



Patricia Nagai

Horticulture contributes to Racine County diversity

Racine County sales of Christmas trees, fruits and vegetables, sod, greenhouse, nursery and floriculture products total \$23.8 million. Landscape and grounds maintenance businesses create additional full-time jobs and many seasonal jobs.

Local food sales account for almost \$1.2 million to economy

More and more Racine County farmers sell directly to consumers from roadside stands, farmers' markets, auctions and pick-your-own operations, with 87 farms generating \$1,198,000 in local food sales.

Farmers are stewards of 52% of the county's land

Racine County farmers own and manage 109,964 acres, or 52 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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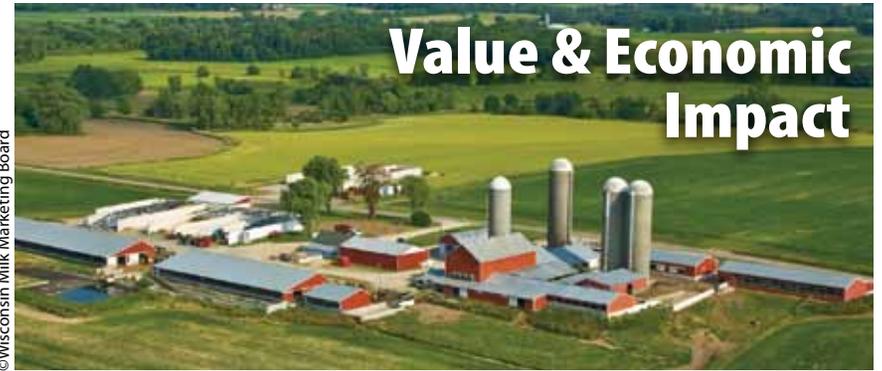
2014

AGRICULTURE – WORKING EVERY DAY FOR WISCONSIN

Racine County Agriculture:

Value & Economic Impact

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Agriculture works hard for Racine 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.

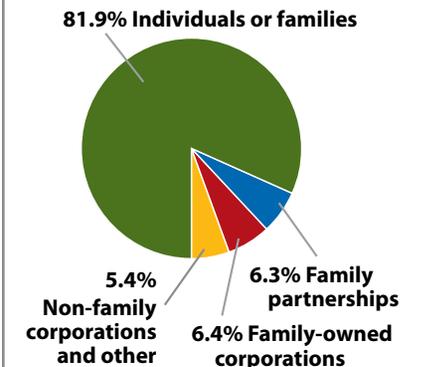
Racine County features a wide variety of agricultural enterprises and varying scales of agricultural operations. The county ranks within the top ten counties in the state in terms of vegetable production. The county's nursery and greenhouse industry is a leader within the state and very important to county residents, meeting the needs of the urban and rural areas with bedding plants, flowers, trees and sod. Corn and soybeans constitute a majority of the acreages in the county. Winter wheat is also an important component of the landscape. The agricultural industry continues to change as Racine County becomes home to more horse farms and small and intensive farming operations producing poultry, sheep, vegetables and more.



How important is agriculture?

- Agriculture provides **jobs for 3,825** Racine County residents.
- Agriculture accounts for **\$981 million in economic activity**.
- Agriculture contributes **\$292 million** to the county's total income.
- Agriculture pays **\$15.5 million in taxes**. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to local schools.

Who owns the farms?



Agriculture provides 4% of Racine County's jobs

Racine County **agriculture provides 3,825 jobs**, or 4.3 percent, of the county's workforce of 89,997. 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 0.62 jobs in the county.

Agriculture contributes \$292 million to county income

Racine County agriculture accounts for \$292.4 million, or 3.5 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 \$0.65 of county income.

Agriculture pumps almost \$981 million into local economy

Racine County **agriculture generates \$980.7 million in economic activity**, 5.4 percent, of the county's total economic activity. Every dollar of sales from agricultural products generates an additional \$0.23 of economic activity in other parts of the county's economy.

Here's how agriculture stimulates economic activity:

- The direct effect of agriculture equals \$800.3 million and includes the sale of farm products and value-added products.
- Purchases of agricultural and food-processing inputs, services and equipment add another \$95.2 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 \$85.2 million in economic activity when people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings in the local economy.

Agriculture pays over \$15 million in taxes

Economic activity associated with Racine County farms and agriculture-related businesses **generates \$15.5 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	\$3.2 million
Income tax	\$5.4 million
Property tax	\$4.3 million
Other	\$2.5 million
Total	\$15.5 million

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

1. Grain	\$48.1 million
2. Vegetables	\$15.3 million
3. Milk	\$12.5 million
4. Nursery & greenhouse	\$8.4 million
5. Cattle & calves	\$3.9 million



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Agricultural processing is a key Racine County industry

Agricultural processing is the major agricultural industry in Racine County. Racine County agricultural processors contribute \$769.6 million to the county's economy. The processing of milk into dairy products accounts for \$51.2 million. Dairy products, chocolate products, and eggs are the main processed items.

- Two plants process dairy products in Racine County.
- Every dollar of sales of processed products generates an additional \$0.18 of economic activity in other parts of the economy.
- Processing accounts for \$189.5 million of income in the county.
- Racine County's agricultural processing accounts for 2,316 jobs.



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