

Dodge County Agriculture – A Snapshot



Agriculture is an integral part of Dodge County that ranks 6th for the total value of agricultural products and 5th for the value of crops sold in the state. The county consistently ranks among the top 5 for conventional crops such as corn used for grain, soybeans, peas, tobacco, and winter wheat; and livestock such as hogs and pigs, and chickens. It is also among the top 10 in milk production, cattle and calves, and pheasants.

On the farm.

- 2,012 farms in 2012; 1,979 farms in 2007
- 3,370 farm operators on these farms. Of these, 1,001 are women.
- 1,306 are full-time farmers.
- Of all farmers, 848 work 200 or more days a year off the farm.
- 97.6% of farms are owned by individuals or some form of family ownership.
- The average age of a Dodge County farmer is 57.6.
- 529 farms hire employees. There are 2,343 hired farm workers. This generates a payroll of \$21,057,000 annually.

Size matters.

- Farmers own and manage resources on 72% of all land in the county – 402,041 acres in 2012. They farmed 412,949 acres in 2007.
- 200 acres is the average farm size, down from 209 acres in 2007.
- 742 farms were less than 50 acres in size; 195 farms were 500 acres or more.

Diversity of agriculture.

- 742 farms with 104,756 cattle and calves
- 308 dairy farms in 2012; 420 farms in 2007
- Dairy cow numbers were 37,301 in 2012, compared to 40,639 in 2007.
- 134,893 acres of corn for grain
- 66,223 acres of soybeans
- 54,060 acres of forages
- 14,217 acres of wheat
- 30,071 acres of corn for silage
- 135 farms produce vegetables on 8,864 acres

Agriculture is changing.

- 1,479 farm operations have internet access. Of these, 1,283 have high speed internet.
- 155 Dodge County farms generate \$1,303,000 in direct-marketing sales to consumers in 2012. This compares with 127 farms and \$1,361,000 in 2007.

Tradition is important.

- Grains are the county's number one farm commodity. The total value of sales is \$154.5 million.



- Milk, cattle and calves, vegetables, and hogs and pigs round out the top five commodities after grains.

Agriculture is an economic force.

- Agriculture generates a total of \$2.86 billion in economic activity – 34% of total economic activity in the county.
- Agriculture accounts for \$760.9 million – 22% of the county's total income.
- Agriculture pays taxes. It generates \$37.1 million in local and state taxes. This does NOT include all property taxes paid to local schools.
- Agriculture provides 9,855 jobs – 20% of the county's workforce. On-farm production accounts for 4,310 jobs and agricultural processing accounts for 5,545 jobs.

Farmers are stewards of the land.

- As stewards of the land, farmers use conservation practices, such as crop rotation, nutrient management and integrated pest management, to protect environmental resources and provide habitat for wildlife.



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Sources:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/wisag/documents/agimpactbrochDodgeCoFINAL.pdf>

2012 Census of Agriculture, USDA and Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.