Agriculture works hard for Bayfield 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.

At the northernmost tip of the state, Bayfield County's agricultural strength lies in its diversity. Dairy farms benefit from fertile soils and cool weather, perfect for high-quality forage. Beef cattle and sheep graze throughout the county, with many farmers using managed intensive-grazing systems. Farmers also produce apples, blueberries, raspberries and strawberries, which thrive in Lake Superior's microclimate. Direct marketing and agritourism have become key components of Bayfield County agriculture, with visitors flocking to the region to enjoy delicious meats, vegetables, fruits and value-added products produced by county farmers and food processors.

Horticulture contributes to Bayfield County diversity
Bayfield County sales of fruits and vegetables, greenhouse, nursery and floriculture products total $1.6 million. Landscape and grounds maintenance businesses create additional full-time jobs and many seasonal jobs.

Local food sales account for $907,000 to economy
More and more Bayfield County farmers sell directly to consumers from roadside stands, farmers' markets, auctions and pick-your-own operations, with 84 farms generating $907,000 in local food sales.

Farmers are stewards of 7.6% of the county's land
Bayfield County farmers own and manage 71,824 acres, or 7.6 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.

Produced in 2014 by:
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

Economic data (2012) provided by:
Steven C. Deller, Professor, Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Community Development Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Other economic data from:
USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture
For more information, contact:
Bayfield County UW-Extension
County Administration Bldg.
117 E. 5th Street, Washburn, WI 54891-9464
715-373-6104 • http://bayfield.uwex.edu/
An EEO/AA employer, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.
Agriculture provides over 8% of Bayfield County’s jobs

Bayfield County agriculture provides 619 jobs, or 8.5 percent, of the county’s workforce of 7,301. 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 0.33 jobs in the county.

Agriculture contributes almost $28 million to county income

Bayfield County agriculture accounts for $27.7 million, or 7 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 $0.57 of county income.

Agriculture pumps almost $75 million into local economy

Bayfield County agriculture generates $74.8 million in economic activity, 7 percent, of the county’s total economic activity. Every dollar of sales from agricultural products generates an additional $0.31 of economic activity in other parts of the county’s economy.

Here’s how agriculture stimulates economic activity:

- The direct effect of agriculture equals $57.3 million and includes the sale of farm products and value-added products.
- Purchases of agricultural and food-processing inputs, services and equipment add another $10.5 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 $7.0 million in economic activity when people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings in the local economy.

Agriculture pays over $1 million in taxes

Economic activity associated with Bayfield County farms and agriculture-related businesses generates $1.2 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Taxes paid by agriculture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Bayfield County’s top commodities (sales by dollar value, 2012)

| 1. Milk                          | $5.3 million |
| 2. Other crops & hay             | $2.1 million |
| 3. Cattle & calves               | $2.0 million |
| 4. Aquaculture                   | $1.4 million |
| 5. Grain                         | $1.2 million |

Dairy is a key Bayfield County industry

Dairy farming is the major agricultural industry in Bayfield County. On-farm production and milk sales account for $11.9 million.

- On-farm milk production accounts for 82 jobs.
- At the county level, each dairy cow generates $4,900 in on-farm sales to producers.
- At the state level, each dairy cow generates over $34,000 in total sales.

VALUE & ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AGRICULTURE