Agriculture works hard for St. Croix 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.

St. Croix County has a strong dairy heritage, and continues to be a dairy producing county. Livestock, particularly beef cow-calf production, has grown. Cash grain production has been expanding, particularly on acres previously used for forage and small grain production. St. Croix County’s close proximity to the Twin Cities market offers many opportunities for diversified production. Several direct market farms and Community Supported Agriculture farms have started up in the St. Croix Valley in recent years and offer fresh-to-market vegetables, meats, and specialty products.

How important is agriculture?
- Agriculture provides jobs for 3,678 St. Croix County residents.
- Agriculture accounts for $551 million in economic activity.
- Agriculture contributes $185 million to the county’s total income.
- Agriculture pays $8.6 million in taxes. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to local schools.

Who owns the farms?
- 87.6% Individuals or families
- 1.6% Non-family corporations and other
- 5.1% Family-owned corporations
- 5.7% Family partnerships

St. Croix County agriculture: Value & Economic Impact

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:
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Agriculture provides 9% of St. Croix County’s jobs

St. Croix County agriculture provides 3,678 jobs, or 8.6 percent, of the county’s workforce of 42,528. 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 0.46 jobs in the county.

Agriculture contributes $185 million to county income

St. Croix County agriculture accounts for $184.7 million, or 6.9 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 $0.70 of county income.

Agriculture pumps $551 million into local economy

St. Croix County agriculture generates $551.1 million in economic activity, 10 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 $419.9 million and includes the sale of farm products and value-added products.
- Purchases of agricultural and food-processing inputs, services and equipment add another $85.2 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 $45.9 million in economic activity when people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings in the local economy.

Agriculture pays $8.6 million in taxes

Economic activity associated with St. Croix County farms and agriculture-related businesses generates $8.6 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Taxes paid by agriculture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales tax</td>
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<td>Income tax</td>
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<td>Property tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<th>Table 2. St. Croix County’s top commodities (sales by dollar value, 2012)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Grain</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Milk</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Cattle &amp; calves</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Poultry &amp; eggs</td>
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<td>5. Other crops &amp; hay</td>
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Dairy is a key St. Croix County industry

Dairy farming is the major agricultural industry in St. Croix County. On-farm production and milk sales account for $107.1 million. Processing milk into dairy products generates another $109.1 million.

- Two plants process dairy products in St. Croix County.
- On-farm milk production accounts for 785 jobs, and dairy processing accounts for 332 jobs.
- At the county level, each dairy cow generates $4,577 in on-farm sales to producers.
- At the state level, each dairy cow generates over $34,000 in total sales.