



# A Look at *Wisconsin* Agriculture

Capital: Madison

Population: 5,686,986

Founded: May 29, 1848 (30<sup>th</sup>)

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: 69,000

Average Farm Size: 210 acres

Total Farmland: 14.5 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 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 1.32 million pelts each year – tops in the nation.
- Wisconsin ranks #1 in dairy goats with 44,543 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 9,900 dairy farms include rotational grazing operations, organic producers, and conventional dairy operations of all sizes.
- Wisconsin ranks first in the Midwest and twentieth in the nation for aquaculture, with more than 2,314 fish farms.

## General

- In 2015, there were 69,000 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 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, 11.9% of our workforce, rely directly on agriculture for their jobs.
- Wisconsin has 1,180 organic farms and ranches which had sales of \$122 million.