

Wisconsin Towns Association Scholarship Essay

Historically, agriculture has been an integral component to the state of Wisconsin. From supplying jobs and generating revenue, agriculture plays a substantial role in Wisconsin's economy. Investment into town roads is critical for agriculture to maintain that position. Roads provide the connections from farms in rural areas to industries in urban areas making consumption widely available and allowing Wisconsin's economy to prosper.

Investment into town roads is a fruitful investment in farming and the future economy of Wisconsin. According to Steven Deller, author of *Contribution of Agriculture to Wisconsin Economy*, the total agricultural activity provides a significant 413,500 jobs to the state. These jobs range from farmers, to manufacturers, to marketers. These jobs would be unnecessary if there was no way for raw goods to get to larger industries. This is where town roads play their part. In addition to jobs, agriculture contributes \$30.1 billion in total income and \$88.3 billion in industrial sales. Abundant and safe roads in rural areas catalyze this job and monetary significance. Agriculture encourages employment and brings in revenue to the state, all vital in maintaining a stable economy.

Town roads not only allow the state to thrive but individual farmers as well. What might be known as "backroads" allow farmers to travel from field to field and in turn can expand their farms. The roads provide connections between land so farmers are able to produce more. These mega farms, along with smaller ones, need a means of transportation to distribute products to manufacturers in order to make a profit. Roads are the answer. Money makes the world go 'round, but roads make the money go

around. The circulation of money is healthy for and drives the economy. Without it, the farming and manufacturing industries would come to a halt. With town roads, farmers are able to deliver products, such as hauling milk, to local markets or to industries in larger cities. In large cities, where farms are scarce, roads allow people access to milk, wheat, soy, and corn products, along with meat and many more farmed goods. Also noteworthy, these products are good for one's health. The exchange of products for money, which town roads make possible, also allows farmers to live financially stable. Additionally, road improvements are critical when maneuvering large farm equipment for safety reasons. Widening the roads enough and preventing any dangers ensures safety to the individual driving the equipment as well as the public when encountering these massive vehicles. Many people who live in small towns have to travel a decent amount to reach their place of work. Construction of town roads is important for individuals who live in rural areas so they are able to get to and from their jobs. Again, town roads allow people to be employed, contributing to the economy which is another reason investment in town roads is important.

Another large factor in the state's economy is tourism. As cities become more populated and urbanization increases, people seek a quiet lifestyle found in rural areas. Town roads bring people into rural areas to live permanently or for temporary stays. As small towns become more populated or just as sites of attraction, money is brought in to local businesses. It is crucial people have a way to these areas excluded from the city and town roads provide just that.

Town roads enable farms to prosper allowing agriculture to maintain a valuable factor in Wisconsin's economy. Agriculture is not only healthy for Wisconsin's economy but the country as a whole. Investing in town roads makes this all feasible. Due to the

jobs it creates and the revenue it draws in, agriculture plays a vital role to the development and maintenance of the economy. Furthermore, roads initiate tourism to small towns that more and more people are seeking. Without investment in town roads, the role of agriculture and tourism will falter, job growth will hinder, and ultimately the economy will suffer.

Sources

Deller, Steven. *Contribution of Agriculture to the Wisconsin Economy*.
trinity.aae.wisc.edu/wfp/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2014/09/Impact-of-Agriculture-2012-FINAL.