



# Freedom Agricultural Education Department

- Est. 1950 -

## Outagamie County Agriculture Fact Sheet



Part of the problem, according to Governor Scott Walker, is that the state's education system has put less emphasis on manufacturing and agriculture. He suggested that more should be done to encourage students to consider careers in those fields. "Our education system has drifted away from that," Walker said.



### About Wisconsin Agriculture

- Agriculture is Wisconsin's signature industry, generating more than \$88 billion in economic activity.
- According to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, agriculture accounts for 353,991 jobs or 10 percent of our state's total workforce.
- Wisconsin's dairy industry contributes \$26 billion to our state's economy. Wisconsin ranks no. 1 in the nation for cheese production and Wisconsin cheese makers produce over 600 types, styles and varieties of cheese.
- In addition to a robust dairy industry, Wisconsin is the top state for the production of many other foods, including cranberries, snap beans and ginseng.

*Agriculture accounts for 14% of Outagamie County's business sales.*

### About Outagamie County Agriculture

- Agriculture provides jobs for 11,593 Outagamie County residents. This is 9.3% of Outagamie County's workforce.
- Agriculture pays \$58 million in taxes. This figure does not include all property taxes paid to local schools.
- Agriculture contributes \$704.6 million to Outagamie County's total income.
- Agriculture accounts for **\$5.8 Billion in economic activity** in Outagamie County.

### \$5.8 Billion Economic Activity Breakdown:

#### **\$1.99 Billion**

The direct effect of agriculture is and includes the sale of all farm products and value-added products.

#### **\$637.2 million**

Purchases of agricultural inputs ; for example, business-to-business purchases such as fuel, fertilizer, feed, veterinary services and crop consultants.

#### **\$161.1 million**

Economic activity created because people who work in agriculture-related businesses spend their earnings.

The Mission of Agricultural Education at Freedom High School is to challenge students to explore and prepare for the diversity of the agriculture industry and careers that it provides.

**State Superintendent Tony Evers:** Schools need to do a better job promoting careers that don't require a four-year college degree. Evers says there is a perception about these jobs that needs to change. "We have tended a message around the issue that if you don't get a four-year degree you're not doing what you need to do, and we have to message there's all sorts of good trade jobs that are available now, and really change that message for students."

### Outagamie County's Top Commodities (Sales by dollar value, 2002)

1. Milk \$145.9 million
2. Grain \$37.8 million
3. Cattle and calves \$35.1 million
4. Nursery & Greenhouse \$7.8 mil.
5. Vegetables \$5.8 million

### Supporting Outagamie County Agriculture Through Secondary Education Courses running for 2015-2016:

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| * Ag. Science 1               | * Forestry              |
| * Ag. Science 2               | * Leadership for Life   |
| * Animal Science and Pet Care | * Horse Science         |
| * Aquaculture & Advanced      | * Veterinary Science    |
| * Aquaculture Lab & Advanced  | * Wildlife Management 1 |
| * Food Science                | * Wildlife Management 2 |

Other Courses offered, but not this past year: Adv. Leadership, Ag. Business & Personal Finance, Greenhouse Mgmt. Horticulture, Landscape Technology, Natural Resources & Alt. Energy, Plant Science.

## Aligning Agricultural Careers At Freedom High School

Wisconsin Career Pathways are modeled after 16 national career clusters developed by the States' Career Clusters Initiative (SCCI). The Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources cluster at Freedom High School showcases careers involved in the production, processing, marketing, distribution, financing and development of agricultural commodities and resources. These include food, fuel, fiber, wood products, natural resources, horticulture and other plant and animal products/resources. This cluster is divided into 7 pathways listed below. The pathways marked with "\*" are ones currently offered at Freedom as a part of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Program:

1. \* Agribusiness Systems
2. \* Environmental Service Systems
3. \* Natural Resource Systems
4. Power, Structural & Technical Systems.
5. \* Animal Systems
6. \* Food Products and Processing Systems
7. \* Plant Systems

For more information visit: [www.whyag.com](http://www.whyag.com)

### Freedom FFA By The Numbers...

- Gold Rated Chapter In WI (20<sup>th</sup> Time)
- 3-Star National Chapter (20<sup>th</sup> Time)
- Members collected over 1,000 lbs. for Food Pantry
- Participated in 8 community service projects
- 1 Gold Rated Proficiency Award

*In 1950, the 81st Congress of the United States, recognizing the importance of the FFA as an integral part of the program of vocational agriculture, granted a Federal Charter to the FFA.*