



A Wisconsin crop and livestock reporting service summary of Forest County agriculture.

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A Wisconsin Crop and Livestock Reporting Service
Summary of Forest County Agriculture

Forest County is located in the northeastern part of Wisconsin, and its northern border is a part of the state boundary which separates Wisconsin from Michigan. The city of Crandon in the southwestern part of the county is the seat of government.

The total area within the county is about 676,800 acres including the 21,000 acres covered by surveyed lakes and streams. Forest ranks fifteenth among the state's counties in land area. The county is among the few in Wisconsin in which the era of lumbering continued until only a short while ago. Until the middle of the nineteenth century it remained an unbroken wilderness, and the Census of 1890 showed only 1,012 persons living in the county.

Forest County is located in the Northern Highland. The present surface varies from gently rolling to rough and is largely the result of glaciation. A morainic hill west of Crandon, 1,850 feet above sea level, is one of the highest points in the state.

The soils of the county have been derived largely from weathering of glacial deposits. The rolling loams cover more of the county area than any other soil. These loams have a topsoil which ranges in color from a brown or light brown to gray brown and is 10-14 inches deep. Rolling sandy loams are found in two areas of the county. Peat areas are numerous throughout the county.

The original forest covered about 89 percent of the land area of the county, and about 73 percent remains to give the county a rank of fifth in the state. Swampland accounts for less than 3 percent of the land area and less than 1 percent of the land is marshland. A large percentage of the present forest is made up of hard maple, basswood, aspen, birch, and hemlock. There is a small acreage of pine.

Sharp seasonal and annual variations in temperatures and precipitation characterize the climate of Forest County. Summers are relatively short and cool in the county and the winters are long and cold. Precipitation is evenly distributed over the state and averages close to the 31 inches for the state as a whole. About two-thirds of the rainfall occurs during the growing season from May through September. Snowfall in the county averages 60 inches annually.

Some Data on Forest County Agriculture
(Also see accompanying tables)

Livestock on Farms, January 1, 1956		Crop Acreages	
All cattle and calves	8,300	All corn	860
Cows and heifers 2 years and over	4,700	Oats	4,720
Hogs	500	Barley	130
Horses and mules	400	All wheat	110
Stock sheep	700	Rye	70
Chickens	14,700	All tame hay	11,250
Milk production, 1955 - pounds	25,420,000	Alfalfa hay	540
Egg production, 1955	2,496,000	Clover and timothy hay	9,870
		Potatoes	320

Population and Farm Data for Forest County, Wisconsin
From United States Census, 1900-54

Year	Total population	Farm numbers, acreage, size, tenancy, and value				
		Number of farms	Land in farms	Average farm size	Percent of tenancy	Value of farm-land & buildings
1900	1,396	59	6,594	111.8	11.9	
1910	6,782	237	28,210	119.0	5.1	786,226
1920	9,850	535	56,029	104.7	6.7	2,616,677
1925		638	66,679	104.5	6.4	3,172,350
1930	11,118	533	60,964	114.4	8.5	2,582,504
1935		915	91,278	99.8	12.7	2,519,871
1940	11,805	745	76,260	102.4	11.8	1,702,054
1945		656	80,789	123.2	4.1	1,928,940
1950	9,437	652	86,922	133.3	3.1	3,658,223*
1954		467	74,342	159.2	1.7	3,148,650*
Rank	65	67	67	32	68**	68

*Estimated from census sample of value per farm and value per acre.

**Tied with one or more counties.

Total Land Area, Farm Acreage, and Utilization of Farmland
Forest County, Wisconsin

Town	Total land area ^{1/}	Farm acreage ^{2/}	Percent of farmland in: ^{2/}					All other land ^{4/}
			Cropland harvested and idle	Woodland not pastured	Woodland pastured	Pasture not wood-land ^{3/}		
Alvin	72,931.28	2,934	26.1	25.3	36.8	6.2		5.6
Argonne	69,728.80	11,109	31.0	27.9	24.7	11.1		5.3
Armstrong Cr.	29,155.14	13,693	28.2	11.2	19.9	25.8		14.9
Blackwell	46,541.65	1,188	25.2	38.4	17.8	7.4		11.2
Caswell	28,891.14	3,043	28.6	32.7	18.3	8.9		11.5
Crandon	22,680.30	8,270	16.1	22.0	41.6	6.3		14.0
Freedom	22,118.94	5,958	29.1	13.2	32.7	19.2		5.8
Hiles	84,259.31	4,084	24.7	31.4	30.7	7.5		5.7
Laona	67,317.30	9,147	25.4	29.5	26.0	8.3		10.8
Lincoln	41,064.71	5,899	16.6	30.6	23.7	19.6		9.5
Nashville	43,466.12	9,590	19.3	28.1	35.2	8.8		8.6
Popple River	32,875.53	2,561	14.5	36.5	46.1	.6		2.3
Ross	24,952.23	1,373	23.8	28.7	7.9	31.4		8.2
Wabeno	69,670.22	5,774	28.6	17.1	31.5	18.0		4.8
Incorporated places		2,299	18.4	31.3	12.1	33.2		5.0
County	655,652.67	86,922	24.4	24.1	28.2	14.2		9.1

^{1/}Computed by the Crop Reporting Service and published in the 1935 Wisconsin Blue Book.

^{2/}From the 1950 United States Census.

^{3/}Includes cropland pastured and other pastured lands.

^{4/}Includes wasteland, house yards, barnyards, roads, ditches, etc.