

## Wood County Agricultural Profile 2002

<u>Item</u>	
Farms	1,108
By Principle Occupation:	
Farming full time	728
Other	380
Average age of farmer	50.5
Land in Farms	228,050 - A
Average Farm Size	206 - A
Alfalfa and other forage	57,747 - A
Pasture, all types	28,003 - A
Corn Grain	26,603 - A
Soybeans	10,951 - A
Corn Silage	8,863 - A
Cranberries	4,682 - A
Oats for grain	3,061 - A
Christmas Trees	755 - A
All Cattle & Calves	47,007
Dairy Cows	20,736
Dairy Herds	330
Hogs and pigs	5,138
Horse and ponies	1,366
Sheep and lambs	1,006

Barley, wheat, rye, dairy goats, bees, quail, laying hens, apples, asparagus, strawberries, buckwheat, ginseng, forest products, sorghum, sudan grass, and sunflowers, are among other animals and crops found in the county.

## 2002 Cash Farm Receipts

Market Value of Agriculture Products Sold	Unit
Total Sales	80,361,000 - 100%
Dairy	38,958,000 - 48.5%
Fruits & berries	3,888,000 - 29.7%
Cattle, calves & hogs	8,339,000 - 10.3%
Grains & oil seeds	3,667,000 - 4.6%
Vegetables, nursery	2,903,000 - 3.6%
Other crops & hay	1,615,000 - 2.0%

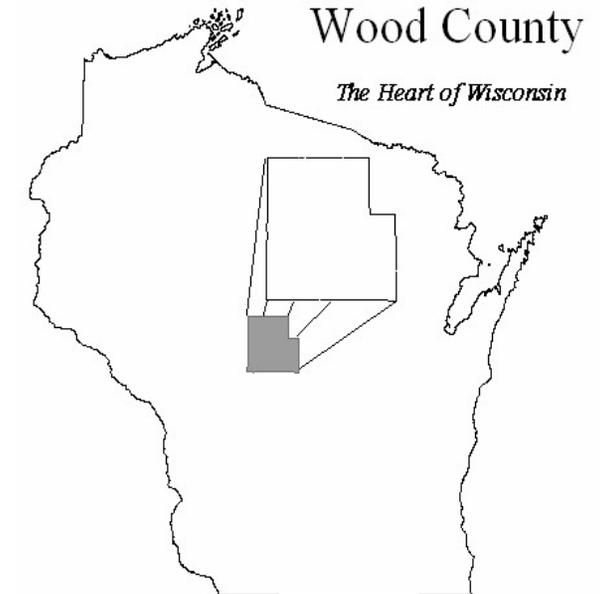
- Statistics are taken from the "2002 Census of Agriculture," at <http://www.nass.usda.gov.census>



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# AGRICULTURE

## IN



*This material was prepared by:*

**Matt Lippert, Agriculture Agent**  
**Wood County UW-Extension**  
**400 Market St PO Box 8095**  
**Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495**  
**715-421-8440 Telephone**  
**715-421-8476 Fax**

## WOOD COUNTY AGRICULTURE

### GENERAL SITUATION

Wood County, in the Central part of Wisconsin, has a total area of 516,544 acres. Of this total 507,428 acres is land and 9,116 is water. In 2000, the population of Wood County was 75,555. Wisconsin Rapids, the county seat in the Southeast part of the county had a population of 18,435. Marshfield the largest city, in the Northern part of the county, had a population of 18,800.

The Wisconsin River flows through the southeastern part of the county. It and its tributaries, the Yellow River and Mill Creek drain the largest portion of the county. In Western Wood County an area is drained by the Black River, a tributary of the Mississippi. Wood County has a diverse natural resource base of forest, lakes, streams, and farmland. Dairying and cranberry production are the major agricultural enterprises. Wood County is number two in the nation in cranberry production. Cash cropping of corn, soybeans and hay are also practiced as well as livestock production including beef and swine. Commercial vegetables, forestry and Christmas trees are also produced.

The diversity of Wood County's resource base lends itself to a mix of agriculture, business and recreation. Paper and cheese production are major industries closely related to the county's land resources.

### CLIMATE

The climate of Wood County is characterized by marked changes in weather common to Wisconsin. There is a tendency toward extremes in all of the climatic elements. The average date of the last 32-degree freeze in spring is May 17; the first in fall is September 27. Heat growth units during the growing season, above a 50-degree threshold, average 2,240.

Precipitation is usually adequate for agricultural purposes, averaging around 31 inches annually, but soil moisture can become deficient in July and August. Approximately 60% of the annual precipitation falls in May through September.

### GEOGRAPHY

Wood County is gently sloping to nearly flat throughout. The northern one third of Wood County is part of the Northern Highland. The rest of the county is part of the Central Plain.

The Northern Highland soils are formed above Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rock. In the northwestern part of the county the soils formed from this bedrock and materials that are most likely from a glacial advance prior to the most recent glaciation to visit Wisconsin. No part of Wood County was glaciated during the last glacial advance to come to Wisconsin. Across the middle third of the county are soils that are transitional from the Northern Highland. These soils, like the Northern Highland are silty and have poor internal drainage, but are formed from a layer of Cambrian sandstone and interbedded shale that lies above the Precambrian rock.

In the southern part of the county the soils are sandy or in the low-lying areas, organic. This area was once part of Glacial Lake Wisconsin, which formed from the melt-waters from the receding glaciers to the north.

