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

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

Wood is the leading cranberry producing county in the state. It is also one of the important areas of cranberry output in the nation. Except in the choicest irrigated districts, there is nowhere on the American continent where wild and apparently worthless land has been developed into land as valuable as that used for cranberry marshes in Wood County. This land which was bought for about fifty cents an acre is now worth hundreds of dollars an acre.

Wood County is located in the central part of Wisconsin. The seat of county government is the city of Wisconsin Rapids which is located in the south-eastern part of the county on the Wisconsin River. Lumbering was the first industry of the county, but farming is now important. Dairying is the principal source of cash farm income and the level of living of farm operator families is above the average for the state as a whole.

The monthly averages of temperature and rainfall are about the same for the county as for the state. The summers are hot and humid with the rainfall in that period accounting for the greater part of the annual precipitation. The winters are cold and there is a rather heavy snowfall. Precipitation averages about 31 inches annually. The growing season in Wood County ranges from 125 to 135 days.

About two-thirds of Wood County's soils are silt loams. The balance are sands, wet sands, and peat. While not all of the county was covered by glaciers the surface features of the area directly or indirectly result from glaciation. The actual land area of Wood County is 516,621 acres. This does not include the acreage in the four lakes and in the streams.

The expanding livestock industry is demanding more and more feed output, and the acreages used for corn, oats, and tame hay have been increasing in the past quarter of a century. Although not one of the larger counties in the state Wood County ranks among the ten leading counties in the acreage of clover and timothy hay.

Some Facts About Wood County Agriculture
(Also see accompanying tables)

<u>Livestock on Farms, January 1, 1955</u>		<u>Crop Acreages - 1954</u>	
All cattle and calves	58,600	All corn	25,520
Cows and heifers 2 years and over	36,100	Corn for grain	7,480
Hogs	7,800	Corn for silage	17,610
Horses and mules	1,800	Oats	35,230
Stock sheep	1,900	Barley	190
		Rye	600
Chickens	106,500	All wheat	210
Egg production, 1954	18,272,000	Buckwheat	380
		All tame hay	61,980
		Alfalfa hay	2,900
		Clover and timothy hay	57,270
		Wild hay	1,840
		Flaxseed	10
		Corn for canning	20
		Peas for canning	1,070
		Potatoes	170
		Soybeans	900
<u>Dairy Products - 1954</u>			
Milk production - pounds	211,720,000		
Creamery butter - pounds	2,471,006		
Total cheese (excluding cottage curd and creamed) - pounds	16,803,298		

Population and Farm Data for Wood County, Wisconsin
From United States Census, 1900-50

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	25,865	2,359	271,537	115.1	5.7	
1910	30,583	2,706	283,782	104.9	6.1	12,525,492
1920	34,643	3,066	321,907	105.0	7.5	26,493,976
1925		3,150	316,120	100.4	9.0	28,212,443
1930	37,865	2,819	306,188	108.6	12.2	23,529,097
1935		3,341	372,794	111.6	16.3	18,284,933
1940	44,465	2,979	350,857	117.8	18.6	15,046,988
1945		2,968	384,995	129.7	15.9	18,706,705
1950	50,500	2,647	347,944	131.4	8.0	23,795,054

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

Town	Total land area 1/	Farm acreage 2/	Percent of farmland in: 2/				
			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.
Arpin	21,670.45	21,504	45.2	3.7	24.2	21.5	5.4
Auburndale	22,006.19	21,889	48.1	1.5	11.7	35.4	3.3
Cameron	5,540.48	4,844	52.3	.9	17.2	26.1	3.5
Cary	22,637.34	15,838	31.6	10.6	43.9	11.0	2.9
Cranmoor	26,968.17	10,976	9.0	24.2	4.5	11.7	50.6
Dexter	22,851.15	6,993	31.7	22.6	32.0	7.5	6.2
Grand Rapids	26,941.55	7,095	34.3	22.6	22.3	13.7	7.1
Hansen	22,390.07	20,230	40.8	3.9	28.5	22.2	4.6
Hiles	22,580.45	7,311	31.6	15.7	35.9	13.0	3.8
Lincoln	22,623.18	22,915	51.0	3.2	14.6	26.4	4.8
Marshfield	17,428.21	11,854	53.2	4.5	14.1	24.0	4.2
Milladore	22,415.25	20,468	45.5	2.3	19.9	29.6	2.7
Port Edwards	28,133.25	14,278	37.9	15.8	23.4	17.8	5.1
Remington	45,742.76	16,199	9.4	42.1	6.1	9.9	32.5
Richfield	22,473.40	19,919	44.1	1.2	24.8	26.3	3.6
Rock	22,155.97	15,544	48.7	8.5	22.6	19.6	.6
Rudolph	20,337.84	17,872	45.6	3.1	25.2	21.8	4.3
Saratoga	31,935.05	13,364	33.1	19.9	26.2	9.3	11.5
Seneca	21,530.49	8,676	32.6	15.8	23.4	24.0	4.2
Sherry	22,639.78	16,810	46.3	3.5	14.7	31.4	4.1
Sigel	22,888.30	24,301	49.0	3.0	14.8	28.1	5.1
Wood	22,731.30	18,143	42.0	3.8	28.2	22.0	4.0
Inc. cities and villages		10,921	54.9	3.0	13.3	23.4	5.4
County	516,620.63	347,944	41.2	8.6	20.9	22.1	7.2

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

2/From the 1950 United Census.

3/Includes cropland pastured and other pastured lands.

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