

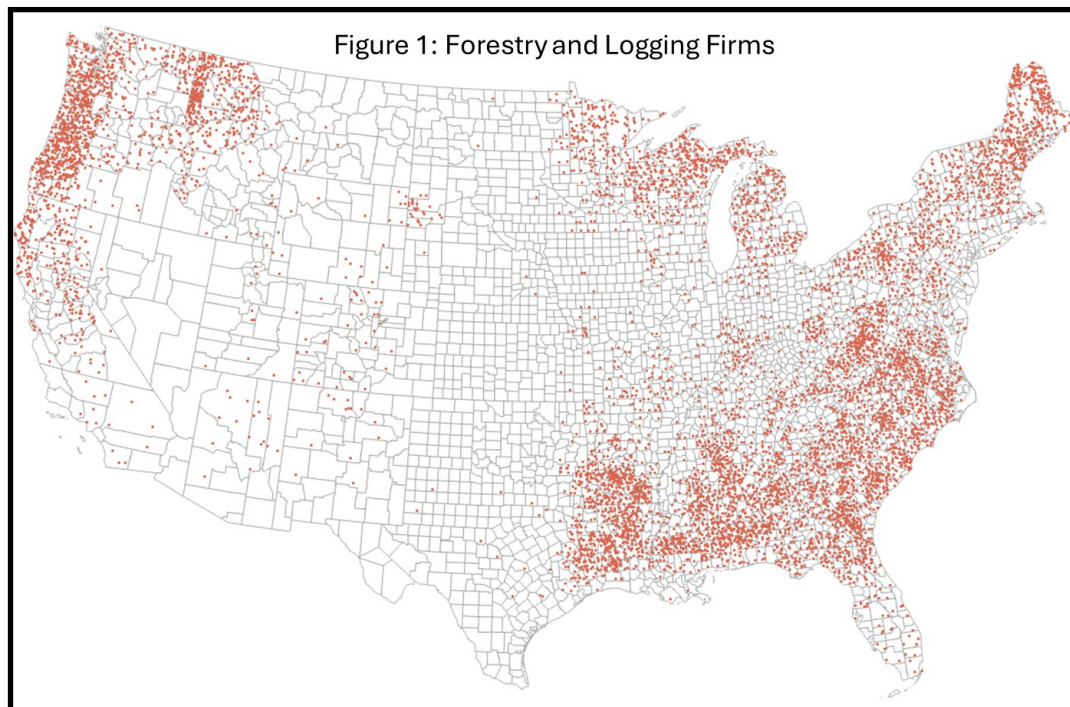
# Logging and Forestry



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When one thinks about Wisconsin agriculture, products related to Wisconsin's vast forest resources are often overlooked. Using data from the 2022 Census of Agriculture, there are 1,992 Wisconsin farms reporting \$28,157,000 in the sales of forest products (excluding Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops, or maple products). Forestry and logging more generally has a long and rich tradition in Wisconsin. Indeed, logging along with mining is embolized on the Wisconsin State flag reflecting the fact that logging was a backbone of the economy in the 1830s and 1840s. Unfortunately, by the early 20th century, Wisconsin's forests had been heavily depleted due to over-logging. By the 1920s, the need for sustainable forestry practices became evident. The state began to focus on reforestation and conservation efforts such as selective harvesting. Those conservation efforts proved successful and today Wisconsin remains a leader in forest products, with forestry contributing significantly to the state's economy.

Today there are 239 firms in Wisconsin that are actively involved in forestry and logging employing 4,025 people with \$388 million in sales. As expected, most of these firms are concentrated in Wisconsin's "North Woods" but there are a number of firms located in more urban settings. These firms could be thought of as arboriculture firms specializing in the management, care, and maintenance of trees and green spaces within cities and towns. Urban forestry focuses on improving environmental quality and public health by managing trees in parks, streetscapes, and private properties.



State Of Wisconsin  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
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Contribution of Agriculture to the Wisconsin Economy

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To assess the economic contribution of logging and forestry to Wisconsin we consider farms reporting sales of forestry products, the broad industry of forestry, forest products, and timber tract production (e.g. nurseries for reforestation growing trees or harvesting products such as balsam needles or pine gum) along with the general category of logging (e.g., timber cutting, piling and hauling as stump removal). In total, these three components directly, prior to the multiplier analysis, add about 4,200 jobs, \$213.9 million to labor income (wages, salaries and proprietor income), \$253.6 million to total income (labor income plus all other sources of income such as dividends, interest and rent) and \$425.3 million to industrial sales or revenue. Of the three industry groupings, logging dominates accounting for 89.4% of employment and 86.3% of industrial sales. Thus, for brevity in reporting the contribution analysis, we combine logging and forestry while looking at farm reported forestry separately.

	Employment	Labor Income (MM\$)	Total Income (MM\$)	Industry Sales (MM\$)
Forestry-Logging	6,507	\$ 324.8	\$ 429.2	\$ 720.0
On Farm Forestry	266	\$ 11.4	\$ 25.9	\$ 44.4
Total	6,772	\$ 336.2	\$ 455.1	\$ 764.4

	Local Govt. (MM\$)	State Govt. (MM\$)	Federal Govt. (MM\$)	Total Govt. (MM\$)
Forestry-Logging	\$11.6	\$21.7	\$68.5	\$101.8
On Farm Forestry	\$0.16	\$0.78	\$2.81	\$3.74
Total	\$11.8	\$22.5	\$71.3	\$105.5

In aggregate, forestry-related economic activity contributes a total of 6,772 jobs to the Wisconsin economy, \$336.2 million in labor income, \$455.1 million in total income, and \$764.4 million to industrial sales or revenue (Table 1). The farm reported forestry activity contribution is more modest with only 266 jobs and \$44.4 million in industrial sales. It is clear that the farm based forestry activity tends to be a modest source of revenues to the farm. The level of taxes generated from this economic activity is provided in Table 2.

Steven Deller and Jeffrey Hadachek are in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin–Madison. Support for this work was provided by Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Cranberry Growers Association, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection, and the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Division of Extension, Economic Development Administration University Center under Grant/Award Number: ED21CHI3030029