

A Look at Wisconsin Agriculture



Capital: Madison

Population: 5,363,675

Founded: May 29, 1848 (30th)

State Bird: Robin

State Tree: Sugar Maple

State Flower: Wood Violet

Number of Counties: 72

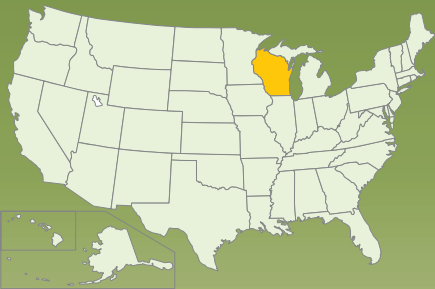
Largest City: Milwaukee - 573,358

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".
- The northern part of Wisconsin averages 10°F in January and 67°F in July. The southern part of Wisconsin averages 16°F in January and 71°F in July.
- Wisconsin's fertile upland soils are well suited for alfalfa production, helping to feed our 1.25 million dairy cows.
- Wisconsin's state soil is Antigo Silt Loam.
- Wisconsin farmers were pioneers in soil and water conservation, establishing the first county soil conservation project in the nation.

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
- Central Wisconsin is famous for vegetable production, making us second in sweet corn and carrot processing, and third in production of potatoes & green peas for processing.
- Wisconsin chicken farms produce 1.2 billion eggs and 51 million broilers (meat chickens) each year.
- State mink producers produce 910,000 pelts each year – first in the nation.
- Wisconsin is known nationally for their dairy products. The state ranked first in dairy production in 2009 within the United States. Dairy products account for 46% of all agricultural sales state-wide.
- Wisconsin fish farmers produce 480,000 pounds of trout - mostly for restaurants – every year.
- Wisconsin ranks #1 in dairy goats with 40,000 head.

General

- There are 211 plants manufacturing one or more dairy products including 9 butter, 127 cheese and 22 ice cream plants!
- 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.