

## How Can I Assist Farmers?

- ⇒ By always receiving permission from farmers before entering their property for any purpose so as to avoid damaging crops and/or disrupting farming operations.
- ⇒ By refraining from unwanted complaints to local, state, or federal governments about generally accepted farm management practices.
- ⇒ By refraining from any actions that would discourage farmers from conducting standard farming practices on agriculturally zoned property.



**F**arm families need your support to remain in business. Please do what you can to keep agriculture viable in Jefferson County.

### Brochure printing and funding support from:

Jefferson County Animal Agriculture Alliance  
Jefferson County University of Wisconsin  
Extension  
Jefferson County Planning and Zoning  
Jefferson County Economic Development  
Consortium  
Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board — WMMB  
Watertown Agribusiness Club  
Jefferson County Agribusiness Club  
Watertown Area Outstanding Young Farmer  
— and other ag organizations.

\* sources: National Ag Statistics Service,  
Wisconsin Ag Statistics Service and University of  
Wisconsin Center for Dairy Profitability.

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# MOVING TO THE COUNTRY OR A RURAL NEIGHBORHOOD?



## YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER THIS...



1. Are you longing for the quiet and picturesque countryside?



2. Are you anxious to enjoy the clean, fresh air of country living?



3. Do you dream about lazy days of summer on your back porch listening to birds sing?

If you are tempted to romanticize rural living, think twice about realities of what it means to live in the country in southeastern Wisconsin.

Jefferson County is home to thousands of farmers, from dairy and beef to mint and vegetable crops. We farm 73% of the land, compared to 30% in Waukesha County.

Remember that agriculture has been here for well over 100 years. Today, the ag industry — from food production to retail store — plays a key role in our local economy. Every dairy cow in Wisconsin generates \$14,860 in economic activity\*. Include other ag commodities and it further strengthens ag's contribution.



Today's farmers are business-minded, yet they carry with them a true love of the land and animals. Many strive to adapt their operations so the next generation can take over and be successful. But some modern farm practices come in conflict with non-farm residents' ideas about rural living. For instance:

- During crop harvest, machinery often operates in nearby fields late at night or early in the morning and slow moving vehicles are prevalent on the roads.
- Manure and fertilizer applications are done to scientific specifications in most instances, to supply only the nutrient needs of a growing crop.

## Manure Odor

While manure's odor is not always pleasing, it does provide nutrients to soil and is one of the best sources of fertilizer, while improving the soil's health.

- Trees or other vegetation may be trimmed or taken down to improve fieldwork efficiency or drainage through ditches that can become clogged.
- Other issues that can arise include: presence of wildlife, weed control applications, dust, insects, and more.

If you have questions or concerns about these or other practices, please call or visit the nearby farmer first and ask about the situation. Many times face-to-face communication allows both parties to learn something and become "good neighbors".

The Jefferson County board of supervisors has adopted an "Agriculture Preservation and Land Use Plan" that states on page 3: *The county board believes, that to the extent possible, consistent with good land use planning and environmental protection, the county's land use and zoning regulations should not hamper ag production or the use of modern agricultural technology.*

So, think twice about rural living before you make that move. And be sure to take the time to enjoy some of the pleasant country smells, while keeping in perspective the realities of modern agriculture, which contributes much to the county's economy.

## Hay