According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2012 Census of Agriculture, Wisconsin had 69,754 farms in 2012 and 14.6 million acres of farmland. That represents a loss of 8,709 farms (-11 percent) and over 600,000 acres of farmland (-4 percent) since the last Ag Census in 2007.

In 2012, there were 2,749 farms and 504,420 acres of farmland in Dane County. What was the net change in the number of farms in Dane County since 2007?

a) +73  
b) -146  
c) -256  
d) -582

Answer: d) During the five-year period, Dane County lost 582 farms (17 percent) and 31,336 acres of farmland. Dane County is Wisconsin’s top ranking agricultural county. Almost two-thirds of the county’s land is classified as farmland. In 2012, Dane County ranked first among the seventy-two Wisconsin counties with $472 million dollars in agricultural products sold. County farms ranked in the top five in twelve different categories including corn for grain, cattle and calves, milk from cows, hogs and pigs, and wheat for grain.


Questions/comments: [bill.pinkovitz@uwex.edu](mailto:bill.pinkovitz@uwex.edu)