

Monroe County

2013 Annual Budget

Bruce Humphrey, Chair
Monroe County Board of Supervisors



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:
Catherine J. Schmit

BUDGET FACTS

TAXATION LIMITS IN EFFECT

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MILL RATE FREEZE

Since 1993, Wisconsin Counties have been required to abide by a Mill Rate Freeze on the operating portion of the County levy.

The rate freeze has prohibited the County from levying a property tax greater than the rate levied in December 1992 (for the 1993 budget). Monroe County's 1993 operating rate was 6.48.

The effect of the freeze is that Monroe County's property tax can increase only with the fluctuation in the value of property.

Existing debt service and special district taxes are excluded from the freeze.

The State 2011-13 Biennial Budget has temporarily lifted this restriction for Counties for annual budget years 2012 and 2013.

LEVY LIMIT

Commencing in 2006, in 2008 and again in 2010, a two-year levy limit was enacted for all Wisconsin counties, cities, villages, towns and technical college districts. For 2012, the levy limit was again adopted, and set the counties' levies at an amount not to exceed the percentage increase in net new construction or 0% (zero percent) plus terminated TID %, whichever is higher, along with exemptions for increases in debt service payments, County Bridge Aids and Library payments.

Monroe County's net new construction was 1.40 percent.

GENERAL

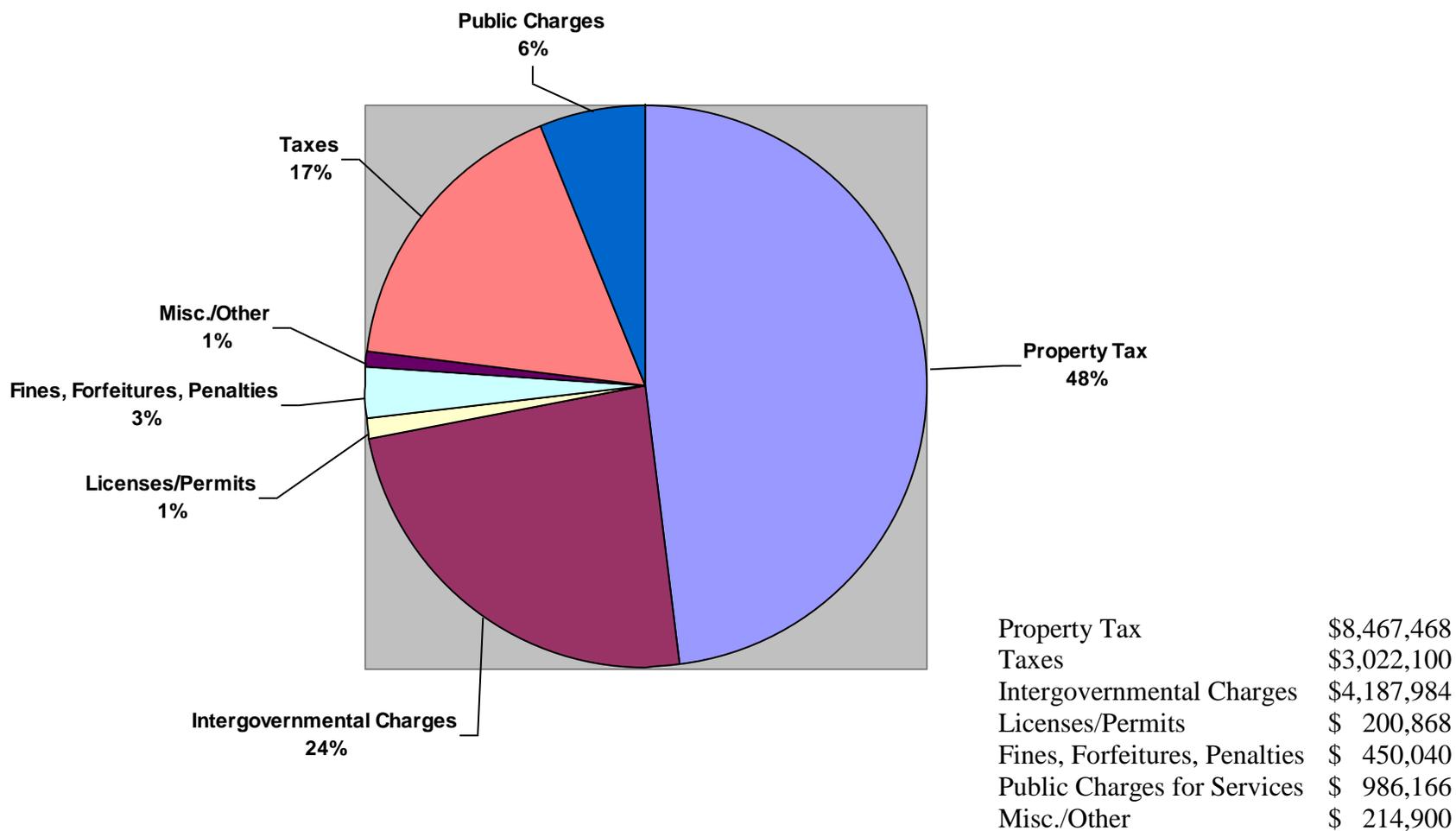
Monroe County's equalized valuation decreased by \$15,757,600 or .057%.

The Administrator's Proposed Monroe County 2013 property tax levy is equal to the state allowable levy. Due to the drop in property valuations along with the minimal offset of net new construction the proposed County mill rate increases to 6.037.

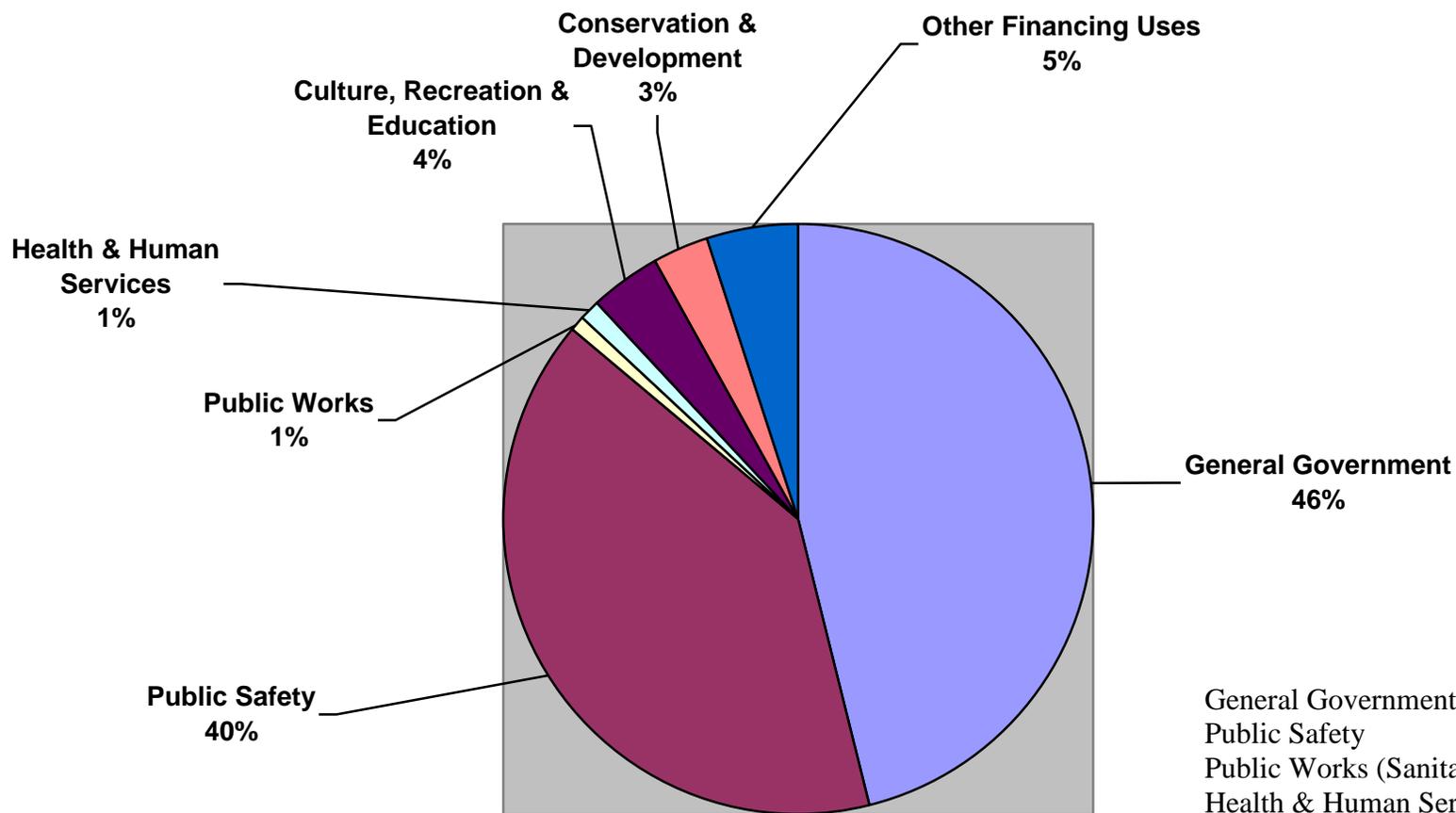
SIGNIFICANT FACTORS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATOR'S 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Personnel | Salary and related benefits account for approximately 41% of Monroe Counties operating budgets. With the passage of the Governor's Budget Repair Bill most county employees are now contributing toward their annual Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) contribution. In the past, the County paid 100% of the retirement contribution amount which is adjusted annually. The WRS contribution rates were increased substantially for 2013. The county is in the process of completing a job/wage study which will align staff job descriptions and wages with both public and private sector job markets. Following implementation of the results of this study, the county plans to explore development of a merit-based pay system. |
| Economic Development | Recognizing the financial constrictions placed on the County's ability to generate revenue in order to continue to provide the level of services Monroe Co. residents have come to expect, Monroe County is concentrating efforts on expanding tax base valuations by aggressively pursuing Economic Development opportunities. |
| Revenue | As part of the current biennial budget the State of Wisconsin significantly decreased the annual state shared revenue payment to Monroe County along with substantial reductions in state highway maintenance, Human Services, Senior Services, Victim Witness and Child Support funding. |

2013 Budget Where the Money Comes From



2013 Budget Where the Money Goes



General Government	\$7,992,030
Public Safety	\$6,993,713
Public Works (Sanitation)	\$ 158,484
Health & Human Services	\$ 248,950
Culture, Recreation & Ed	\$ 710,396
Cons. & Development	\$ 537,989
Other Financing Uses	\$ 947,964

2013
MONROE COUNTY LEVY COMPARISON BY YEARS

LEVY FOR YEAR	EQUALIZED VALUATION(s)	TOTAL COUNTY LEVY(s)	MILL RATE
2013	2,547,411,600	15,379,477	6.037
2012	2,563,169,200	15,219,759	5.938
2011	2,520,131,500	14,993,660	5.950
2010	2,504,401,200	15,082,683	6.023
2009	2,411,219,200	14,411,285	5.977
2008	2,292,130,600	14,102,537	6.153
2007	2,136,278,400	13,292,825	6.222
2006	1,933,825,200	12,754,112	6.595
2005	1,783,619,500	12,276,546	6.883
2004	1,671,572,100	10,661,348	6.378
2003	1,554,849,800	9,746,276	6.268

COUNTY TAX LEVY RATE LIMIT

	EQUALIZED VALUATION	TOTAL COUNTY LEVY	MILL RATE
2013 Operating	2,547,411,600	14,819,150	5.817
2013 Debt/Special Tax	2,547,411,600	560,327	0.220
Total		15,379,477	6.037
2012 Operating	2,563,169,200	14,611,796	5.701
2012 Debt/Special Tax	2,563,169,200	607,963	0.237
Total		15,219,759	5.938



Monroe County Profile

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Monroe County, created in 1854 from La Crosse County, is named after James Monroe, the 5th President of the United States. Located in southwest Wisconsin, the county seat is the City of Sparta.

Located in west central Wisconsin between the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, Monroe County is a land of scenic wonders. From craggy buttes and mesas that once were islands rising from the wooded bed of a great glacial lake and grand marshes where bright red cranberries and mosses grow, Monroe County features sparkling brooks, rivers and streams flowing through rugged rock-walled valleys and gently rolling hills, wildflower prairies, brushlands and forests. The county's varied landscape and diverse plant communities provide habitat for an abundant variety of fish, game and wildlife including whitetail deer, wild turkeys, upland birds, waterfowl, squirrels, beavers, otters, fox, hawks, eagles, owls, herons, cranes, and songbirds.

Included among the area's 19th Century immigrants was a large congregation of German-speaking Amish farm families, who continue to worship, live, and farm today as their pioneering ancestors did 150 years ago. Abandoned in the mid-twentieth century, the railbeds of Monroe County now serve as recreational bicycle trails, including the grand daddy of all bicycle trails, the nation's first rails-to-trails conversion, the Elroy-Sparta Trail.

Although the logging and transportation boom that led to their development have passed on, most of the towns and villages that grew around the lumber camps, mill sites and railroad depots in the 1850's still flourish and preserve the memories of their pioneering past. The countryside is dotted with steeples of churches built by 19th century immigrant congregations. Gracious historic churches, homes and mansions line city, town and village streets; and well-preserved historic commercial buildings continue to serve 21st century needs. Amish homes, schools and farmsteads, implements, vehicles, tools, and farming practices are living reminders of the 19th century past. The county's museums feature artifacts and memorabilia of the area's rich cultural, commercial, railroad, and agricultural history. Preserved 19th century railroad depots, trestles and tunnels continue to serve the needs of 21st century adventurers.



Since the last of the great logging operations came to an end at the turn of the 20th century, Monroe County's economy has revolved around its uniquely diversified agricultural base. The county's rolling hills and bottomlands are among Wisconsin's most productive dairy farming areas. The marshland around the village of Warrens in the county's northeastern corner hosts the largest concentration of cranberry marshes in the state, producing an average of 28.5 million pounds of the bright red berries annually. This area also hosts a unique agricultural activity some refer to as Wisconsin's "Invisible Industry" - the production of sphagnum moss; more than 300,000 bales annually. Wisconsin is the only state in the nation that commercially harvests, processes and exports this major horticultural product.

Monroe County offers visitors a broad range of recreational opportunities. There are more than 50 miles of easy-riding, railroad grade, bicycle trails through spectacular scenic valleys, along the beautiful La Crosse River, over dozens of trestles, and through cavernous tunnels. There are over 100 miles of meandering rivers to paddle; hundreds of acres of public hunting land full of game; forests to roam; craggy islands to climb; miles of streams and acres of ponds to fish in; swimming holes and downhill ski areas; hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails; wildlife areas to explore; berries to pick and birds to watch; and miniature and competition golf courses to try. Area visitors will find whatever they need to fully enjoy the county's outdoor recreational offerings at trailhead offices, local outfitters, bait and tackle shops, resorts and sporting goods stores. Monroe County's roads lead through remarkable bits of history and fantastic scenery to wonders and treasures including the view of Glacial Lake Wisconsin atop Mill Bluff; the remnants of the Goodyear Logging Camp; the red seas of cranberries; cliff-lined river valleys; gold lace tamarack forests; Oil City, where a phony oil discovery raised a fortune; the Wegner Grotto, a grassroots art treasure; Amish homesteads and shops offering hand-crafted rugs and furniture, produce and baked goods still hot from the oven; 80 year-old windmills gently turning on the ridge tops, the Cranberry Museum; and, Fort McCoy, a regional U.S. Army Training Center.

Treasure hunters will enjoy browsing the county's antique, gift and specialty shops, including a 60-dealer antique mall and area flea markets, and visiting with craft producers in Amish country. No matter what the palate, diners will find a variety of cuisine to choose throughout Monroe County, from ethnic to traditional and from "fast" foods to gourmet dining. Monroe County offers a variety of accommodations for a night, a week, a month or more, including 15 campgrounds with more than 600 sites ranging from primitive tent sites to full-service RV hook-up facilities, historic log cabins, Victorian bed and breakfast inns, housekeeping cottages and full-service motels. Monroe County, a world away from the ordinary, yet close enough for everyone to come and enjoy the scenic and historical charm of the area!



Present day Monroe County covers more than 900 square miles including 6 rivers and 120 lakes that blanket more than 3,437 acres of County territory. The County also boasts 1 public airport, 3 area hospitals, 6 community libraries, 2 state parks, the Elroy-Sparta National Bike Trail, 4 school districts and the Fort McCoy U.S. Army training facility.

Monroe County is governed by the Board of Supervisors representing 24 area districts. The County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, District Attorney, Sheriff and Clerk of Courts being elected officials.

Monroe County services are administered from several different County building locations. Some of the largest County Departments include the Highway Department, Human Services Department, Monroe County Jail, Sheriff's Department, and the Rolling Hills Nursing Home. Other high profile citizen service areas include the Health Department, Senior Services, Judicial Services, Child Support, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Sanitation & Zoning, UW Extension and Veteran's Services among others.

The Monroe County website can be viewed online at www.monroe.wi.us.



Monroe County.....

2011 Estimated Census Population:

Towns:

Adrian	765
Angelo	1,293
Byron	1,338
Clifton	694
Glendale	673
Grant	495
Greenfield	712
Jefferson	818
LaFayette	396
La Grange	2,009
Leon	1,097
Lincoln	836
Little Falls	1,537
New Lyme	170
Oakdale	775
Portland	822
Ridgeville	498
Scott	135
Sheldon	732
Sparta	3,141
Tomah	1,408
Wellington	625
Wells	520
Wilton	1,031

Villages:

Cashton	1,104
Kendall	474
Melvina	104
Norwalk	638
Oakdale	296
Warrens	362
Wilton	504
Wyeville	147

Cities:

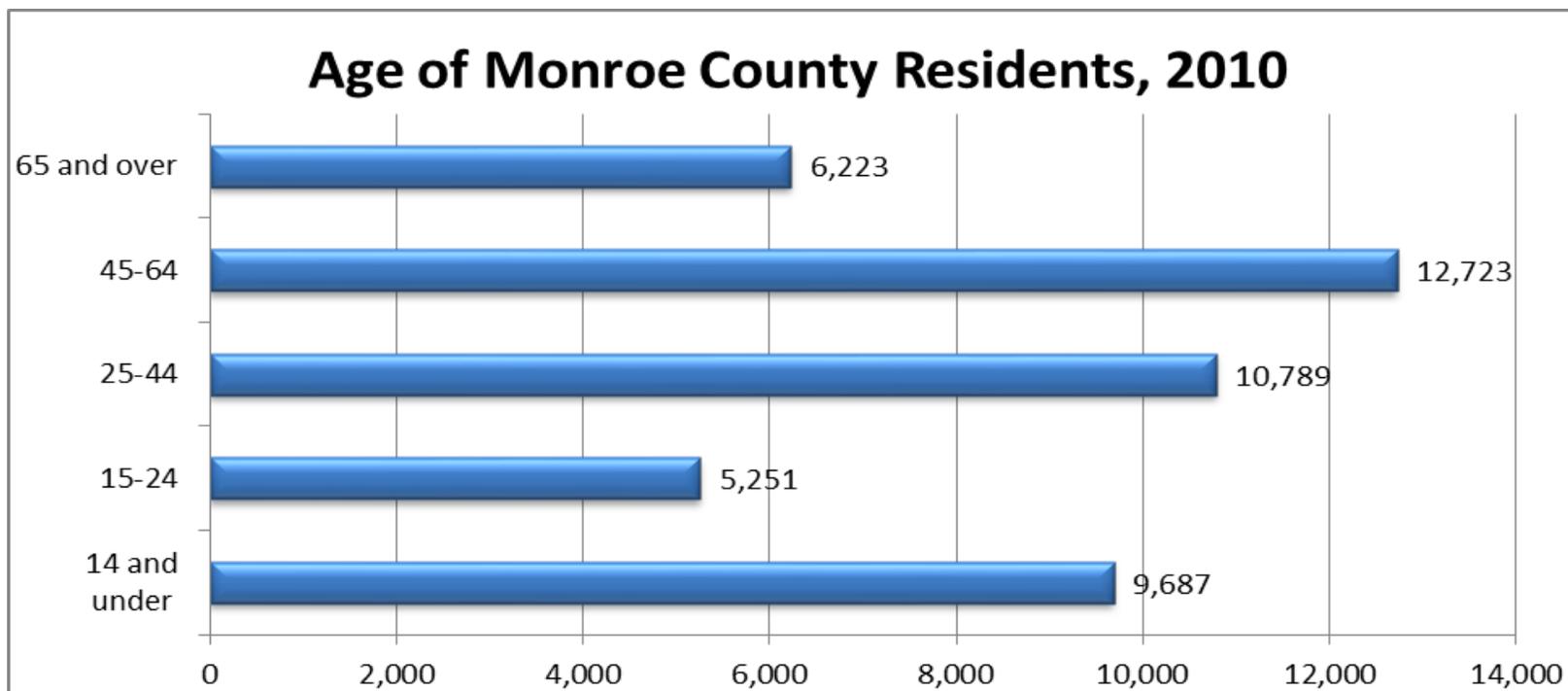
Sparta	9,590
Tomah	9,138

Grand Total: 44,877

2012 Equalized Assessment Figures (TID Out)					
Number of Towns	24	\$1,443,406,800	56%	Centerline Miles – State Hwy System	233
Number of Villages	8	\$ 118,735,700	5 %	Centerline Miles – County Trunk System	344
Number of Cities	2	\$ 985,269,100	39%		
		\$2,547,411,600		Total Centerline Miles:	577



Who Are We?



Source: 2010 US Census

Where Do We Live?

Ten Largest Municipalities

1. City of Sparta
2. City of Tomah
3. Town of Sparta
4. Town of La Grange
5. Town of Little Falls

6. Town of Tomah
7. Town of Byron
8. Town of Angelo
9. Village of Cashton
10. Town of Leon



Where Do We Work?



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 County Business Patterns

Top Five Private Sector Employers

Company	Product or Service	Size
Wal-Mart	Warehouse, Department Stores, Supercenters	1000+
Toro Mfg, LLC	Farm Machinery / Equipment Manufacturing	500-999
Northern Engraving	Metal Stamping / Fixture Manufacturing	250-499
Cardinal Glass Industries Inc.	Glass Product Manufacturing	250-499
Century Foods Intl LLC	Dairy Product Manufacturing/Distribution	250-499

How Do We Play?

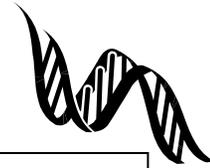


There are 120 Lakes and 6 rivers located in Monroe County.

Ethnic, traditional, fast food and gourmet dining.



Numerous area amusements, Community Festivals and County Fair.



There are 167 miles of Snowmobile Trails in Monroe County.



5+ quality area Golf Courses with many more nearby.

There are more than 100 miles of meandering rivers to paddle in Monroe County.



There are more than 50 miles of easy-riding, railroad grade bicycle trails winding through Monroe County.



There are 15+ campgrounds with more than 600 sites in Monroe County.

	<u>Number of Farms</u>	<u>Average Size of Farms</u>	<u>Total Acres in Farmland</u>
Wisconsin:			
2007	78,000	195 acres	15,200,000 acres
Monroe County:			
2007	2,115	166 acres	351,306 acres
2002	1,938	182 acres	351,775 acres

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>% change</u>
Market Value of Products Sold:	\$165,092,000	\$102,572,000	+ 61
Crop Sales \$60,031,000 (36 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$105,061,000 (64 percent)			
Average per Farm	\$78,058	\$52,927	+ 47

Land in Farms

by Type of Land

