

A Look at Idaho Agriculture



Capital: Boise

Population: 1,596,728

Founded: July 3, 1890 (43rd)

State Bird: Mountain Bluebird

State Tree: Western White Pine

State Flower: Syringa

Number of Counties: 44

Largest City: Boise - 212,303

Nickname: Gem State

Number of Farms: 25,700

Average Farm Size: 454 acres

Total Farmland: 11.5 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Southern Idaho typically receives 12" of rain each year and Northern Idaho typically receives 25".
- The climate is influenced by Pacific weather patterns, which help moderate temperature extremes.
- The Northern part of Idaho averages 22°F in January and 85°F in July. The Southern part of Idaho averages 21°F in January and 90°F in July.
- There are 51 Soil Conservation Districts in Idaho.

Crops & Livestock

- Idaho is known for its seed industry producing 80-85% of the sweet corn seed produced in the world; also a leading supplier for alfalfa, field and garden beans; Kentucky Bluegrass seed; and carrot, onion, turnip, lettuce seeds.
- First grapes grown in Idaho date back to 1862 and Idaho now has over 1,600 acres with 43 wineries.
- Idaho is ranked in the top ten in the nation for 26 different crops and livestock.
- Idaho grows 70 % of the hybrid temperate sweet corn seed produced in the world.
- Idaho ranks first nationally for potato production with 29 percent of the US total.
- Idaho ranks third in the nation for milk production.
- Idaho ranks 1st in the nation for production of food sized trout with 72 percent
- For alfalfa hay, hops, sugarbeets, mint, and fresh prunes and plums, Idaho is number three in production for the nation.
- Chobani yogurt, currently ranking 3rd among all yogurt brands, recently opened a \$100 million plant in Idaho to help fuel its US expansion

General

- There are over 25,700 farms in Idaho, with over 180 different commodities produced. Idaho has two time zones – Northern Idaho (dry land farming) is in the Pacific Time Zone. Southern and Eastern Idaho are in the Mountain Time Zone.
- Idaho has a very extensive system of dams, reservoirs, canals and drainage ditches allowing water to be used many times in many different ways. There are 3.2 million acres of irrigated land within the state.
- Idaho covers an area of 82,751 square miles or 52.8 million acres.
- The McDonald French Fry was developed by Idaho Agriculture Leader J. R. Simplot who developed the dehydrated shoestring potato that could be quickly frozen.
- Idaho ranks 21st nationally for agricultural production within the United States.