

Farmers will have to euthanize millions of pigs as meat plants remain closed

BY SOPHIE LEWIS

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CBS
NEWS



Rick Barrett Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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Remember how crazy it was?

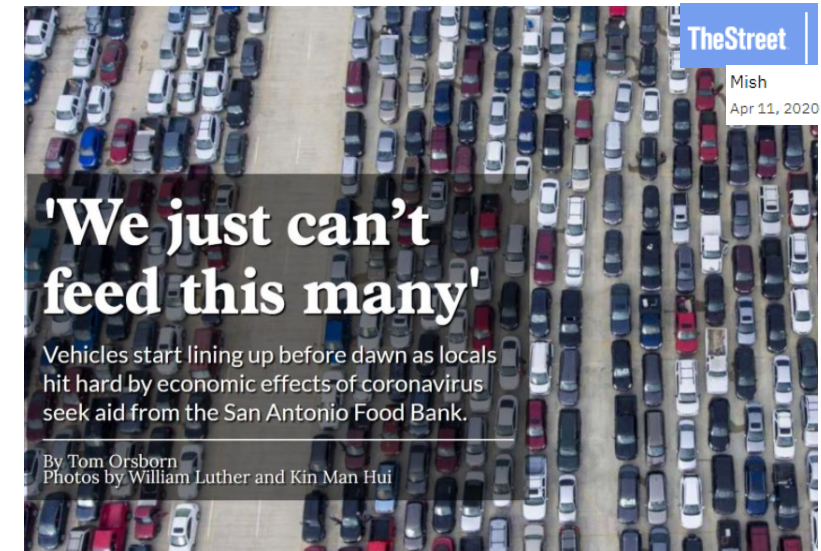


PBS
NEWS
HOUR

Updated on Mar 25, 2020 4:30 PM EST - Published on Mar 13, 2020 6:10 PM EST



By Michael Finney and Simone Chavoor
Wednesday, March 25, 2020



'We just can't feed this many'

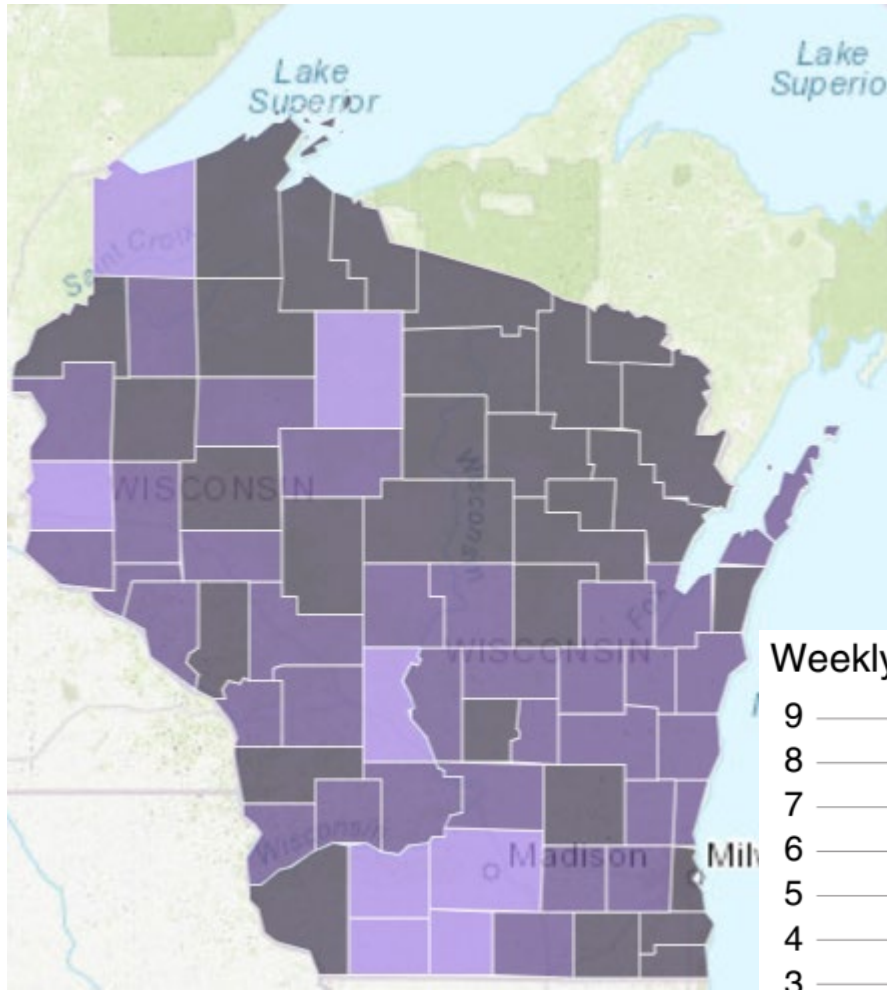
Vehicles start lining up before dawn as locals hit hard by economic effects of coronavirus seek aid from the San Antonio Food Bank.

By Tom Orsborn
Photos by William Luther and Kin Man Hui

Thousands of Desperate People Flood Food Bank Lines

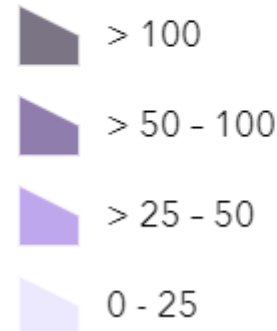
Stress

- 2020 was a stressful year for agriculture, coming after several years of tight margins and low farm income
- Stress on top of stress for agriculture and ag businesses
 - <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/farmstress/>
- COVID has touched us all
 - 533,917 cases in Wisconsin, 5,699 deaths
 - Changed our lifestyles and social interactions, short & long term
 - Many of us feel continual low-levels of anxiety and worry
 - We will be dealing with the economic, social, and personal fallout from this pandemic for years



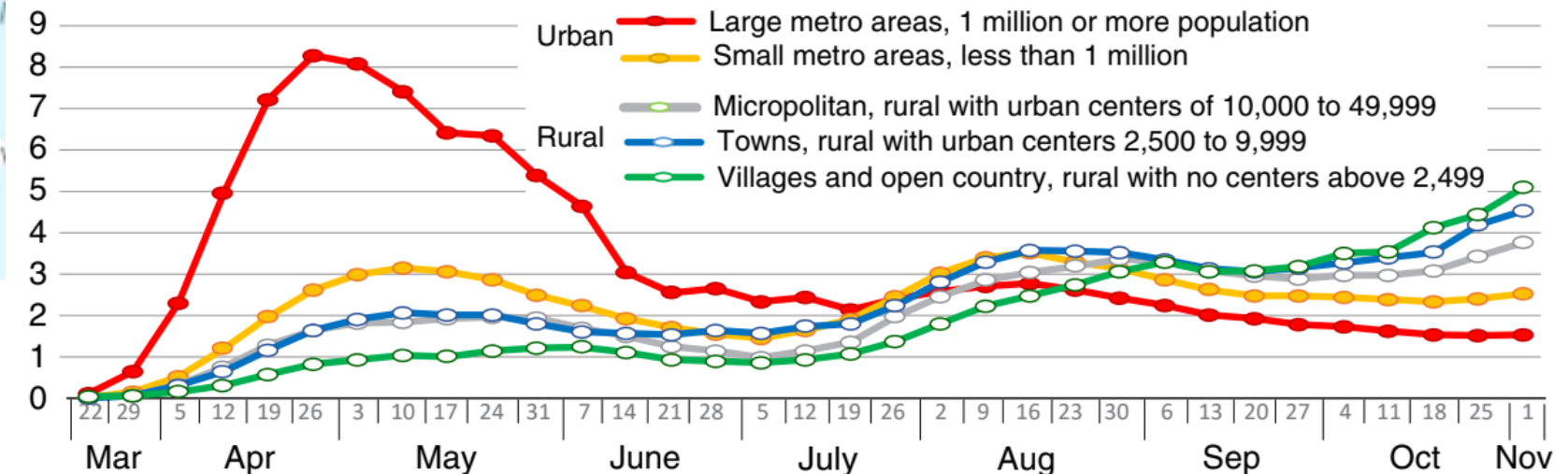
COVID-19 Deaths | Cumulative Rates per 100,000 Population by County Boundary

Deaths per 100,000 population since 3/15/2020



A lot of Emotional Stress in rural areas

Weekly deaths per 100,000, ages 20 and over



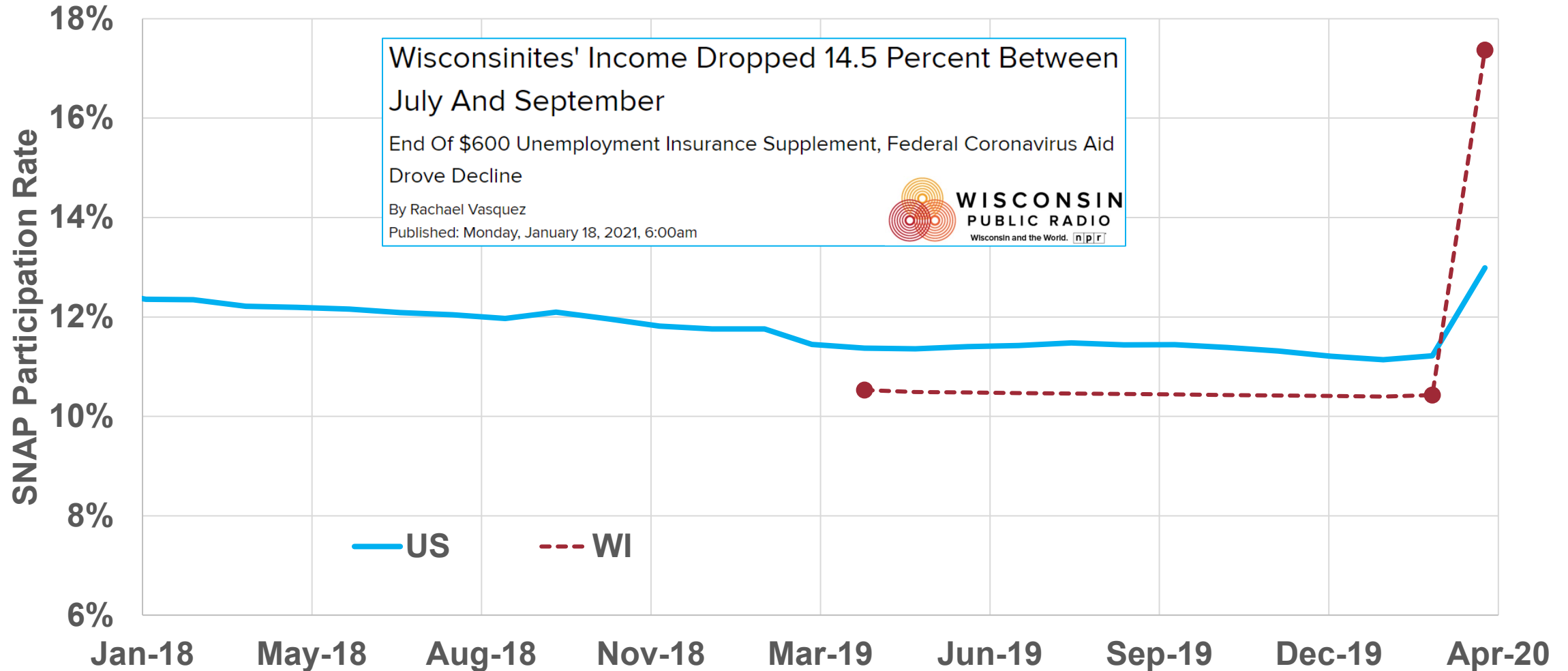
<https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/100089/eib-221.pdf?v=1038.6>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/data.htm#maps>

Wisconsin still leads all US states for Chapter 12 farm bankruptcy filings (year ending 9/30/20)



SNAP participation rate in Wisconsin jumped from 10.4% to 17.4% in 1 month (Mar to Apr 2020)



2020 Farm Income Situation

- Farm income up 21-41% from 2019 after several lackluster years
 1. Tremendous government support, \$46.5 Billion nationally, more than \$1.1 Billion for WI farmers from CFAP and other programs
 2. Recovering commodity prices as the year closed out
- Many farms financially recovering after several years of tight or negative margins
- Dairy farm attrition rate fell, almost back at its “long run average”
- Good year for crop production, Land values holding or up 2-3%
- Loan delinquency rates steady, Farm debt at banks fell 8%

2021 Farm Income Situation: Hope & Uncertainty

- Several reasons to be hopeful for 2021
 - Commodity price trends and margins looking profitable
 - Value of good ag land up: ag still a good investment
 - Wisconsin dairy farm attrition rates almost back to “normal”
 - US food system has adapted to the covid pandemic
- Uncertainties creating volatile markets
 - How fast will the world economy recover? Vaccines and variants
 - How have consumer preferences changed?
 - What's really going on in China and other export markets?

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Watch the videos: <https://renk.aae.wisc.edu/2021-agricultural-outlook-forum/>

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