Agriculture works hard for Kewaunee 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.

Unlike many other Wisconsin counties, Kewaunee County dairy farm numbers have remained stable for the past several years. Kewaunee County dairy herds produced over one billion pounds of milk for the first time ever in 2011 and have continued that trend since.

The temperate climate has also spurred emerging markets for grape production for wine and small-scale vegetable farming. Several direct market farms and Community Supported Agriculture farms have started up in Kewaunee County in recent years and offer fresh-to-market vegetables and meat.

**Horticulture contributes to Kewaunee County diversity**
Kewaunee County sales of Christmas trees, fruits and vegetables, greenhouse, nursery and floriculture products total $2.1 million. Landscape and grounds maintenance businesses create additional full-time jobs and many seasonal jobs.

**Local food sales account for $469,000 to economy**
More and more Kewaunee County farmers sell directly to consumers from roadside stands, farmers’ markets, auctions and pick-your-own operations, with 59 farms generating $469,000 in local food sales.

**Farmers are stewards of 81% of the county’s land**
Kewaunee County farmers own and manage 176,735 acres, or 81 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.

**Value & Economic Impact**

- **87.1% Individuals or families**
- **8.3% Family partnerships**
- **2.7% Family corporations**
- **1.9% Non-family corporations and other**

**How important is agriculture?**
- Agriculture provides jobs for 2,058 Kewaunee County residents.
- Agriculture accounts for $424 million in economic activity.
- Agriculture contributes $147 million to the county’s total income.
- Agriculture pays $5.26 million in taxes. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to local schools.

**Who owns the farms?**

- 87.1% Individuals or families
- 8.3% Family partnerships
- 2.7% Family corporations
- 1.9% Non-family corporations and other

**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:
Kewaunee County – UW Extension
810 Lincoln St., Kewaunee, WI 54216
920-388-7141 • http://kewaunee.uwex.edu/

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Agriculture provides 21% of Kewaunee County’s jobs

Kewaunee County agriculture provides 2,058 jobs, or 20.7 percent, of the county’s workforce of 9,934. 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 0.35 jobs in the county.

Agriculture contributes $147 million to county income

Kewaunee County agriculture accounts for $147.3 million, or 15 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 $0.39 of county income.

Agriculture pumps $424 million into local economy

Kewaunee County agriculture generates $423.9 million in economic activity, about 25 percent, of the county’s total economic activity. Every dollar of sales from agricultural products generates an additional $0.21 of economic activity in other parts of the county’s economy.

Here’s how agriculture stimulates economic activity:

- The direct effect of agriculture equals $350.4 million and includes the sale of farm products and value-added products.
- Purchases of agricultural and food-processing inputs, services and equipment add another $51.3 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 $22.2 million in economic activity when people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings in the local economy.

Agriculture pays $5.26 million in taxes

Economic activity associated with Kewaunee County farms and agriculture-related businesses generates $5.26 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>$0.72 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax</td>
<td>$2.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property tax</td>
<td>$0.99 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$1.24 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5.26 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Sales Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>$190 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain</td>
<td>$33.95 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle &amp; calves</td>
<td>$1.99 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits, tree nuts, &amp; berries</td>
<td>$0.36 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas trees &amp; woody crops</td>
<td>$0.10 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dairy is a key Kewaunee County industry

Dairy farming is the major agricultural industry in Kewaunee County. On-farm production and milk sales account for $170.7 million. Processing milk into dairy products generates another $125.1 million.

- Two plants process dairy products in Kewaunee County.
- On-farm milk production accounts for 849 jobs, and dairy processing accounts for 230 jobs.
- At the county level, each dairy cow generates $3,511 in on-farm sales to producers.
- At the state level, each dairy cow generates over $34,000 in total sales.