

A Look at Wisconsin Agriculture



Capital: Madison

Population: 5,686,986

Founded: May 29, 1848 (30th)

State Bird: Robin

State Tree: Sugar Maple

State Flower: Wood Violet

Number of Counties: 72

Largest City: Milwaukee

Nickname: America's Dairyland

Number of Farms: 78,000

Average Farm Size: 194 acres

Total Farmland: 15.2 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Wisconsin's climate is good for growing a variety of crops.
- Warm summers help Wisconsin plants grow and cold winters help the soil replenish itself.
- Average annual rainfall in Wisconsin is 32.63 inches.
- The state average for temperatures is 13.2° in January and 66.9° in July.
- Wisconsin's fertile upland soils are well suited for alfalfa production, helping to feed our 1.26 million dairy cows.
- Wisconsin's state soil is Antigo Silt Loam.

Crops & Livestock

- Wisconsin leads the nation in production of snap beans, cranberries, and ginseng.
- Each year, Wisconsin growers harvest more than 1.8 million Christmas trees
- Dairy cows in the U.S. eat more than 800 million bushels of corn. Livestock eat an additional 1.1 billion bushels in the form of distillers dried grains from ethanol production.
- Cranberries are now grown in 18 counties throughout central and northern Wisconsin.
- A mechanical cherry shaker can harvest 60 to 100 trees in an hour.
- Wisconsin chicken farms produce 1.35 billion eggs.
- Wisconsin cheese makers produce more than 650 different varieties, types and styles of cheese.
- State mink producers produce 886,000 pelts each year – tops in the nation.
- Sale of cattle and calves account for \$726 million in farm income annually.
- Wisconsin ranks #1 in dairy goats with 46,000 head.
- Dairy accounts for nearly 40% of all Wisconsin agriculture jobs, employing 146,200 people in the state.
- Wisconsin leads the nation in both the number and diversity of dairy farms. Our 13,000 dairy farms include rotational grazing operations, organic producers, and conventional dairy operations of all sizes.

General

- In 2010, there were 78,000 farms in Wisconsin
- Wisconsin leads the nation in the number of on-farm bio-energy systems with 31 methane digesters installed and more planned. Methane digesters are being used on farms to turn manure into renewable bio-energy. Using this technology, five cows can provide enough power for an average size home, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The average farm size in Wisconsin is 195 acres.
- Wisconsin's agriculture industry generates \$59.16 billion in economic activity annually.
- Over 99% of Wisconsin's farms are family-owned.
- More than 353,991 Wisconsin citizens, 10% of our workforce, rely directly on agriculture for their jobs.
- Wisconsin has 1,222 organic farms and ranches which had sales of \$132.8 million.