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Commerce Secretary Leinenkugel Tours 2008 Business of the Year Winners

On August 7th, Wisconsin Department of Commerce Secretary Richard Leinenkugel visited BOH Electronics, located in North Hudson, Wisconsin and K-Sun Corporation, located in Somerset. In early February, Secretary Leinenkugel spoke at St. Croix EDC's Business of the Year banquet. BOH was honored as the 2008 Emerging Business of the Year in St. Croix County and K-Sun was the 2008 Small Business of the Year. Secretary Leinenkugel agreed to visit both companies when his schedule permitted.



Mike Kasun (left) of K-Sun Corporation, makes a point to Secretary of Commerce Richard Leinenkugel.

Ben Hanke (right) explains a process to Commerce Secretary Richard Leinenkugel during an August 7th tour of BOH Electronics.



Cities Digital Receives State Tax Credits For Expansion

Software and Management Solutions Company Will Create 15 Jobs

On August 7th, Wisconsin Department of Commerce Secretary Richard Leinenkugel awarded Cities Digital, Inc. (CDI), \$250,000 in Technology Zone tax credits to support the company's expansion in Hudson, Wisconsin. CDI recently acquired an 18,000 square foot facility at 2000 O'Neil Road in the St. Croix Business Park, which will lead to the creation of 15 new jobs and the retention of 11 existing positions. The total cost of CDI's project is estimated at \$1.87 million.



Patrick Welsch (left), Cities Digital, Inc. president and CEO, receives a ceremonial check from Wisconsin Department of Commerce Secretary Richard Leinenkugel.

Secretary Leinenkugel presented Patrick Welsch, CDI's president and chief executive officer, a ceremonial check reflecting the \$250,000 in tax credits. To earn the credits, CDI must complete its expansion in the business park and create new, full-time jobs.

Cities Digital was established in 2001 and moved to Hudson four years ago. CDI is a software company, imaging service bureau, and technology services provider for the conversion of paper documents to digital files. The company works with clients throughout the United States from its Hudson facility and a second office in California.

In a press release, Governor Jim Doyle said, "To grow Wisconsin, we must continue to invest in our economy and foster technology growth, even during these difficult economic times.

Congratulations to Cities Digital, Inc. for expanding its capabilities and creating new jobs for hardworking families in St. Croix County.”

“Hudson is a great community to run a business,” said Patrick Welsch. “With all the universities and colleagues close by, there is a lot of educated talent fresh out of school. We need this talent for our technology-based business. We appreciate all the help we’ve received for our expansion project from St. Croix EDC, the staff at the City of Hudson and the Department of Commerce.”

St. Croix EDC worked with CDI during its expansion and helped facilitate the tax credit application.

For additional information on CDI, go to www.citiesdigital.com.

U.S. Rep. Kind Tours LWT

New Richmond Company Lauded For International Products

On August 19th, U.S. Representative Ron Kind toured the Liquid Waste Technology (LWT) facility in New Richmond, Wisconsin.

LWT is the world leader in small, high-tech dredging equipment. From its 80,000 square facility in New Richmond, LWT ships dredge equipment to dozens of countries. A large dredge bound for Columbia was being loaded when Rep. Kind toured LWT. The dredge will be trucked to Houston, Texas, then loaded on a cargo ship to its destination. Once in Columbia, LWT crews would assemble it and train the customer’s operators.

LWT moved from Somerset, Wisconsin to New Richmond in early 2007. Almost immediately, an addition to the facility was undertaken. It was completed in May 2008. LWT and a related company, Baltimore Dredges, LLC, operate under the corporate umbrella of Baltimore Dredge Enterprises, LLC. While LWT still operates independently, the corporate arrangement allows for the interchange of engineering and technology as well as markets and a worldwide representative base.

Rep. Kind told LWT’s employees to keep up the exceptional work. He said an operation like this in New Richmond, with no body of navigable for the dredges, is testament to the fluid nature of today’s world economy.



(l to r) Jim Pflueger, general manager of LWT, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, and Marty Barnes, president of LWT, pose in front of a dredge during Rep. Kind’s August 17th tour.

St. Croix is 73rd Fastest-Growing County (2000-2008)

8,885 New Housing Units Since 2000 Earns St. Croix Elite Spot

On August 6th, the U.S. Census Bureau released its list of the 100 fastest-growing counties, based on the addition of new housing units since April 1, 2000. St. Croix placed 73rd on the fastest-growing list, as a result of an estimated 8,885 new housing units added in the county. Based on April 1, 2000 estimates, St. Croix had 24,266 housing units. As of July 1, 2008, the Census Bureau estimates 33,151 housing units in the county (+8,885 units or an increase of 36.6%).

St. Croix was the only Wisconsin county on the list released by the Census Bureau. Last March, the Census Bureau released its list of the 100 fastest-growing counties by percentage increase (2000 to 2008). St. Croix just missed this list with an estimated population gain of 30.6%. The 100th fastest-growing county reported a population increase of 30.9% since April 2000. The Census Bureau now ranks St. Croix as the state’s 19th most populated county. In 2000, St. Croix was ranked 23rd out of the state’s 72 counties. From 2000 to 2008 the Census Bureau says St. Croix is the state’s fastest-growing county by percentage increase and 3rd by numeric increase, behind Dane and Waukesha.

Flagler County, Florida is the nation's fastest-growing county. The number of housing units in Flagler increased 100.1% (+24,482 new units) from 2000 to 2008. Geary County, Kansas added 1,046 housing units from July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008 (+8.3%) to earn the title of the fastest-growing county for the 1-year period.

In the Twin Cities, Scott County, Minnesota was ranked 21st (+48.8% increase; +15,418 new units). Wright County was ranked 52nd (+41.4%; +14,225 new units), Sherburne County 56th (+40.0%; +9,125 new units), and Carver 74th (+36.6%; 9,095 new units).

Clark County, Nevada added 250,993 new units from 2000-2008 to rank 33rd (a 44.9% increase).

Across the 10-county region of west central and northwest Wisconsin, new housing units have been added as follows:

County	Housing Unit Estimates			
	July 1, 2008	April 1, 2000	Numeric Increase	Percent Increase
Barron	23,599	20,969	+2,630	+12.54%
Chippewa	26,371	22,821	+3,550	+15.56%
Clark	14,303	13,531	+772	+5.70%
Dunn	17,616	15,277	+2,339	+15.31%
Eau Claire	41,577	37,471	+4,106	+10.96%
Pepin	3,348	3,036	+312	+10.27%
Pierce	15,888	13,493	+2,395	+17.75%
Polk	24,298	21,129	+ 3,169	+14.99%
Rusk	8,376	7,609	+767	+10.08%
St. Croix	33,151	24,265	+8,885	+36.62%
Wisconsin	2,569,430	2,321,144	+248,286	+10.69%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; St. Croix Economic Development Corp.

Note: The 10 counties of western, west central, and northwest Wisconsin comprise Momentum West, a regional economic development and marketing organization.

State Releases 2009 Preliminary Population Estimates

St. Croix County Remains Fastest-Growing; 5 Communities Among State's Fastest-Growing

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) has released January 1, 2009 population estimates for towns, villages, cities, and counties. With a 26.5% population gain since the 2000 Census, St. Croix remains the state's fastest-growing county by percentage increase. St. Croix's preliminary estimate for January 1, 2009 is 79,905, compared to the 2000 Census estimate of 63,155 (+16,750). Calumet County is ranked as the second fastest-growing county at 14.8% (+6,011). Chippewa County is ranked fourth on the list, but DOA indicates its growth is influenced by large institutional population change (i.e. a prison, etc.). Polk is ranked fifth with an 11.9% increase (+4,912).

DOA reported that the fast growth in many metropolitan and "metro edge" counties, particularly those adjoining the Twin Cities and Chicago regions, slowed considerably.

The City of Hudson was noted on a table that reflected housing unit change for large and fastest-growing municipalities. Hudson's average housing unit change from 2000 to 2007 was estimated at 220. Hudson's net housing unit change for 2008 was estimated at 60. Madison led the way on this table with an average housing unit change from 2000 to 2007 estimated at 1,858, and net change in 2008 was estimated at 622. St. Croix County's average housing unit change from 2000 to 2007 was estimated at 1,159 and net change in 2008 was estimated at 258 units.

Several St. Croix County communities were found on DOA's list of fastest-growing municipalities since the 2000 Census (with a population of 1,500 or more at 2009), including the Town of Richmond, third-fastest (+84.4% and numeric change of 1,313); Village of Roberts, 9th, (+59.4% and numeric change of 576); Village of Somerset, 10th, (+48.7% and numeric change of 757); and Village of Hammond, 14th, (+42.8% and numeric change of 493).

Wisconsin's preliminary population for 2009 is estimated at 5,688,000 which is an increase of 12,850 (+0.2%) from 2008 and 324,285 (+6.0%) from the 2000 Census.

In the 10-county region of west central and northwest Wisconsin, the preliminary 2009 estimates include Barron 48,200 (+7.2%; numeric change of 3,237); Chippewa 62,286 (+12.8%; +7,091); Clark 34,900 (+4.0%; +1,343); Dunn 43,683 (+9.6%; +3,825); Eau Claire 99,019 (+6.3%; +5,877); Pepin 7,777 (+7.8%; +564); Pierce 40,704 (+10.6%; +3,900); Polk 46,231 (+11.9%; 4,912); Rusk 15,697 (+2.3%; +350); and St. Croix 79,905 (+26.5%; +16,750).

DOA's Demographic Services Center annually produces population estimates for Wisconsin counties and municipalities. The estimates are based on the prior census and analysis of contemporary data including housing units, dormitory and institutional populations, automobile registrations, residential electric meters and others.

Municipality	2009 Preliminary Population Estimate	2000 Census Estimate	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Municipality	2009 Preliminary Population Estimate	2000 Census Estimate	Percent Change	Numeric Change
Towns					Villages				
Baldwin	972	903	7.6%	+69	Baldwin	3,563	2,667	33.6%	+896
Cady	813	710	14.5%	+103	Deer Park	227	227	0.0%	-
Cylon	681	628	8.3%	+52	Hammond	1,646	1,153	42.8%	+493
Eau Galle	1,080	882	22.7%	+200	North Hudson	3,692	3,463	6.6%	+229
Emerald	815	691	17.9%	+124	Roberts	1,545	969	59.4%	+576
Erin Prairie	680	658	3.3%	+22	Somerset	2,313	1,556	48.7%	+576
Forest	643	590	9.0%	+53	Spring Valley*	4	2	100%	+2
Glenwood	866	755	14.7%	+111	Star Prairie	648	574	12.9%	+74
Hammond	1,726	947	82.3%	+779	Wilson	209	176	18.8%	+33
Hudson	7,922	6,213	27.5%	+1,709	Woodville	1,328	1,104	20.3%	+224
Kinnickinnic	1,690	1,400	20.7%	+290	Cities				
Pleasant Valley	495	430	15.1%	+65	Glenwood City	1,212	1,183	2.5%	29
Richmond	2,869	1,556	84.4%	+1,313	Hudson	11,900	8,775	35.6%	+3,125
Rush River	537	498	7.8%	+39	New Richmond	8,003	6,310	26.8%	+1,693
St. Joseph	3,887	3,436	13.1%	+451	River Falls*	2,893	2,318	24.8%	+575
Somerset	3,445	2,644	30.3%	+801					
Springfield	937	808	16.0%	+129	St. Croix	79,905	63,155	26.5%	+16,750
Stanton	1,003	1,003	0.0%	-	<i>*Spring Valley and River Falls are located in St. Croix and Pierce counties. Spring Valley's preliminary population for 2009 is estimated at 1,336 (+12.3%; numeric change of 147) and River Falls' 2009 population is estimated at 14,343 (+14.2%; numeric change of 1,783)</i> Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration; St. Croix Economic Development Corp.				
Star Prairie	3,553	2,944	20.7%	+609					
Troy	4,566	3,661	24.7%	+905					
Warren	1,540	1,320	16.7%	+220					

Equalized Values Decline in the St. Croix Valley

St. Croix, Polk, and Pierce Rank at the Bottom; All Report Declines in Value

On August 14th, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) released its 2009 Equalized Values Report.

Equalized values declined 5.37 percent (– 5.37%) in St. Croix County from 2008 to 2009. The total change represents a decline in property values (residential, commercial, manufacturing, agricultural, and forest, etc.) of \$473.18 million. Personal property in St. Croix increased three percent (+\$4,226,900), resulting in a net loss in equalized value of \$468.954 million. The decline ranked St. Croix 71st out of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Equalized values in Polk County fell over \$209 million (– 4.41%) to rank 70th and values in Pierce fell 5.91 percent, a decline of over \$195 million to rank last in the state. Half of Wisconsin's counties (36 of 72 counties) reported declines in values from 2008 to 2009. Manitowoc County led the state with an increase in equalized values of 4.57% (+\$241.9 million).

Residential properties (land and improvements) in St. Croix showed the greatest decline. From 2008 to 2009, the equalized values of residential properties declined 7.32% (– \$469,923,900). Commercial values rose 2% and manufacturing values increased only \$576,400 (less than 0%).

DOR's report indicated Wisconsin's residential property values fell by just over 1%, or \$4.9 billion, between January 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009. Wisconsin's total equalized property values (all residential, commercial, agriculture, etc.) decreased 0.48% from 2008 and now stands at \$511.911 billion. The 2008 total property value in the state was \$514.393 billion.

Equalized values are calculated annually to ensure statewide fairness and equity in property tax distribution. An equalized value represents an estimate of a taxation district's total taxable value, and provides for the fair apportionment of taxation district levies (including school districts and counties) to each municipality. Changes in equalized value do not necessarily translate into a change in property taxes.

Across the 10-county region of west central and northwest Wisconsin, the DOR reported equalized values as follows:

County	Percent Change 2008 to 2009	Rank	County	Percent Change 2008 to 2009	Rank
Barron	–0.80%	50	Pepin	–2.40%	66
Chippewa	–0.34%	41	Pierce	–5.91%	72
Clark	+1.43%	20	Polk	–4.14%	70
Dunn	–0.31%	40	Rusk	– 3.27%	68
Eau Claire	+0.49%	31	St. Croix	–5.37%	71

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue; St. Croix Economic Development Corp.

Note: The 10 counties of western, west central, and northwest Wisconsin comprise Momentum West, a regional economic development and marketing organization.

St. Croix Home Sales Up in Second Quarter

7.5% Increase Over Same Quarter in 2008; Median Price Down 11.4%

On August 12, The Wisconsin REALTORS® Association (WRA) released home sales and median prices on sales for the second quarter of 2009. The median price in St. Croix County fell 11.4%, from \$182,900 in Q2 of 2008 to \$162,000 in Q2 of 2009. Existing home sales increased 7.5%, from 281 to 302, over the same two quarters.

Statewide, Wisconsin home sales and median prices fell, too. Despite significant job losses in manufacturing and other sectors that pushed the state's unemployment rate to 9% in June, REALTORS® say the state housing market is actually showing signs of

stabilization. The decline in home sales was 10.5%, which was higher than both the Midwest region (-5.3%) and the U.S. (-2.9%), but it was well below the steep reductions in Wisconsin sales volume seen over the last few quarters. Median home prices in Wisconsin fell 9.9% to \$146,000 in Q2 of 2009 compared to the same quarter in 2008.

William Malkasian, president of WRA, cautioned that the lower median sales numbers are unique to this market. “These data need to be taken with a grain of salt because lower priced homes are moving more briskly than higher priced homes, thus skewing the median price downward,” said Malkasian. The most important factor is the federal tax credit on housing, which qualifies first-time buyers for up to \$8,000 in tax credit on their purchase. This is strong enticement for first-time buyers who typically buy lower cost starter homes, but it also brings down the state median price.”

Across the 10-county region of west central and northwest Wisconsin, activity in Q2 of 2009 was reported as follows:

County	Median Price		Percent Change	Existing Homes Sales		Percent Change
	Q2-2009	Q2-2008		Q2-2009	Q2-2008	
Barron	\$105,500	\$110,900	-4.9%	116	110	+5.5%
Chippewa	\$124,300	\$128,300	-3.1%	163	156	+4.5%
Clark	\$100,000	\$86,400	+15.7%	36	28	+28.6%
Dunn	\$122,300	\$127,700	-3.8%	91	102	-10.8%
Eau Claire	\$130,500	\$136,200	-4.2%	351	359	-2.2%
Pepin*	\$93,000	\$114,000	-18.4%	47	51	-7.8%
Pierce	\$151,200	\$176,600	-12.4%	98	86	+14.0%
Polk	\$108,300	\$138,200	-21.6%	162	105	+54.3%
Rusk	\$92,500	\$95,000	-2.6%	27	37	-27.0%
St. Croix	\$162,000	\$182,900	-11.4%	302	281	+7.5%

*WRA combines Pepin with Buffalo and Trempeleau counties

Source: Wisconsin REALTORS® Association; St. Croix Economic Development Corp.

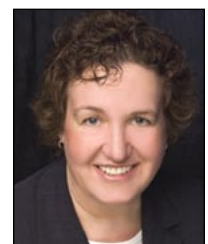
Note: The 10 counties of western, west central, and northwest Wisconsin comprise Momentum West, a regional economic development and marketing organization.

Adversity Index: U.S. Still In Recession

In its July-August newsletter, St. Croix EDC’s president Patti Robertson wrote about ‘A Recession in Real Time’. The newsletter is posted on-line at www.stcroixedc.com/pdf/09julyaugustchronicle.pdf and browsers are encouraged to refer to page 2 for the entire president’s column.

A new tool is available to track the relative vitality of metro areas and states. The tool is called the Adversity Index, and it was developed by msnbc.com and Moody’s Economy.com. The index gauges relative changes in employment, housing starts, industrial production, and housing prices.

Statistics for June 2009 have been posted on the Adversity Index. All 50 states continue to be in a recession. For Wisconsin, June statistics looked like this: Employment -3.82%, single family housing starts -30.2%, housing prices N/A, and industrial production -16.22%. For the Twin Cities metro area, the numbers were: employment - 3.53%, housing starts -10.4%, housing prices N/A, and industrial production -13.2%.



EDC President, Patti Robertson

More details on the real time index can be found via an Internet search engine and typing the words, Adversity Index.

Annual Synergy Conference set for September 16-17

Conference Theme: "Regenerating for Generations to Come"

The 7th Annual Synergy Conference is set for September 16-17 at the WITC Conference Center in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

The conference will feature key topics as they relate to the region, including: preparing businesses for future emerging industries; adding value to the economy by connecting schools and businesses; understanding the bottom line advantages of operating in a sustainable, green manner; and learning about technologies and opportunities within life sciences

The conference brings together leaders in business, industry, education and government to examine the state of the regional economy in west central and northwest Wisconsin. Attendees will identify ways to leverage the region's existing assets through retooling and innovation how to capitalize on future trends to create new opportunities.

The featured facilitator is David Beurle, founder and managing director of Innovative Leadership Australia. Beurle has a firm conviction that the future of rural and regional areas lies in the hands of local people. He has worked extensively with hundreds of communities across the U.S. and Australia as they reinvent and revitalize themselves.

Rick Maher, president and CEO of Maher & Maher (Neptune, New Jersey), Mark Orendorff, plant manager, Great Northern Corporation (Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin), and Troy Runge, director, Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative (Madison, Wisconsin) will be featured presenters at the conference.

For additional information Synergy 2009, go to <http://wcu-synergy.net> or contact Tara Bergeson, conference program manager at (715) 232-5270 or 232-2793.

From the County Department of Health and Human Services-Public Health:

Flu Season is Starting, Get Ready Now; Spread the Word, Not the Germs

The flu season is starting and will last through fall and winter. More than one kind of flu will be spread, including the seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 flu.

St. Croix County DHHS-Public Health recommends that area businesses utilize a recently developed toolkit from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Preparing for the Flu: A Communication for Businesses and Employers. It is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/business/toolkit/>. The guide includes fact sheets for employers and employees, posters, social media samples and additional communication templates.

Specific action steps for employers should include the following:

- sick employees should stay home until fever-free for 24 hours (without fever medication),
- sick employees at work should be sent home,
- encourage your employees to wash their hands often,
- provide hand sanitizers throughout the office,
- encourage your employees to cover their coughs and sneezes,
- clean surfaces and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact,
- encourage employees to get vaccinated,
- protect employees who are at higher risk,
- prepare for increased numbers of employee absenteeism,
- advise employees before traveling to take certain steps,
- prepare for the possibility of school dismissals or temporary closure of child care programs

Other considerations are to allow for alternate work environments for employees at higher risk of complications from the flu and social distancing in the workplace such as avoiding crowded work settings (could this mean no staff meetings?).

Standard precautions coupled with vaccinations will minimize the impact of the flu on you and your business. Seasonal and the H1N1 flu vaccines are expected to be available in mid-October. Area vaccination clinic information, our Flu Resources for Business and our public service announcement can be found at www.co.saint-croix.wi.us, which will be updated regularly. Questions? Contact the St. Croix County DHH-Public Health Department at 715-246-8263.

The Princeton Review Names UW-River Falls 'A Best in the Midwest' University

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is one of the best colleges and universities in the Midwest, according to The Princeton Review. The education services company selected the school as one of 158 institutions profiled in its "Best in the Midwest" section of its July 27th Web site feature entitled, 2010 Best Colleges: Region by Region.

"We are pleased to be selected among this distinct group of colleges and universities selected for recognition by The Princeton Review," said UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen. "It speaks well of the dedication of our faculty and staff, the quality of our courses and programs, and our strong commitment to being a leader in higher education in the region."

"We chose UW-River Falls and the other terrific schools we recommend as our 'regional best' colleges primarily for their excellent academic programs, explained Robert Franek, the vice president of publishing at The Princeton Review. "We also work to have our roster of 'regional best' colleges feature a range of institutions by size, selectivity, character and locale. We choose the schools based on institutional data we collect from several hundred schools in each region, our visits to schools over the years, and the opinions of independent and high school-based college advisors whose recommendations we invite. We also take into account what each school's customers their students report to us about their campus experiences at them on our 80-question student survey."

The 158 colleges that The Princeton Review chose for this year's "Best in the Midwest" designations are located in 12 states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Princeton Review also designated 218 colleges in the Northeast, 123 in the West, and 141 in the Southeast in the Region by Region list. The 640 colleges named "regional best(s)" represent about 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges.

UW-River Falls was previously ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of America's Best Colleges (Midwestern University, Master's category). UW-River Falls has more than 6,000 undergraduate students and nearly 500 graduate students.

UW-River Falls employs some 800 people and has an annual operating budget of approximately \$90 million.

Governor Doyle Announces Agriculture is a \$59 Billion Industry

Agriculture Provides 353,991 Jobs (1 of 10 State Citizens Works in a Job Related to Ag)

On August 6th, Governor Jim Doyle announced the economic impact of the state agriculture industry has grown to over \$59 billion annually, based on 2007 data. He made the announcement at the Wisconsin State Fair Opening Ceremony in West Allis.

"Here in Wisconsin, we have a strong tradition of agriculture and I am working hard to ensure that farming remains a cornerstone of our economy for generations to come," Governor Doyle said. "Agriculture generates more than \$59 billion for the state annually, creating jobs for hundreds of thousands of hardworking people. Despite the economic hurdles we are all facing right now, I am confident that agriculture will continue to be an industry that defines Wisconsin and serve as a foundation for our economy."

According to a recent study by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, from 2004-2007 the economic impact of agriculture increased almost 15 percent, from \$51.5 billion to \$59.16 billion. Farms and agriculture created almost 354,000 jobs in 2007.

The study indicated the direct economic effect of agriculture at \$38.8 billion. This represents the sales of all farm products and value-added products. Sales of agricultural products create another \$13.6 billion in business-to-business purchases for items such as fuel, fertilizer, feed, farm equipment, veterinary services, and crop consultants. The business-to-business activity then generates another \$6.7 billion in economic activity, because people who work in ag-related businesses spend their earnings.

The research was conducted by Steve Deller, UW-Madison professor of agricultural economics/UW-Extension community development specialist and David Williams, UW-Extension associate professor and assistant program leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

About one out of ten state citizens (10%) works in a job related to agriculture. These occupations include farmers, farm employees, veterinarians, crop and livestock consultants, feed and fuel suppliers, food processors, machinery manufacturers and dealers, barn builders and agricultural lenders. Every job in agriculture supports an additional 0.89 job elsewhere in Wisconsin's economy.

About 9 percent of Wisconsin's total income, or \$20.2 billion, comes from agriculture. This figure includes wages and salaries, benefits and profits of farmers and workers in ag-related businesses. Each new dollar of agricultural income generates another \$1.24 in state income.

A copy of the report is available at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/wisag/>.

St. Croix County’s Unemployment Rate Falls in July Unemployment Drops in 67 of 72 Counties

On August 26th, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) released the July unemployment rates for Wisconsin’s 72 counties. St. Croix’s rate was estimated at 7.8% which is down compared to the June rate of 8.4% and May’s rate of 8.2%. A year ago, the county’s unemployment rate was estimated at 3.7%.

Twenty-two counties had unemployment rates lower than St. Croix in July.

Unemployment rates from June to July decreased in 67 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties, increased in three, and remained the same in two. Dane County recorded the lowest rate at 5.9%, followed by Pepin County at 6.2%. Menominee County had the highest rate in July at 18.2%.

The adjusted unemployment rate for Wisconsin in July was estimated at 9.0% which is the same as the June rate, but higher than the May rate of 8.7%. The state’s rate was 4.6% one year ago.

The U.S. unemployment rate was estimated at 9.4% which is down from the June rate of 9.5% , but higher than May’s 9.1%. One year ago the U.S. rate was estimated at 5.8%.

County	July 2009 Unemployment Rate	Rank	Rate One Year Ago	County	July 2009 Unemployment Rate	Rank	Rate One Year Ago
Barron	8.1%	42	4.5%	Pepin	6.2%	71	4.0%
Chippewa	7.6%	55	4.2%	Pierce	7.5%	57	3.6%
Clark	8.8%	37	4.5%	Polk	9.3%	25	4.7%
Dunn	6.8%	67	3.9%	Rusk	11.8%	4	5.3%
Eau Claire	6.8%	68	3.9%	St. Croix	7.8%	50	3.7%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; St. Croix Economic Development Corp.

Note: The 10 counties of western, west central, & northwest Wisconsin comprise Momentum West, a regional economic development & marketing organization

St. Croix County Fall Recycling Events

September 19, 9AM to 1 PM ~ CLEAN SWEEP Hazardous Waste Collection:

New Richmond Street Department Shop, 1006 N Dakota Avenue

Households and farms with up to 500 pounds of waste are fee exempt. Small businesses (defined as those generating no more than 200 pounds of waste per month) may participate but will be charged. Farms and businesses must pre-register by September 16th by calling 715-386-4675. Clean Sweep events are only open to St Croix County residents. A photo ID will be required to participate.

[Click here for a Business and Farm Pre-Registration Form](#)

September 12, 9AM to noon ~ Electronics Collection:

WITC Campus, 1019 S. Knowles Ave, New Richmond

Prices: complete computer (monitor, CPU, keyboard) \$15; monitor \$15; printer \$3, laser printers \$5; VCR \$3; microwave \$15; plastic TV \$15 and wood TV \$25. The following items will be accepted at no charge: laptops, CPUs, keyboards, circuit boards and cell phones. All other computer and related equipment will be collected for a fee (\$3-\$25) based on its size.

September 19 ~ Appliance Collection, two sites:

Glenwood City (Recycling Center adjacent to fairgrounds) 8AM to 1PM

Town of Richmond (Town Hall/Recycling Center, north edge of Boardman) 9AM to 2PM

Prices: \$11 for most appliances; \$16 for air conditioners & water softeners. Commercial units call 715-386-4675 for a quote.

For more information on these events and other recycling programs contact the St Croix County Recycling Specialist at 715-386-4675.