and Calves Sold	Farms	292	185	
	Number	66,432	32,267		Number	36,096	16,070	

^{1/} Data are for farms and ranches reporting at least some agricultural production on reservations during 2012.

^{2/} At least one of the reported operators (out of a maximum of three) is self-identified as American Indian either exclusively or in combination with other races.

2012 Crow Reservation Information



The Crow Indian Reservation, the largest of Montana's reservations, is located mainly in Big Horn County in south central Montana and is bordered by Wyoming to the south. The reservation's northwest boundary is about ten miles from Billings, Montana. Three mountain ranges, the Big Horn, Pryor and Wolf, provide the reservation with varied topography from mountains to plains. The reservation also has productive irrigated valleys along the Big Horn and Little Big Horn Rivers and Pryor Creek. The reservation boundaries were finally fixed by 1904. The Crow Indian Tribe adopted a written constitution in 1948.

Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	
Farms	Number	361	157	Operators	Number	581	218	
Land in Farms	Acres	2,995,677	1,500,893	Operator Gender	Male	404	159	
Reservation Acres in Farms	Acres	2,319,933	1,395,271		Female	177	59	
Total Cropland	Farms	218	64	Primary Occupation	Farming	305	65	
	Acres	229,729	14,187		Other	276	153	
Harvested Cropland	Farms	192	48	All Operators	Average Age	56	54	
	Acres	163,952	5,060					
Irrigated Land	Farms	107	16	Farms with Internet Access	Number	241	73	
	Acres	35,382	1,280					
All Wheat for Grain	Farms	64	4	Renewable Energy Providing Systems	Farms	16	1	
	Acres	100,535	395					
	Bushels	2,998,461	21,735					
Barley for Grain	Farms	28	(D)	Forage Land	Farms	166	46	
	Acres	7,395	(D)		Acres	38,912	4,637	
	Bushels	615,998	(D)		Tons, dry	69,416	5,189	
Horses and Ponies Inventory	Farms	256	137	Horses and Ponies Sold	Farms	56	29	
	Number	4,127	2,021		Number	294	130	
Cattle and Calves Inventory	Farms	211	76	Cattle and Calves Sold	Farms	189	68	
	Number	82,873	15,990		Number	61,744	9,167	

1/ Data are for farms and ranches reporting at least some agricultural production on reservations during 2012.

2/ At least one of the reported operators (out of a maximum of three) is self-identified as American Indian either exclusively or in combination with other races.

(D) Not disclosed

2012 Flathead Reservation Information



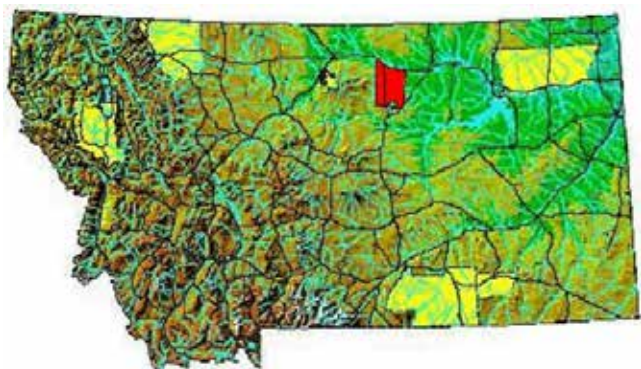
The Flathead Indian Reservation is located in northwestern Montana on the western slope of the Continental Divide and encompasses portions of four Montana counties - Flathead, Lake, Missoula and Sanders. The reservation area consists of a beautiful valley surrounded by Flathead Lake to the north and the Cabinet Mountains and Mission Range to the west and east, respectively. The rolling prairie on the western edge of the reservation is mainly used for cattle grazing, while the eastern area is mainly agricultural and forested land. The Flathead Indian Tribe organized in 1935 under the Indian Reorganization Act. The Flathead Reservation is the fourth largest Indian reservation in Montana.

Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	
Farms	Number	942	181	Operators	Number	1,532	205	
Land in Farms	Acres	811,789	507,524	Operator Gender	Male	951	144	
Reservation Acres in Farms	Acres	705,206	491,297		Female	581	61	
Total Cropland	Farms	651	105	Primary Occupation	Farming	685	74	
	Acres	89,251	17,989		Other	847	131	
Harvested Cropland	Farms	620	98	All Operators	Average Age	56	57	
	Acres	71,821	14,238					
Irrigated Land	Farms	652	107	Farms with Internet Access	Number	690	130	
	Acres	87,528	14,529					
All Wheat for Grain	Farms	64	5	Renewable Energy Providing Systems	Farms	28	2	
	Acres	13,082	2,295					
	Bushels	915,696	149,598					
Barley for Grain	Farms	21	4	Forage Land	Farms	523	95	
	Acres	1,618	330		Acres	52,194	11,067	
	Bushels	96,153	14,283		Tons, dry	118,947	22,608	
Horses and Ponies Inventory	Farms	449	103	Horses and Ponies Sold	Farms	100	19	
	Number	3,316	650		Number	414	42	
Cattle and Calves Inventory	Farms	482	106	Cattle and Calves Sold	Farms	427	85	
	Number	48,483	8,011		Number	33,747	5,920	

^{1/} Data are for farms and ranches reporting at least some agricultural production on reservations during 2012.

^{2/} At least one of the reported operators (out of a maximum of three) is self-identified as American Indian either exclusively or in combination with other races.

2012 Fort Belknap Reservation Information



The Fort Belknap Indian Reservation is located in north central Montana, forty miles south of the Canadian border and twenty miles north of the Missouri River. The reservation is south of the Milk River with nearly 92 percent of the reservation in Blaine County and the rest of the reservation in Phillips County. Almost all of the northern portion of the reservation consists of flat glacial plains and alluvial bottoms, while the southern portion consists of rolling grasslands and two mountain ranges, the Bearpaw Mountains and the Little Rocky Mountains. The Fort Belknap Indian Tribe organized in 1935 under the Indian Reorganization Act. The Fort Belknap Reservation is the fifth largest Indian reservation in Montana.

Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	
Farms	Number	150	121	Operators	Number	221	163	
Land in Farms	Acres	707,759	561,541	Operator Gender	Male	163	119	
Reservation Acres in Farms	Acres	555,480	494,945		Female	58	44	
Total Cropland	Farms	100	77	Primary Occupation	Farming	138	92	
	Acres	180,737	139,317		Other	83	71	
Harvested Cropland	Farms	91	68	All Operators	Average Age	54	55	
	Acres	77,905	50,841					
Irrigated Land	Farms	35	23	Farms with Internet Access	Number	92	65	
	Acres	18,336	10,390					
All Wheat for Grain	Farms	31	24	Renewable Energy Providing Systems	Farms	2	1	
	Acres	42,312	28,428					
	Bushels	1,339,006	885,626					
Barley for Grain	Farms	9	4	Forage Land	Farms	79	61	
	Acres	1,268	501		Acres	33,898	21,485	
	Bushels	55,482	29,462		Tons, dry	50,861	28,583	
Horses and Ponies Inventory	Farms	86	70	Horses and Ponies Sold	Farms	22	17	
	Number	1,330	1,028		Number	131	88	
Cattle and Calves Inventory	Farms	88	71	Cattle and Calves Sold	Farms	82	66	
	Number	23,449	11,692		Number	12,431	7,307	

^{1/} Data are for farms and ranches reporting at least some agricultural production on reservations during 2012.

^{2/} At least one of the reported operators (out of a maximum of three) is self-identified as American Indian either exclusively or in combination with other races.

2012 Fort Peck Reservation Information



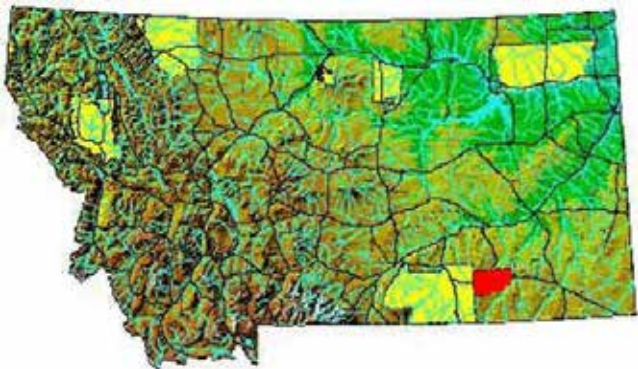
The Fort Peck Indian Reservation, the second largest of Montana’s reservations, is located in northeastern Montana and includes parts of Valley, Daniels, Sheridan and Roosevelt Counties. The reservation is located forty miles west of the North Dakota border and fifty miles south of the Canadian border. The Missouri River borders the reservation on the south. Minor tributaries of the Missouri River cut through the reservation’s rolling hills and plains. The Fort Peck Indian Tribe adopted a written constitution in 1927.

Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	
Farms	Number	564	117	Operators	Number	877	137	
Land in Farms	Acres	1,797,209	529,557	Operator Gender	Male	610	88	
Reservation Acres in Farms	Acres	1,228,064	478,392		Female	267	49	
Total Cropland	Farms	511	100	Primary Occupation	Farming	597	78	
	Acres	1,017,190	154,236		Other	280	59	
Harvested Cropland	Farms	427	84	All Operators	Average Age	56	55	
	Acres	727,914	85,577					
Irrigated Land	Farms	89	18	Farms with Internet Access	Number	442	81	
	Acres	30,814	4,916					
All Wheat for Grain	Farms	362	57	Renewable Energy Providing Systems	Farms	6	1	
	Acres	565,149	63,188					
	Bushels	17,450,610	1,961,371					
Barley for Grain	Farms	29	4	Forage Land	Farms	212	50	
	Acres	7,163	390		Acres	55,249	12,681	
	Bushels	425,756	12,754		Tons, dry	85,326	19,139	
Horses and Ponies Inventory	Farms	141	36	Horses and Ponies Sold	Farms	20	13	
	Number	1,357	794		Number	113	98	
Cattle and Calves Inventory	Farms	201	41	Cattle and Calves Sold	Farms	187	34	
	Number	33,203	6,051		Number	19,896	3,722	

1/ Data are for farms and ranches reporting at least some agricultural production on reservations during 2012.

2/ At least one of the reported operators (out of a maximum of three) is self-identified as American Indian either exclusively or in combination with other races.

2012 Northern Cheyenne Reservation Information



The Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, situated in southeastern Montana, borders the Crow Reservation on the west and the Tongue River on the east. The reservation lies within Big Horn and Rosebud Counties and consists of rugged and partially mountainous terrain, primarily suited for livestock grazing. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe organized in 1936 under the Indian Reorganization Act. The Northern Cheyenne Reservation is the second smallest Indian reservation in the state.

Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	
Farms	Number	108	102	Operators	Number	150	126	
Land in Farms Reservation Acres in Farms	Acres	516,498	(D)	Operator Gender	Male	107	96	
	Acres	487,327	(D)		Female	43	30	
Total Cropland	Farms	63	61	Primary Occupation	Farming	45	38	
	Acres	13,971	(D)		Other	105	88	
Harvested Cropland	Farms	32	30	All Operators	Average Age	57	57	
	Acres	5,357	(D)					
Irrigated Land	Farms	1	1	Farms with Internet Access	Number	82	78	
	Acres	(D)	(D)					
All Wheat for Grain	Farms	2	--	Renewable Energy Providing Systems	Farms	12	12	
	Acres	(D)	--					
	Bushels	(D)	--					
Barley for Grain	Farms	1	--	Forage Land	Farms	32	30	
	Acres	(D)	--		Acres	5,182	(D)	
	Bushels	(D)	--		Tons, dry	6,052	(D)	
Horses and Ponies Inventory	Farms	91	86	Horses and Ponies Sold	Farms	12	12	
	Number	1,049	1,028		Number	74	74	
Cattle and Calves Inventory	Farms	62	56	Cattle and Calves Sold	Farms	61	55	
	Number	8,577	7,480		Number	7,404	6,636	

^{1/} Data are for farms and ranches reporting at least some agricultural production on reservations during 2012.

^{2/} At least one of the reported operators (out of a maximum of three) is self-identified as American Indian either exclusively or in combination with other races.

-- None. (D) Not disclosed.

2012 Rocky Boy's Reservation Information



The Rocky Boy's Reservation, the smallest of Montana's reservations, is located in north central Montana. A large portion of the reservation lies within Hill County, and the smaller portion lies within Choteau County. The Bear Paw Mountains in the north provide spectacular contrast to the nearly level bottom lands in the southern portion of the reservation. Elevations vary from a high of more than 6000 feet in the mountains to a low of about 2000 feet in the bottom lands. The Rocky Boy's Tribe organized in 1935 under the Indian Reorganization Act.

Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	Characteristics	Unit	Total ^{1/}	American Indian Operators ^{2/}	
Farms	Number	79	74	Operators	Number	97	86	
Land in Farms Reservation Acres in Farms	Acres	105,475	94,558	Operator Gender	Male	77	70	
	Acres	87,582	83,995		Female	20	16	
Total Cropland	Farms	48	43	Primary Occupation	Farming	23	14	
	Acres	23,730	16,040		Other	74	72	
Harvested Cropland	Farms	36	31	All Operators	Average Age	53	53	
	Acres	14,335	10,055					
Irrigated Land	Farms	2	1	Farms with Internet Access	Number	53	48	
	Acres	(D)	(D)					
All Wheat for Grain	Farms	10	7	Renewable Energy Providing Systems	Farms	2	2	
	Acres	9,704	6,544					
	Bushels	308,524	(D)					
Barley for Grain	Farms	--	--	Forage Land	Farms	28	25	
	Acres	--	--		Acres	4,431	(D)	
	Bushels	--	--		Tons, dry	7,731	(D)	
Horses and Ponies Inventory	Farms	50	48	Horses and Ponies Sold	Farms	15	15	
	Number	430	(D)		Number	79	79	
Cattle and Calves Inventory	Farms	37	35	Cattle and Calves Sold	Farms	31	29	
	Number	2,893	(D)		Number	1,897	(D)	

^{1/} Data are for farms and ranches reporting at least some agricultural production on reservations during 2012.

^{2/} At least one of the reported operators (out of a maximum of three) is self-identified as American Indian either exclusively or in combination with other races.

-- None. (D) Not disclosed.

2012 American Indian or Alaska Native Operators

Geographic Area	All Farms			Geographic Area	All Farms		
	Number of Farms	Total Operators	Land in Farms (Acres)		Number of Farms	Total Operators	Land in Farms (Acres)
Montana	1,478	1,787	5,111,311				
Beaverhead	5	5	(D)	Missoula	16	17	36,515
Big Horn	207		1,441,848	Musselshell	6	6	(D)
Blaine	123		674,199	Park	4	5	(D)
Broadwater	2		(D)	Petroleum	(D)	(D)	(D)
Carbon	6		(D)	Phillips	44	52	151,737
Carter	(D)	(D)	(D)	Pondera	60	73	108,186
Cascade	12	12	2,127	Powder River	6	6	4,400
Choteau	10	12	26,164	Powell	2	2	(D)
Custer	4	4	(D)	Prairie	2	2	(D)
Daniels	4	4	25,457	Ravalli	9	11	123
Dawson	1	1	(D)	Richland	8	8	7,815
Deer Lodge	2	2	(D)	Roosevelt	130	136	353,969
Fallon	(D)	(D)	(D)	Rosebud	61	72	317,075
Fergus	5	5	9,360	Sanders	39	41	152,962
Flathead	13	13	4,307	Sheridan	5	5	12,648
Gallatin	6	7	364	Silver Bow	(D)	(D)	(D)
Garfield	4	4	3,476	Stillwater	(D)	(D)	(D)
Glacier	349	437	881,423	Sweet Grass	(D)	(D)	(D)
Golden Valley	(D)	(D)	(D)	Teton	14	14	17,699
Granite	3	3	(D)	Toole	(D)	(D)	(D)
Hill	83	96	89,869	Treasure	1	1	(D)
Jefferson	4	4	(D)	Valley	18	22	(D)
Lake	129	149	297,527	Wheatland	(D)	(D)	(D)
Lewis & Clark	13	14	1,054	Wibaux	(D)	(D)	(D)
Liberty	(D)	(D)	(D)	Yellowstone	53	65	(D)
Lincoln	(D)	(D)	(D)				
McCone	5	8	(D)				
Madison	5	7	1,042				
Meagher	1	1	(D)				
Mineral	4	6	(D)				

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

(D) Not disclosed.

Visit www.nass.usda.gov/mt for easy access to vital agricultural information through the Internet.

Census of Agriculture Information

- Census data collected every five years, which includes Native American Reservation information.
- State-level and County-level information from the Census taken every 5 years.

Crop and Livestock Information

- Crops planted, harvested, yield and production, grain stocks, wheat and barley varieties, and livestock inventories for cattle, sheep, hogs, and chickens.

County and Reservation Profiles

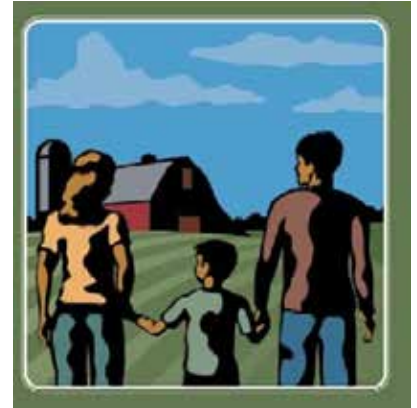
- Contain a brief narrative describing the county or reservation, estimates for crops planted, harvested, yield, and production, and livestock inventories for cattle, sheep, and hogs, and rankings for each commodity. Also included are cash receipts and farm numbers and sizes from the Census.

Economic Information

- Cash receipts from the sale of crops and livestock, gross and net farm income, cash rent rates and prices received by farmers.

Crop Weather

- Available weekly from April-October and monthly from November-March.



This release can be found on the internet at www.nass.usda.gov/mt under press releases.

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