



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: 68,700

Average Farm Size: 210 acres

Total Farmland: 14.4 million acres



www.agclassroom.org/wi

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, ginseng, cheese, mink pelts and corn for silage.
- 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 20 counties throughout central and northern Wisconsin.
- A mechanical cherry shaker can harvest 60 to 100 trees in an hour.
- Wisconsin chicken farms produce 1.41 billion eggs.
- Wisconsin cheese makers produce more than 650 different varieties, types and styles of cheese.
- State mink producers produce 1.1 million pelts each year – tops in the nation.
- Wisconsin ranks #1 in dairy goats with 44,000 head.
- The dairy industry fuels the state's economy at more than \$82,500 per minute.
- Wisconsin leads the nation in both the number and diversity of dairy farms. Our 9,520 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 64,000 acres in 2016.

General

- In 2017, there were 68,700 farms in Wisconsin
- The state's top agricultural export markets include Canada, Mexico and China.
- Wisconsin leads the nation in the export of bovine semen, ginseng roots, and prepared/preserved cranberries and sweet corn.
- The average farm size in Wisconsin is 210 acres.
- Wisconsin's agriculture industry generates \$88.3 billion in economic activity annually.
- Over 99% of Wisconsin's farms are family-owned.
- More than 413,000 Wisconsin citizens, 12% of our workforce, rely directly on agriculture for their jobs.
- Wisconsin has 1,276 organic farms covering 219,266 acres.