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Jane Anklam

Horticulture contributes to Douglas County diversity

Douglas County sales of Christmas trees, fruits and vegetables, greenhouse, nursery and floriculture products total \$123,000. Landscape and grounds maintenance businesses create additional full-time jobs and many seasonal jobs.

Local food sales account for \$120,000 to economy

More and more Douglas County farmers sell directly to consumers from roadside stands, farmers' markets, auctions and pick-your-own operations, with 43 farms generating \$120,000 in local food sales.

Farmers are stewards of 8.5% of the county's land

Douglas County farmers own and manage 70,578 acres, or 8.5 percent, of the county's land. This includes cropland, rangeland, pasture, tree farms and farm forests. 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.



University of Wisconsin-Extension

University of Wisconsin-Extension is part of the local and statewide network of organizations and agencies that support Wisconsin's \$88.3 billion agriculture industry. A recent statewide survey of nearly 1,000 agricultural service providers from throughout Wisconsin found that UW-Extension helps enhance economic impact by improving agribusiness services to farmers, increasing agribusiness or farm profitability, expanding agribusiness networks, and helping to reduce agribusiness or farm environmental impacts.

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2014

AGRICULTURE - WORKING EVERY DAY FOR WISCONSIN

Douglas County Agriculture:

Value & Economic Impact



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Agriculture works hard for Douglas County every day. Family-owned farms, food processors and agriculture-related businesses generate thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of economic activity while contributing to local income and tax revenues.

Douglas County is in the northwest corner of the state on the shores of Lake Superior and the headwaters of the St. Croix Basin. A diverse agricultural base makes up a significant component of the local infrastructure and includes beef, dairy, forestry, small ruminants and horses. Acres of cash crops are increasing in the county.

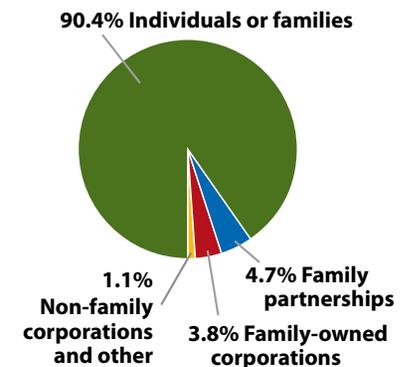
Small fruits and cranberries, market gardening and a healthy greenhouse and nursery industry round out the agricultural picture. A local hydroponic tomato and pepper operation along with snack meat processing add to our regional economy.



How important is agriculture?

- Agriculture provides **jobs for 696** Douglas County residents.
- Agriculture accounts for **\$98 million in economic activity**.
- Agriculture contributes **\$38 million** to the county's total income.
- Agriculture pays **\$1.9 million in taxes**. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to local schools.

Who owns the farms?



Agriculture provides 3% of Douglas County's jobs

Douglas County **agriculture provides 696 jobs**, or 3.3 percent, of the county's workforce of 20,970. Production jobs include farm owners and managers and farm employees. Agricultural service jobs include veterinarians, crop and livestock consultants, feed, fuel and other crop input suppliers, farm machinery dealers, barn builders and agricultural lenders, to name a few. Processing jobs include those employed in food processing and other value-added industries that support food processors. Every job in agriculture generates an additional 0.41 jobs in the county.

Agriculture contributes almost \$38 million to county income

Douglas County **agriculture accounts for \$37.9 million**, or 2.2 percent, of the county's total income. This includes wages, salaries, benefits and profits of farmers and workers in agriculture-related businesses. Every dollar of agricultural income generates an additional \$0.67 of county income.

Agriculture pumps \$98 million into local economy

Douglas County **agriculture generates \$98.0 million in economic activity**, 2.2 percent, of the county's total economic activity. Every dollar of sales from agricultural products generates an additional \$0.35 of economic activity in other parts of the county's economy.

Here's how agriculture stimulates economic activity:

- The direct effect of agriculture equals \$72.4 million and includes the sale of farm products and value-added products.
- Purchases of agricultural and food-processing inputs, services and equipment add another \$14.6 million in economic activity. For example, this includes business-to-business purchases of fuel, seed, fertilizer, feed and farm machinery, as well as veterinary services, crop and livestock consultants and equipment leasing.
- This business-to-business activity then generates another \$11.0 million in economic activity when people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings in the local economy.

Agriculture pays almost \$2 million in taxes

Economic activity associated with Douglas County farms and agriculture-related businesses **generates \$1.9 million** in local and state taxes. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to support local schools. If it did, the number would increase dramatically.

Table 1. Taxes paid by agriculture

Sales tax	\$0.43 million
Income tax	\$0.56 million
Property tax	\$0.58 million
Other	\$0.33 million
Total	\$1.9 million

Table 2. Douglas County's top commodities (sales by dollar value, 2012)

1. Cattle & calves	\$2.4 million
2. Grain	\$1.0 million
3. Milk	\$0.99 million
4. Other animals & other products	\$0.10 million
5. Fruits, tree nuts, & berries	\$0.09 million



Agricultural processing is a key Douglas County industry

Agricultural processing is the major agricultural industry in Douglas County. Douglas County agricultural processors contribute \$74.7 million to the county's economy. Beverages, fish and seafood products, food products, and flour and other grain mill products are the main processed items.

- Every dollar of sales of processed products generates an additional \$0.34 of economic activity in other parts of the economy.
- Processing accounts for \$26.1 million of income in the county.
- Douglas County's agricultural processing accounts for 303 jobs.



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