

MONTANA MONTANA





The Fred Jenni farm on Beaver Creek in Central Montana. He combines alfalfa, barley, dairy cows and hogs, with wheat growing on the bench lands.

MONTANA

THE TREASURE STATE

FACTS ABOUT MONTANA

THE third largest state in the Union—9,478,080 acres—one-third classified as agricultural, one-third mountainous, one-third grazing. Assessed values per acre: irrigated lands, \$50.95; other farm lands, \$13.44; grazing lands, \$4.96. Lowest tax on land of any state in the Union except Arizona. Montana is first a land of home owners; the latest figures showing 60 per cent of this state's families owning their homes. Only six states make a better showing.

Average precipitation over entire state for thirty-three years, 15.9 inches. Over nearly all the state the greatest amount of precipitation comes in the form of rain during the months of May and June when beneficial effects on crops are at a maximum. Topographical conditions account for higher and lower averages in different sections of the state.

Climate—At high altitudes the season is short; at lower elevations tomatoes and tender vegetables thrive. Topographical conditions modify temperatures. No cyclones, no tornadoes. Due to northern latitude summer days are blessed with an unusual

long period of daylight. The lower temperatures, which are some times reached in winter months, are rarely of long duration, and on account of the dryness and crispness of the atmosphere do not cause the same discomforts as do temperatures of 20 or 30 degrees higher in states farther east.

MONTANA RANKS, AMONG OTHER STATES:

First, in the health of her citizens, in area of national parks, national forests and virgin farm lands; in the production of arsenic, manganese and precious stones.

Second, in wool, silver and spring wheat.

Third, in area, all wheat, sheep, copper, coal resources, percentage of home owners and freedom from illiteracy.

Fourth, in irrigated lands, flax, cherries, zinc, durum wheat and in stumpage remaining in national forests.

Fifth, in total area of lands in farms.

Sixth, in lead, rye and wild hay.



The "Combine" eliminates the grain binder, shocking and stacking of the grain and the use of the threshing machine, with large reduction of harvesting costs.

POULTRY

This industry is successfully carried on in all parts of the state and shows steady expansion.

Estimates place the number of chickens on Montana farms at over 2,700,000, the average flock numbering close to 100. About 13,400,000 dozen eggs are produced annually, which together with the sales of chickens return to the farmer some \$3,334,000.

TURKEYS

The last seven years have witnessed a heavy expansion of the turkey industry. There has been an abrupt rise in turkey population from about 29,400 in 1920 to over 140,000 in 1927. Montana turkeys bring good prices and often command a premium for the high quality resulting from favorable climate and the superior feeds used in the state.

SOUTHEASTERN MONTANA

Many thousand acres of land suitable for agriculture and stock raising. Plenty of sunshine, an average of 146 days, frost-free growing period. This district produces corn, wheat, oats, barley, flax, rye, alfalfa, sweet clover and vegetables. White beans a most profitable crop, acreage being rapidly expanded. Live stock and poultry raising

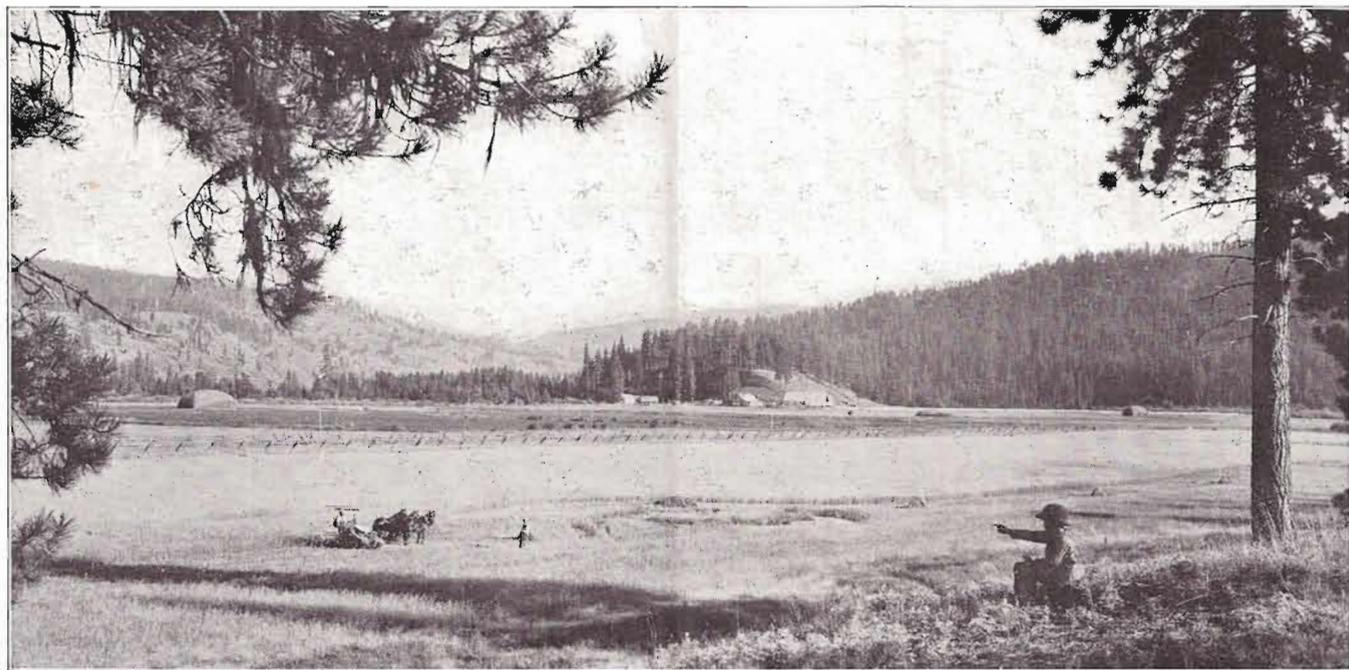
bring added profits. Extensive natural gas and lignite fields. Many districts along the Yellowstone River are supplied with irrigation.

MUSSELSHELL VALLEY

Some of Montana's largest sheep and cattle ranches are located in this valley, extending from Melstone to the headwaters of the Musselshell River, including bench, bottom, hill and mountainous lands. The buffalo grass grown on the bench lands is highly nutritious and fattening for stock. Alfalfa and root crops are grown on the irrigated bottom lands. In some parts of this district wheat and other small grain are successfully grown. A splendid quality of soft coal is obtainable in many parts of this valley.

GREAT FALLS TERRITORY

Tributary to Great Falls, Montana, there is an empire of farm and ranch lands. From Geraldine on the east, to Agawam on the west, great stretches of level-lying benches, containing thousands of acres producing splendid crops of wheat and small grains. Stock ranches abound in adjacent foothills and mountain valleys. Several large and successful irrigation districts, with ample water supply, are located in this territory.



Ranch Scene in western Montana where there are many small valleys, with mountain ranges adjacent and many wonderful small spring-fed streams. Mild climate. Ideal for stock raising and dairying.

SMITH RIVER VALLEY

Long noted as a premier stock country, the Smith River Valley lies north of Ringling and is served by the White Sulphur Springs and Yellowstone Park Railroad. The bottom lands, irrigated from numerous streams, produce abundant alfalfa and other hay crops. The bench lands and foothills provide fine grazing facilities. Cattle and sheep raising are the major industries. Excellent grain and root crops are grown. Dairy herds increasing.

THREE FORKS COUNTRY

Large areas of bench lands, producing winter and spring wheat and other small grains. Along the Jefferson and Madison rivers irrigated bottom lands grow splendid crops of grain and alfalfa. Stock raising extensive and dairying developing rapidly.

GALLATIN VALLEY

This is one of the oldest wheat and grain sections in Montana. Large areas of irrigated lands produce big crops of wheat and small grain. Seed peas, an important crop. The non-irrigated bench lands are farmed for small grain. Stock raising and dairying extensively followed.

WESTERN MONTANA

Mountainous with numerous valleys which are well protected and bountifully supplied with clear, cool mountain water. Stock raising and diversified farming flourish. The famous McIntosh red apple, cherries and small fruits are grown extensively and profitably in the lower altitudes.

CENTRAL MONTANA

This district includes the famous Judith Basin territory. It produces 36 per cent of the winter wheat; 23 per cent of the tame hay; 23 per cent of the alfalfa; 20 per cent of all wheat; 20 per cent of the potatoes; 16 per cent of the spring wheat; 16 per cent of the oats; 16 per cent of the barley; 14 per cent of the wild hay; 12 per cent of the corn; 7 per cent of the rye; 6 per cent of the seed peas; 4 per cent of the dry beans; 2 per cent of the apple trees; 1 per cent of the flax; 1 per cent of the alfalfa seed, and 1 per cent of the sugar beets grown in Montana. While its large production of high quality spring and winter wheat favor large unit grain farms, there are exceptional opportunities for diversified farming, dairy farms and stock ranches. There are wide variances in topography, soil quality and annual precipitation in this territory. Poultry and turkey raising are important.



Ranch house on the E-Bar-L Dude and Cattle Ranch in the mountains at the junction of the Blackfoot and Clearwater Valleys forty miles from Missoula.

SCHOOLS

Montana is justly proud of her splendid school system. The permanent school fund, derived from the sale of land and timber and invested in interest-bearing bonds, is steadily growing each year and provides a perpetual endowment. The free county high schools, State University, State Normal, Agricultural College, School of Mines, School for the Deaf and Blind, not only afford an opportunity for education along every branch of learning, but have become so well known that Montana teachers are finding their way into the most responsible positions in other parts of the country.

Graded public schools are located in the towns and rural districts throughout the state; high schools in the larger towns.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT & COLONIZATION DEPARTMENT

The Milwaukee Road realizes the necessity of aiding in building a productive, prosperous country along its lines. It employs Agricultural and Live Stock Development Agents to study and secure the adoption of sound practical plans of land utilization, marketing and farm management, best

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suited to the many localities in its tributary territory. Such programs assure success to farmers, live stock men and communities, and also give to the new settlers best guidance for profitable operation. The services of these agents are available for every community we serve. The Milwaukee Road has no farm land to sell. Its Colonization Agents seek to help the homeseeker find the kind of a farm or ranch best suited for his purposes; to put prospective settlers in contact with reliable land owners and real estate men and to aid them in securing adequate land value, for price paid; to protect them against the distribution of unfair statements regarding agricultural, climatic and market conditions. Write for the information you desire relating to any locality on the Milwaukee Road. Ask questions; they will be accurately answered. If we do not have the information, we will get it for you.

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