

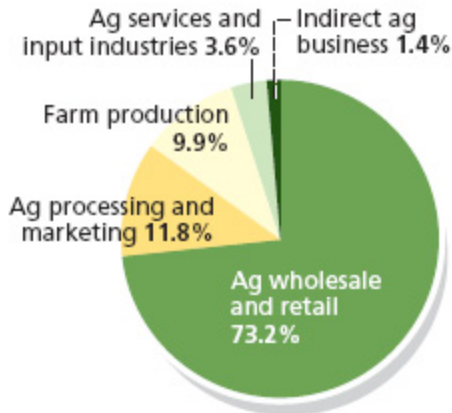
# ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

## Farm and farm-related employment in Dane County

June, which is Dairy Month, affords us an opportunity to recognize Wisconsin's dairy farmers. It also provides a reminder of the importance of agriculture to the local, regional and state economies. In 2002, Dane County ranked No. 1 among Wisconsin's 72 counties and 79th out of 3,078 counties nationally in the total value of agricultural products sold.

Agricultural commodity sales are one measure of the agricultural economy. Farm and farm-related employment provides another perspective. Together, farm and farm-related employment accounts for about one out of every 10 jobs in Dane County.

Farm production is the most apparent agricul-



\*Figures do not total 100 percent because of rounding.

SOURCES: USDA Economic Research Service, U.S. Census Bureau 2003 County Business Patterns, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

A detailed listing of farm and farm-related industries is available at [www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmAndRelatedEmployment/NAICS-Industries.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FarmAndRelatedEmployment/NAICS-Industries.htm)

these industries according to their relationships to agriculture.

tural industry. For most people, the farms dotting rural Dane County define the agricultural economy. However, direct production accounts for only 9.9 percent of the 41,700 farm and farm-related jobs in Dane County, or 1 percent of total employment in the county.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS) defines farm and farm-related industries as those that have more than half of their employees working to provide the goods and services needed to satisfy consumer demand for agricultural products. The ERS classifies

Part one of this month's series on Wisconsin agriculture

**Next week:**  
Conversion of agricultural land to other uses

Economic Snapshot is a weekly feature provided by the Center for Community and Economic Development, University of Wisconsin Extension.

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