

MANITOWOC COUNTY AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

Updated July 2019

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Once again in 2017, Manitowoc County was a leader in the state of Wisconsin in total milk produced per cow. The 2017 (the latest data available) average production per cow was 27,800 pounds (nearly 14 tons). The state average milk yield per cow in 2017 was 23,725 pounds. In 2017, Manitowoc County dairy producers also sold over one billion pounds of milk for the 11th straight year. Only Fond du Lac and Clark County dairy farmers produced more milk. Total Manitowoc County milk output in 2017 was 1,529,000,000 pounds up from 1,495,800,000 pounds in 2016.

Manitowoc County has approximately 1,220 farms with approximately 187,000 tillable acres averaging 153 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."

Currently, Manitowoc County has approximately 195 dairy farms with 55,000 cows (about 282 cows per farm). The average number of dairy cows per farm in Wisconsin is about 165. Manitowoc County dairy farms range in size from 20 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 115,000 dairy and beef cattle with over 90 percent of the total being dairy cows, heifers, and calves. There are a total of 594 square miles in the county, which means there are about 91 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 tying for first place with Brown County in milk production per cow, Manitowoc County ranks third out of the 72 Wisconsin counties and routinely ranks in the top 30 counties in the United States in total annual milk production. Furthermore, Manitowoc County is tied with Dane County for fourth place in the state in the number of dairy cows with 55,000.

Manitowoc County 's Rank in the Wisconsin Dairy Industry--2017	
Annual Milk Production per Cow	Tied for 1st
Total Annual Milk Production	3rd
Number of Dairy Cows	Tied for 4th
Manitowoc County ranks in the top 30 counties in the United States in total milk production.	

In 2017, Manitowoc County farmers harvested 32,900 acres (an acre is about the same size as a football field) of alfalfa; 33,900 acres of corn for silage; 36,100 acres of corn for grain; 31,900 acres of soybeans; 14,400 acres of winter wheat; and 2,050 acres of oats. Other crops included 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 (2nd in total tonnage in 2018 with 711,000 tons), total forage produced, winter wheat (1st in total bushels in 2018 with 1.1 million bushels), and snap beans. The following table shows crop yields (in either bushels per acre or tons per acre) from 2005 to 2018.

Crop Yields from 2005 to 2018 Expressed in Either Bushels per Acre or Tons per Acre

Crop	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	Bu/Acre													
Corn Grain	144	141	140	134	144	159	159	149	149	125	161	178	178	178
Soybeans	38	42	37	35	37	50	46	53	NA	36	47	57	49	53
Oats	69	73	73	66	74	64	NA	NA	NA	67	82	75	58	71
Winter Wheat	49	74	71	66	73	68	64	76	76	67	79	81	62	77
Barley	57	55	69	44	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Tons/Acre													
Corn Silage	16.0	18.0	17.0	18.5	15.0	18	19	17.5	17.5	17.5	17	22	18	21
Alfalfa Hay	2.6	3.9	3.5	4.0	2.7	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.9	3.0	3.5	2.6	NA
All Types of Hay	2.6	3.7	3.4	3.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Snap Beans	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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