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

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

Waukesha County is located in the southeastern part of the state. The city of Waukesha is the seat of county government and is located slightly east of the center of the county. At one point the county is only about eight miles from Lake Michigan.

Settlement was well underway by 1839 in the southeastern part of Wisconsin of which Waukesha County is now a part. The first white man to be familiar with this area was Jacques Vieau, a French fur trader, who visited the area in the early part of the eighteenth century. The area which includes Waukesha County was almost evenly divided between forest and prairie at the time the first settlers arrived.

Waukesha is a square with each side measuring 24 miles. The area of the county including surveyed lakes and streams is 371,200 acres. The present surface features of the county are largely the result of glaciation. There are lakes partly within the Kettle Moraine and partly in the nearby pitted outwash plain and in the southeastern part of the county. Waukesha County soils have been derived largely from the weathering of the various glacial drift materials. In general, the glacial drift has provided good agricultural soils in the county since a considerable portion of the drift material consists of limestone mixed with sand, gravel, clay, and boulders. Some peat soils have been formed in the county.

Temperatures average a little higher than those for the state as a whole, but the seasonal temperatures follow those for the state with rather cold winters and warm summers. Precipitation averages 31 inches annually with rainfall in the growing season accounting for more than half of it.

Waukesha County's growing season is relatively long and variable from year to year. The growing season at Watertown averages 164 days and at Waukesha 158 days. During the growing season from May through September, the annual precipitation ranges from about 55 to 65 percent of the total for the year. Snowfall in the winter averages about 40 inches annually.

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

Livestock on Farms, January 1, 1956		Crop Acreages - 1955	
All cattle and calves	69,600	All corn	49,870
Cows and heifers 2 years and over	41,300	Corn for grain	24,930
Hogs	11,400	Corn for silage	24,540
Horses and mules	1,100	Oats	41,500
Stock sheep	3,600	Barley	750
Chickens	236,000	All wheat	1,760
Egg production, 1955	37,795,000	Rye	280
		Buckwheat	290
		All tame hay	56,980
		Alfalfa hay	49,110
		Clover and timothy hay	6,270
		Wild hay	616
		Soybeans for all purposes	650
		Potatoes	800
		Corn for canning, 1954	980
		Peas for canning, 1954	1,700
Dairy Products - 1955			
Milk production - pounds	279,680,000		
Creamery butter - pounds	578,914		
Cheese (excl. cottage) - pounds	163,556		
Ice cream - gallons	755,889		
Nonfat dry milk solids - pounds	46,807,291		

Population and Farm Data for Waukesha 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
	Number	Number	Acres	Acres	Percent	Dollars
1900	35,229	3,549	332,087	93.6	20.0	
1910	37,100	3,506	329,832	94.1	20.0	31,035,014
1920	42,612	3,406	333,519	97.9	18.9	47,833,048
1925		3,580	320,323	89.5	17.9	45,753,314
1930	52,358	3,164	296,535	93.7	18.0	46,227,750
1935		3,439	315,462	91.7	21.2	32,800,434
1940	62,744	3,367	309,713	92.0	24.5	34,368,700
1945		2,967	306,754	103.4	24.0	37,277,075
1950	85,901	3,049	297,496	97.6	17.2	57,611,053*
1954		2,669	281,539	105.5	15.4	64,080,742*
Rank 1954	1950 - 7	23	40	66	21	5

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

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

Town	Total land area 1/	Farm acreage 2/	Percent of farmland in:				
			Cropland harvested and idle	Woodland not pastured	Woodland pastured	Pasture not wood-land 3/	All other land 4/
	Acres	Acres	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Brookfield	23,007.46	15,451	67.4	3.6	6.4	14.1	8.5
Delafield	20,951.06	15,889	60.1	4.1	17.2	12.5	6.1
Eagle	23,043.17	16,274	56.4	3.4	19.4	12.2	8.6
Genesee	23,082.10	22,087	60.2	3.4	11.4	18.6	6.4
Lisbon	23,115.77	20,922	65.1	4.4	6.9	16.2	7.4
Menomonee	23,120.27	18,979	69.2	2.3	4.4	15.7	8.4
Merton	20,537.04	15,172	64.4	3.6	8.1	17.5	6.4
Mukwonago	22,662.61	19,121	61.3	3.3	12.0	16.1	7.3
Muskego	19,243.20	17,138	70.1	1.3	10.9	10.8	6.9
New Berlin	22,988.93	19,125	69.0	2.9	12.1	8.0	8.0
Oconomowoc	21,232.73	16,941	62.0	2.6	5.9	20.2	9.3
Ottawa	22,822.29	17,934	51.7	5.4	11.8	17.9	13.2
Pewaukee	21,913.68	17,413	66.1	1.9	4.3	19.9	7.8
Summit	20,860.45	16,052	57.9	6.6	10.3	15.1	10.1
Vernon	22,923.60	21,085	59.9	2.9	8.4	18.9	9.9
Waukesha	22,855.82	18,467	62.7	2.9	9.4	17.4	7.6
Inc. cities and villages		9,446	66.8	2.0	10.1	15.7	5.4
County	354,360.18	297,496	62.8	3.3	9.9	15.8	8.2

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.