

A Look at *Wisconsin* Agriculture

Capital: Madison

Population: 5,832,655

Founded: May 29, 1848 (30th)

State Bird: Robin

State Tree: Sugar Maple

State Flower: Wood Violet

Number of Counties: 72

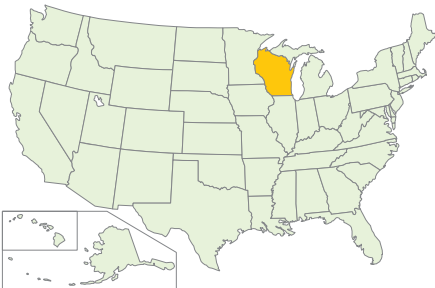
Largest City: Milwaukee

Nickname: America's Dairyland

Number of Farms: 64,900

Average Farm Size: 220 acres

Total Farmland: 14.3 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Warm summers help Wisconsin plants grow and cold winters help the soil replenish itself.
- Average annual precipitation in Wisconsin is 34 inches.
- The state average high temperature is 27°F in January and 83°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 2.16 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 1.02 million pelts each year – tops in the nation.
- Wisconsin ranks #1 in dairy goats with 82,000 head.
- There are 1.2 million acres of turf in Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin leads the nation in both the number and diversity of dairy farms. Our 6,907 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 68,000 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 cherry orchards producing 59% of the nation's supply.