

A Look at Alabama Agriculture



Alabama

Capital: Montgomery
Population: 4,599,030
Founded: December 14, 1819 (22nd state)
State Bird: Yellowhammer
State Tree: Southern Pine
State Flower: Camellia
Number of Counties: 67
Largest City: Birmingham Population: 236,620

Climate



- Alabama has a mild climate.
- January temperatures average about 51° F in the southern part of the state, and about 46° F in the north.
- July temperatures average about 80° F throughout the whole state.

Crops



- Alabama is one of the countries leading cotton producers. However, cotton only accounts for approximately 3.5% of the total farm and forestry income.
- Alabama ranked 3rd in the nation for peanut production with 613,250,000 pounds produced in 2005.
- Several Alabama farmers grow sweet potatoes, in fact, Alabama ranked 5th in the nation for sweet potato production.

Soil



- Senate Joint Resolution No. 107, adopted by the Legislature of Alabama on April 22, 1997, made soils of the Bama Series the official state soil of Alabama. Soils of the Bama Series are well suited to cultivated crops, pasture, hay, woodland, and most urban uses.
- The central and western counties in Alabama are known as the “Black Belt” because of the dark surface colors of many of the soils. Most of the soils in the Black Belt region of the state are used for timber production and pasture.
- Soil is one of Alabama’s most important natural resources. As the natural medium for the growth of land plants and the support for buildings and roads, it is a coveted natural resource. It is vital to agriculture and forestry as well as to urban development, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

General



- Farmland covers about 26% of the state.
- Greenhouse, nursery and sod are also an important source of the farm income with receipts for 2005 totaling \$276.1 million ranking Alabama 17th in the nation.
- Alabama ranked 2nd in the nation in commercial forest land, with 22.9 million acres.
- Total farm and forestry receipts were over \$5.15 billion for 2005-2006.

Animals



- Livestock and poultry accounted for 82% of the cash receipts and crops the other 18%.
- Broilers are the most valuable farm product in the state. In fact, Alabama ranked 3rd in the nation in broiler production with marketings of more than 1 billion birds.
- Poultry made up 66% of the total cash receipts for all commodities (excluding forestry).
- Alabama ranked 2nd in the nation behind Mississippi in catfish sales with total sales amounting to \$97.6 million.



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