Wisconsin Farmers Union works to enhance the quality of life for family farmers and rural communities through...
Since 1930...the reasoned voice for Wisconsin family farms.

Impaired Waters in Wisconsin

Farm Income and the New Farm Bill

Paul D. Mitchell
Professor, Agricultural and Applied Economics Extension Specialist, Cropping Systems Management Director, Renk Agribusiness Institute Wisconsin Agricultural Outlook Forum
$93 \text{ B} -8% \\
$66 \text{ B} -12%

Source: https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-sector-income-finances/highlights-from-the-farm-income-forecast/

Wisconsin Net Farm Income in 2010-2018F

$1.7 \text{ B} -6%
Good production year, but income depends on prices

2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

Total Beef Down 1.4%
down 0.2%
Dairy Down 7.1%

Expenses up 4.2% (interest, fuel, feed & labor)

Government Payments up 18%

- Price/Revenue-based payments ARC/PLC -$4.6 B
- Market Facilitation Program (MFP): +$4.7 B
Disaster Payments +1.6 B

MFP & Disaster
ARC & PLC

Wisconsin Led the Nation in Chapter 12 Bankruptcy Filings for 10/1/17 to 9/30/18


Current 50 WI Farm Bankruptcy Rate Unusually High

40302010 02013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018
Chapter 12 Bankruptcies per 10,000 Farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Average 1997-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>5.82</td>
<td>6.57</td>
<td>6.86</td>
<td>2.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>4.09</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>1.77</td>
<td>2.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dinterman et al. (2018)

The Voices of Wisconsin Dairy Farmers

“We are just treading water and getting very tired.
Not sure how long we will be able to hold on.”

“2009 reduced savings to near-zero.”
Playing catch up ever since.”
“Don't know what to do. What's here today is gone tomorrow.”
“Farming used to be fun. It's not fun anymore.”

Median farm income, median off-farm income, and median total income of farm operator households, 2014-2017F Dollars (nominal) 100,000
1 2014 2015 2016 2017F
81,637
76,735 76,250 76,831 75,000
70,000 67,500 66,468 67,969

50,000

25,000
-118
-765
-940 -1,325

-25,000 +
Median farm income
Median off-farm income
Median total household income


**Farms and their value of production** by ERS farm type, 2015 Percent of U.S. farms or production

1007
89.7

| Share of farms
Share of production
Smaller farm size = larger economic impact

- A 1994 study found that smaller farms make nearly 95% of their expenditures locally, while...
larger operations spend less than 20% locally.

- A study of 1,106 rural communities in Iowa found that economic growth rates in communities with conventional farming are 55% higher than in those with large animal feeding operations. Miguel Gomez and Liying Zhang, “Impacts of Concentration in Hog Production on Economic Growth in Rural Illinois” (Illinois State U. working paper presented at annual meeting of American Agricultural Economics Association, July 30–August 2, 2000).

Opportunities to Collaborate with Farmers on Water Quality

- Wisconsin Farmer-Led
Watershed Projects
• Incentivizing Cover Crops through Crop Insurance
• Funding and support for Managed Grazing
• Groundwater Testing and Mapping

Dairy Together Canadian Dairy Supply Management
How does it work? Could it work here?

FOND DU LAC Wednesday, March 14 - 11:30am-2:30pm
Holiday Inn Conference Center 625 Rolling Meadows Dr., Fond du Lac

EAU CLAIRE Tuesday, March 13 - 11:30am-2:30pm 29 Pines/Sleep Inn & Suites
Conference Center
5872 33rd Ave., Eau Claire

DODGEVILLE Thursday, March 15 - 11:30am-2:30pm
Dodger Bowl Banquet Center
318 King St., Dodgeville

EDGAR Tuesday, March 13 - 7:30pm-9:30pm
Korner Kitchen W4890 Cty. Rd, H, Edgar
WESTBY Thursday, March 15 - 7:30pm-9:30pm
Nordic Lanes 511 N. Main St., Westby
Wisconsin Farmers
Union UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Free to attend and includes lunch. RSVP to
715-723-5561 or under events at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

It's time for change. Dairy Together is hitting the road
... and coming to a state near you

Farmers, are you
tired of selling milk below cost of production? Come learn how
farmers are organizing for dairy
pricing reform.

Wisconsin April 11: Minnesota April 12: South Dakota May (dates TBD): New
Mexico/Colorado/California

Learn more at www.DairyTogether.com