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: 64,793
Average Farm Size: 221 acres
Total Farmland: 14.3 million acres

Climate & Soil
• Warm summers help Wisconsin plants grow and cold winters help the soil replenish itself.
• Average annual precipitation in Wisconsin is 39.75 inches.
• The state average high temperature is 29°F in January and 80°F in July.
• Wisconsin’s fertile upland soils are well suited for alfalfa production, helping to feed our 1.3 million dairy cows.
• Glaciers during the last two million years determined the topography and soils except for the 13,360 square miles in southwestern Wisconsin.
• Glaciers created a rolling terrain with nearly 15,000 lakes and several areas of marshes and swamps.
• Wisconsin’s state soil is Antigo Silt Loam.

Crops & Livestock
• Wisconsin leads the nation in production of snap beans, cranberries, cheese, mink pelts, corn for silage, and dry whey for humans.
• Each year, Wisconsin growers harvest sold more than 700,300 Christmas trees.
• In the turf industry, there are 399 golf courses in Wisconsin adding $1.2 billion to the economy.
• Cranberries are now grown in 20 counties throughout central and northern Wisconsin.
• A mechanical cherry shaker can harvest 60 to 100 trees in an hour.
• Wisconsin chicken farms produce 2.08 billion eggs.
• Wisconsin’s nearly 1,200 licensed cheesemakers produce over 600 types, styles and varieties of cheese – nearly double the number of any other state.
• State mink producers produce 972,000 pelts each year – tops in the nation.
• Wisconsin ranks #1 in dairy goats with 72,000 head on 1,029 farms.
• There are 1.2 million acres of turf in Wisconsin.
• Wisconsin leads the nation in both the number and diversity of dairy farms. Our 7,000 dairy farms include rotational grazing operations, organic producers, and conventional dairy operations of all sizes.
• The state ranks third in the nation in potato production harvesting potatoes on 67,000 acres.
• There are 1,508 horticulture production venues in Wisconsin including greenhouses, nurseries, and floriculture production.

General
• The state’s top agricultural export markets include Canada, China and Mexico.
• Wisconsin leads the nation in the export of bovine semen, ginseng roots, and prepared/preserved cranberries and sweet corn.
• Wisconsin’s agriculture industry generates $104.8 billion in economic activity annually.
• Over 99% of Wisconsin’s farms are family-owned.
• Agriculture contributes 435,700 jobs and 11.8% of our workforce, rely directly on agriculture for their jobs.
• Sales from food processing industrial sales total $82.7 billion.
• On-farm production contributes 154,000 jobs and processing contributes 282,000 jobs.
• Wisconsin boasts many apple orchards producing 49.0 million pounds of apples.

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