

Compiled by
Professor Steve Deller
of UW-Madison's
department of
Agricultural and
Applied Economics.

QUESTIONS? Contact
Bill Pinkovitz at
[bill.pinkovitz@
ces.uwex.edu](mailto:bill.pinkovitz@ces.uwex.edu).

Economic Snapshot
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Farming jobs on the decline in rural areas

In 1970, farmers and their employees accounted for 31.4 percent of all jobs in Richland County. Farming provided more jobs than other sector.

Today, farming remains a cornerstone of the county's economy. However, manufacturing has replaced farming as the No. 1 employer in the county.

A portion of farming's decline is attributable to the decrease in the number of farmers and farm employment. Diversification of the local economy and increases in employment in

Rural Wisconsin

Week 3:
Jobs

other sectors are reasons for the relative decline in farming's share of total employment.

For example, total employment in Richland County increased by 42 percent and employment in manufacturing and construction more than doubled between 1970 and 2007, while farm employment declined by 30 percent.

Similar data for every county in the U.S. is available at:

[http://bea.gov/regional/reis/
default.cfm?selTableCA25](http://bea.gov/regional/reis/default.cfm?selTableCA25).

As economy diversifies, farm employment drops

Farm proprietors and employees as a percentage of total employment, in 1970 and 2007:

County	1970	2007
Richland	31.4%	15.4%
Iowa	34.2	12.9
Green	24.7	9.1
Lafayette	41.8	24.9
Grant	23.7	12.2
Sauk	14.8	4.8

SOURCE: Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS Table CA25