

# **AGRICULTURE STATISTICS FOR MANITOWOC COUNTY**

**Updated February 11, 2022**

**Compiled by Angie Ulness**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension Manitowoc County Ag Educator**

In 2020, Manitowoc County grabbed the top spot for total annual milk production in the State! Our dairy herds produced a total of 1.646 Billion pounds of milk. For the 14<sup>th</sup> straight year, Manitowoc County dairy producers sold over one billion pounds of milk! The 2020 average production per cow was 27,900 pounds (nearly 14 tons). That total puts us second on the list behind Brown County dairy farmers who out produced us per cow by just 600 pounds. The state average milk yield per cow in 2020 was 24,408 pounds.

Manitowoc County has approximately 1,171 farms with approximately 231,609 tillable acres averaging 198 acres per farm. The Wisconsin Agriculture Statistics Service defines a farm as, "Any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." Farmers are also caretakers of the land with nearly 90% of the total cropland in our county utilizing a nutrient management plan. Additionally, 46% of the them practice no till or reduced tillage practices on their land.

Currently, Manitowoc County has approximately 162 dairy farms with 59,000 cows (about 364 cows per farm). The average number of dairy cows per farm in Wisconsin is 177. Manitowoc County ties for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state in the number of dairy cows. Manitowoc County dairy farms range in size from 30 cows to over 5,000 cows. Virtually all of these dairy farms are family owned and many are multi-family businesses. Currently, Manitowoc County has approximately 110,000 dairy cattle with heifers and calves. There is a total of 594 square miles in the county, which means there are about 99 dairy cows per square mile. Manitowoc County routinely ranks in the top three Wisconsin counties in the number of cows per square mile.

In addition to ranking 1<sup>st</sup> out of 72 Wisconsin counties and in the top 25 counties in the United States in total annual milk production. Manitowoc County dairy farmers produce enough milk to supply each of the 78,981 people in the county with 6 gallons of milk or about 5 pounds of award-winning cheese each and every day.

Manitowoc County 's Rank in the Wisconsin Dairy Industry--2020	
Annual Milk Production per Cow	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Total Annual Milk Production	1 <sup>st</sup>
Number of Dairy Cows	Tied for 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Manitowoc County ranks in the top 25 counties in the United States in total milk production.	

In 2020, Manitowoc County farmers harvested 56,096 acres (an acre is about the same size as a football field) of alfalfa; 45,400 acres of corn for silage; 31,500 acres of corn for grain; 32,370 acres of soybeans; and 12,633 acres of winter wheat. Other crops included oats, barley, snap beans, red beets, carrots, and sweet corn. Historically, Manitowoc County ranks among the top ten Wisconsin counties in the following categories: corn silage production (3<sup>rd</sup> in total tonnage in 2020 with 863,000 tons), total forage produced, and winter wheat. The following table shows crop yields (in either bushels per acre or tons per acre) from 2009 to 2020.

#### Crop Yields from 2009 to 2020 Expressed in Either Bushels per Acre or Tons per Acre

Crop	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Bu/Acre											
Corn Grain	144	159	159	149	149	125	161	178	177.7	177.8	163	157.4
Soybeans	37	50	46	53	NA	36	47	57	49.2	52.7	44.2	51.7
Oats	74	64	NA	NA	NA	67	82	75	58.1	71.2	NA	66.8
Winter Wheat	73	68	64	76	76	67	79	81	61.5	77	68.2	66.5

  

	Tons/Acre											
Corn Silage	15.0	18.0	19.0	17.5	17.5	17.5	17	22	18	21	16	19
Alfalfa Hay	2.7	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.9	3.0	3.9	3.0	2.35	2.4	3.2

NA means that the data is not published by the United States Department of Agriculture, and is therefore not available.