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## Horticulture contributes to Taylor County diversity

Taylor County sales of Christmas trees, fruits and vegetables, greenhouse, nursery and floriculture products total \$1.0 million. Landscape and grounds maintenance businesses create additional full-time jobs and many seasonal jobs.

## Local food sales account for \$246,000 to economy

More and more Taylor County farmers sell directly to consumers from roadside stands, farmers' markets, auctions and pick-your-own operations, with 76 farms generating \$246,000 in local food sales.

## Farmers are stewards of 35% of the county's land

Taylor County farmers own and manage 217,012 acres, or about 35 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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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:  
Taylor County UW-Extension  
Room 103 County-USDA Service Center  
925 Donald Street, Medford, WI 54451-2095  
715-748-3327 • <http://taylor.uwex.edu/>

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AGRICULTURE - WORKING EVERY DAY FOR WISCONSIN

## Taylor County Agriculture:

# Value & Economic Impact

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**Agriculture works hard for Taylor 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.**

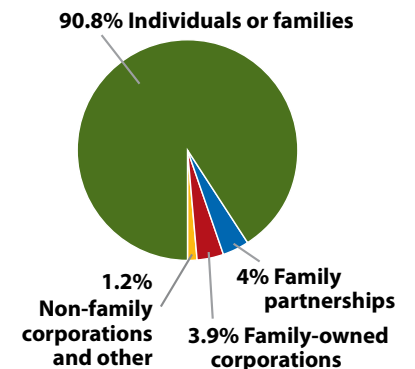
Located in north-central Wisconsin, Taylor County family-owned farms, food processors and agriculture-related business generate economic activity while contributing to local income and tax revenues. Taylor County agriculturists produce a wide range of commodities, including dairy and meat animals, Christmas trees, mink, ginseng, berries, timber, pheasant and emu. The county is home to several cheese makers, lumber processing facilities and major wood-product manufactures. Two-thirds of Taylor County citizens live in the country, utilizing their land for agricultural and recreational activities.



## How important is agriculture?

- Agriculture provides **jobs for 4,307** Taylor County residents.
- Agriculture accounts for **\$972 million in economic activity**.
- Agriculture contributes **\$288 million** to the county's total income.
- Agriculture pays **\$13.7 million in taxes**. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to local schools.

## Who owns the farms?



## Agriculture provides 37% of Taylor County's jobs

Taylor County **agriculture provides 4,307 jobs**, or 36.6 percent, of the county's workforce of 11,778. 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 0.95 jobs in the county.

## Agriculture contributes \$288 million to county income

Taylor County **agriculture accounts for \$287.8 million**, or 40.6 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 \$1.18 of county income.

## Agriculture pumps over \$972 million into local economy

Taylor County **agriculture generates \$972.5 million in economic activity**, about 56 percent, of the county's total economic activity. Every dollar of sales from agricultural products generates an additional \$0.52 of economic activity in other parts of the county's economy.

### Here's how agriculture stimulates economic activity:

- The direct effect of agriculture equals \$641.4 million and includes the sale of farm products and value-added products.
- Purchases of agricultural and food-processing inputs, services and equipment add another \$273.1 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 \$58.0 million in economic activity when people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings in the local economy.

## Agriculture pays \$13.7 million in taxes

Economic activity associated with Taylor County farms and agriculture-related businesses **generates \$13.7 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    | \$3.4 million         |
| Income tax   | \$3.1 million         |
| Property tax | \$4.5 million         |
| Other        | \$2.7 million         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$13.7 million</b> |

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

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Milk                            | \$108.9 million |
| 2. Grain                           | \$29.2 million  |
| 3. Other animals & animal products | \$28.6 million  |
| 4. Cattle & calves                 | \$18.1 million  |
| 5. Other crops & hay               | \$3.5 million   |



## Dairy is a key Taylor County industry

Dairy farming is the major agricultural industry in Taylor County. On-farm production and milk sales account for \$88 million. Processing milk into dairy products generates another \$556.2 million.

- Three plants process dairy products in Taylor County.
- On-farm milk production accounts for 455 jobs, and dairy processing accounts for 1,536 jobs.
- At the county level, each dairy cow generates \$4,273 in on-farm sales to producers.
- At the state level, each dairy cow generates over \$34,000 in total sales.

