Agriculture works hard for Dunn 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.

Dunn County is home to a diverse and dynamic agriculture that contributes significantly to the economic and social fabric of the community. Some 1,400 farms dot the countryside. Dunn County claims the state’s first farmer-owned corn-to-ethanol plant and several food and grain processors.

Crop and livestock sales are equally divided among Dunn County farmers. It is host to strong cash grain, forage and specialty crop production, ranking in the top 10 in the state for production of potatoes and kidney beans. Milk sales continue to be robust in conjunction with cattle sales.

How important is agriculture?
- Agriculture provides jobs for 3,890 Dunn County residents.
- Agriculture accounts for $806 million in economic activity.
- Agriculture contributes $225 million to the county’s total income.
- Agriculture pays $10.6 million in taxes. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to local schools.

Who owns the farms?

- 89.4% Individuals or families
- 0.7% Non-family corporations and other
- 5.6% Family partnerships
- 4.3% Family-owned corporations

Horticulture contributes to Dunn County diversity
Dunn County sales of Christmas trees, fruits and vegetables, greenhouse, nursery and floriculture products total $13.8 million. Landscape and grounds maintenance businesses create additional full-time jobs and many seasonal jobs.

Local food sales account for $732,000 to economy
More and more Dunn County farmers sell directly to consumers from roadside stands, farmers’ markets, auctions and pick-your-own operations, with 130 farms generating $732,000 in local food sales.

Farmers are stewards of 68% of the county’s land
Dunn County farmers own and manage 372,259 acres, or 68.4 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 no-till, cover crops, crop rotation, nutrient management and integrated pest management, to protect and improve 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.

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Agriculture provides 17% of Dunn County’s jobs
Dunn County agriculture provides 3,890 jobs, or 16.6 percent, of the county’s workforce of 23,404. 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 0.44 jobs in the county.

Agriculture contributes $225 million to county income
Dunn County agriculture accounts for $225.4 million, or 14.8 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 $0.61 of county income.

Agriculture pumps about $806 million into local economy
Dunn County agriculture generates $805.7 billion in economic activity, 25.7 percent, of the county’s total economic activity. Every dollar of sales from agricultural products generates an additional $0.22 of economic activity in other parts of the county’s economy.

Here’s how agriculture stimulates economic activity:
- The direct effect of agriculture equals $658.5 million and includes the sale of farm products and value-added products.
- Purchases of agricultural and food-processing inputs, services and equipment add another $94.3 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 $53 million in economic activity when people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings in the local economy.

Agriculture pays over $10 million in taxes
Economic activity associated with Dunn County farms and agriculture-related businesses generates $10.6 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales tax</td>
<td>$2.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax</td>
<td>$3.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property tax</td>
<td>$2.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$2.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10.6 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Grain</td>
<td>$110.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Milk</td>
<td>$83.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cattle &amp; calves</td>
<td>$27.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Vegetables</td>
<td>$12.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other crops &amp; hay</td>
<td>$4.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dairy is a key Dunn County industry
Dairy farming is the major agricultural industry in Dunn County. On-farm production and milk sales account for $117.7 million. Processing milk into dairy products generates another $361.2 million.

- Four plants process dairy products in Dunn County.
- On-farm milk production accounts for 703 jobs, and dairy processing accounts for 695 jobs.
- At the county level, each dairy cow generates $4,565 in on-farm sales to producers.
- At the state level, each dairy cow generates over $34,000 in total sales.