

A Look at Delaware Agriculture



Capital: Dover

Population: 885,122

Founded: December 7, 1787 (1st)

State Bird: Blue Hen Chicken

State Tree: American Holly

State Flower: Peach Blossom

Number of Counties: 3

Largest City: Wilmington - 72,826

Nickname: The First State

Number of Farms: 2,500

Average Farm Size: 200 acres

Total Farmland: 510,253 acres



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Climate & Soil

- Delaware has a humid climate with hot summers and mild winters.
- State average temp in the summer is 76°F, and in the winter 35°F.
- The average of amount precipitation is 45 inches (including rain, melted snow and other forms of moisture).
- Delaware is protected from the cold winds of winter due to the mountains in Pennsylvania.
- The state soil is called Greenwich.
- The Greenwich series consists of very deep, well drained soils, high in silt. Greenwich is categorized as a Prime Farmland Soil, which means it is one of the most productive soils in the state in agriculture and forestry, in addition to being one of the best suited soils to construction. The soil profile is a brown loam topsoil, 10 inches thick (plow layer); a yellowish brown and strong brown loam subsoil.
- Patches of gravel and coarse red sand and silt cover some of the rocky Piedmont of Northern Delaware.
- A region just south of the Piedmont is made up of a mixture of clay and loam soils.

Crops & Livestock

- Corn is Delaware's number one crop, it is grown on 2/5 of the cultivated land; soybeans are second.
- Apples are Delaware's leading fruit crop.
- Broilers are Delaware's most valuable farm product.
- Livestock and related products account for 70% of Delaware's farm income.
- Southwestern Delaware raises the most pigs.

General

- The top 5 agricultural commodities in 2008 were: broiler/meat chickens, corn, soybeans, wheat, and dairy products.
- The value of farm sales topped \$1 billion dollars in 2008.