This Business Called Agriculture
Wisconsin Agriculture

We've learned about agriculture in general but let's take a closer look at agriculture in Wisconsin. Wisconsin farmers grow many types of crops and raise several kinds of livestock. Some of the crops and livestock raised on Wisconsin farms are listed below. See if you can find these products and livestock in this Wisconsin Agriculture word search.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apples</th>
<th>Fish</th>
<th>Milk</th>
<th>Snap Beans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>Ginseng</td>
<td>Mink</td>
<td>Soybeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bees</td>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>Mint</td>
<td>Strawberries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherries</td>
<td>Hogs</td>
<td>Peas</td>
<td>Sweet Corn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Trees</td>
<td>Honey</td>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>Horseradish</td>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Veal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranberries</td>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>Pulpwood</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ducks</td>
<td>Lumber</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>Maple Syrup</td>
<td>Small Grains</td>
<td>Wild Rice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crops need soil to grow. Soil, along with the weather, decides which crops can be grown here. Soil is made when rocks, such as limestone or granite, are broken apart by rain and temperature. These tiny pieces of rock mix with decaying plants and over time form soil. It takes 100 years to form one inch of soil.

Wisconsin has 560 different soils. These soils are divided into five groups — forested, prairie, red clay, acid and sand/organic.

Our State Soil is Antigo Silt Loam. This soil was formed when the glacier, which covered Wisconsin, melted 11,000 years ago. As the glacier melted, the water flowed off the ice picking up sand and gravel. Later, winds swept over the bare ground and blew clouds of dust called loess over the sand and gravel forming a silt blanket. Forests grew on this silt blanket for 10,000 years adding their fallen leaves and branches to create this soil. It was named the state soil as it is mainly found only in Wisconsin.

1. How is soil formed?

2. Name the five kinds of soil.

3. What is Wisconsin's State Soil?

4. On this state soil map outline your county in red.

5. What kind(s) of soil is in your county?

6. What crops are grown in your county's soil?
Wisconsin farmers raise many **specialty crops**. These are crops you may have never heard of or possibly just didn’t realize were grown in our state.

Read the descriptions below and try to match up the picture with its description.

Find a recipe that uses one of these products as an ingredient. If you are able to make the recipe, tell the class about it.

1. This grain is **aquatic** which means it grows in the water. It was first harvested by Native Americans.

2. This herb is used as a flavoring in gums and candy. Wisconsin farmers grow 7,400 acres of this herb.

3. This root is in the mustard family and can be used as a relish on hotdogs. 800 acres of this crop are grown here each year. That’s 25% of the U.S. crop.

4. This exotic plant originated in China and Japan. It is grown on hardwood logs by about 300 Wisconsin farmers and is sold to restaurants and food stores.

5. Wisconsin produces 98% of the United States’ supply of this root. Most of this product is exported to the Orient where people use it as a medicine. Wisconsin grew 420,000 pounds last year.
Wisconsin’s famous Door County peninsula produces more tart cherries than any other U.S. county. That’s enough to make Wisconsin the 4th largest cherry-producing state. Wisconsin cherries are frozen, canned, or made into wonderful cherry pies!

The Algonquin Indians of Wisconsin called the little red berry that grew in marshes, “atoqua.” The pilgrims called it “crane berry” because the pink blossoms reminded them of the heads of cranes. Today this Wisconsin fruit is called cranberries and is cultivated on 15,900 acres. We produce over 56% of our nation’s crop of cranberries.

Wisconsin farmers grow about 1,000 acres of strawberries each year, with 4,800 lbs. of strawberries harvested from each acre! Most of these berries are harvested at “pick your own” farms during the months of June and July. Here’s a fun fact — each strawberry has 400 seeds!
Wisconsin Crops

Apples are one of the few fruits that you can find fresh any time of the year, all over the country. Besides being delicious, apples provide us with pectin, a fiber, and vitamins and minerals. 58 million pounds of apples are produced each year on more than 6,400 acres in 46 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties. Apples come in all shades of red, yellow, green and dual tones of these — so don’t just look for red color to tell you an apple is prime for eating. Wisconsin produces many kinds of apples including Red Delicious, McIntosh, Empire, Cortland and Honeycrisp. Eating an apple helps to clean the teeth.

Check out your “Wisconsin Fruit” IQ with this crossword puzzle.

Across
1. Name the fiber that apples provide us with .
2. What red berry grows in Wisconsin marshes?
6. Which Wisconsin Indian tribe liked cranberries?
7. Of which fruit do Wisconsin farmers plant 1,000 acres?
8. This is the kind of cherry grown in Wisconsin.
9. What is the Algonquin word for cranberry?
10. Each strawberry has 400 .

Down
1. Door County is a famous Wisconsin .
3. A favorite fruit that is canned or frozen.
4. Strawberries can be picked this month.
5. A kind of apple.
6. This fruit helps to clean the teeth.
Wisconsin produces many types of **grains**. Grains are any of the cereal crops and include corn, soybeans, wheat, oats and barley. Wisconsin is also a top producer of hay.

**Improve your “Grain IQ” by searching out the answers from the word list in the box to these questions. Find out Wisconsin’s #1 industry by reading the letters in the boxes.**

1. Wheat flour is used to make ____________________________  _______  _______  _______  
2. Another name for hay used as animal feed is  _______  _______  _______  _______  
3. You can eat oats for breakfast as ____________________________  _______  _______  
4. Corn plants chopped and made into silage for animal feed is stored in a ____________________________  _______  _______  
5. Wisconsin’s winter wheat makes the best flour for  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  
6. Soybeans provide animals and humans with protein which is an important ____________________________  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  
7. Wisconsin’s most important hay crop is  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  
8. Barley is used to make ____________________________  _______  _______  
9. Corn is the most important feed grain for livestock and  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  
10. Biodiesel is an environmentally friendly fuel that is made from  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  like soybeans. 
11. The alcohol fuel made from corn is called  _______  _______  _______  _______  _______  

**Wisconsin’s #1 industry is** ____________________________
Wisconsin Crops

Wisconsin grows nearly 60 million bushels of soybeans. Soybeans are used as food for people and animals, as fuel for vehicles, and in a variety of products we use every day.

Soybeans in your diet can lower cholesterol and fight diseases such as cancer. In animal feeds, soybean meal provides a source of protein.

Bio Diesel is a fuel made from soybeans that can be used in trucks and tractors. It’s environmentally-friendly and the exhaust smells like french fries!

Soybeans are being used to make products that were made from oil. The ink used in this book was made from soybeans. Candles, crayons, and paints can now be made from soybeans.

INVESTIGATE....BE A SOYBEAN DETECTIVE

You’re a private eye...you’ve been put on the case of the “Missing Soybeans.” Where could the soybeans produced in Wisconsin this year be? Track down as many uses as you can for soybeans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD made with Soybeans</th>
<th>HEALTH Benefits of Soybeans</th>
<th>PRODUCTS made from soybeans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wisconsin Crops

Today most of the corn and soybeans grown in the United States have been genetically modified—their genes or characteristics have been changed using biotechnology. Many other crops have been genetically modified also.

Can You...

...improve this corn plant by listing characteristics to change? List your suggestions below:

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Become an Agriculture Geneticist!

Use the space below to draw a plant that you would like to improve. Include the improvements in your drawing:
Wisconsin Crops

Wisconsin is a lot like a grocery store for America. We are important producers of many vegetables. Match the vegetables in the word list to the facts below.

Lettuce
Onions
Cabbage
Carrots
Peas
Snap Beans
Sweet Corn
Cucumbers

1. This vegetable was given its name because the ends were "snapped" off before cooking. Wisconsin produces 35% of our nation's supply of this bean; most of our crop is of the "green" type.

2. It could make you cry to just talk about this Wisconsin vegetable, but you'll surely weep if you cut into it.

3. This long, green vegetable is used to make pickles.

4. Wisconsin ranks 3rd in production of this green vegetable that grows in pods.

5. This green, leafy vegetable is the main part of a salad.

6. This vegetable grows on a cob and is delicious with Wisconsin butter.

7. The vitamin carotene from this orange root is good for your eyesight. Wisconsin ranks 3rd in its production.

8. This vegetable grows in a head and is used to make sauerkraut and coleslaw.

Write and perform a commercial that will persuade your viewers to consume one of these vegetables. Include true facts. You may want to write a jingle or have a celebrity endorsement.