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 5 winter wheat producing counties: Chouteau, 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, cereal, animal feed, and more each year. Montana ranks as one of the top 5 wheat producing states in the U.S. Chouteau County is the #3 overall wheat producing county in the U.S.

Montana’s top 10 cash receipts 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 10 counties in agriculture cash receipts:
1. Yellowstone
2. Beaverhead
3. Chouteau
4. Hill
5. Richland
6. Valley
7. Sheridan
8. Fergus
9. Roosevelt
10. Roosevelt

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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.

- Montana Department of Agriculture, Agriculture in the Classroom Program. Data based upon USDA-AMS 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. Aparites (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/AgrClassroom/ and on Facebook!