

Jefferson County - Overview of Agriculture

Overview

1. Number of Farms – 1434 in 2007 (up from 1421 in 2002)
2. Full Time Farmers – 635 in 2007 (down from 782 in 2002)
 - “Principal operator by primary occupation” = Farming (44 %)
 - i.e. Only 44% of farms list farming as their main occupation
3. Land in Farms – 244,238 acres in 2007
 - 69.0 % of county’s land area is in farms
 - 190,189 acres cropland
 - Average size of farm = 170 acres
 - 90 farms over 500 acres
 - 568 farms less than 50 acres
4. Hired Farm Labor - 2007
 - 267 farms hire farm labor
 - 1756 farm workers
 - \$25,358,000 payroll
 - 117 farms hire 3 or more workers

Agricultural Economic Impacts

5. Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold – 2007
 - \$209,294,000 Total (up 51% from 2002)
 - Livestock, poultry and products (59 % of total)
 - Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops (41 % of total)
 - 27.5 % of farms have a Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold greater than \$50,000. There are lots of small farms – 38.4% have sales less than \$2,500.
6. Farm Production Expenses – 2007
 - \$160,869,000 Total
 - Livestock Purchased
 - Seed, fertilizer & chemicals
 - Repairs, maintenance, supplies
 - Interest
 - Feed
 - Labor
 - Custom work
 - Property taxes
 - Electricity
 - Petroleum Products
 - Cash rent
7. Jefferson County Agriculture – Value and Economic Impact - 2004 (2000 data)
 - Agriculture provides jobs for 10,849 county residents (23 % of total)
 - Agriculture accounts for \$1.51 billion in county economic activity (33% of total)
 - Agriculture contributes \$442.6 million to the county’s total income (21.6% of total)
 - Agriculture pays over \$40.2 million in taxes (does not include all property taxes paid to local schools)

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Diversity

8. Top 5 production areas - 2002
 - milk (\$34 million), grain (\$29 million), eggs (\$25 million), nursery stock and sod (\$25 million), vegetables (\$7 million)
9. Dairy is the major business - 2007
 - 158 dairy farms (down from 196 in 2002)
 - 14,669 dairy cows (down from 15,867 in 2002)
 - Each dairy cow produces \$15,000 to \$17,000 of economic activity
10. Other livestock/poultry – 2007
 - 40,884 head cattle and calves (includes dairy)
 - 160 beef cow farms (up from 148 in 2002)
 - 13,088 hogs and pigs sold
 - 2,163,391 layers and pullets sold
11. Crops needed for livestock production and cash sale – 2007
 - 84,650 acres of corn for grain
 - 40,458 acres of soybeans
 - 27,321 acres of forages (alfalfa, grass)
 - 5,185 acres of winter wheat
12. Horticulture- 2002
 - \$10.9 million in economic activity
 - 222 full-time jobs
 - Many seasonal workers
13. Vegetable Crops – 2007
 - 47 farms- 2,668 acres
 - 14 orchards

Quality of Life Considerations

14. Farm and rural families are an important part of the county's identity and culture
15. Residents place a high value on open space and agricultural land
16. Agricultural role and the environment
17. Agricultural role and tourism
18. Agricultural enterprises are a focus area in the county's emerging economic vision

Sources of Information:

1. 2007 (and 2002) Census of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.
2. 2004 Wisconsin and the Agricultural Economy by Steve Deller, professor of agriculture and applied economics, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UW-Madison and Community Development Specialist, UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension.