

# A Look at Idaho Agriculture



Capital: Boise

Population: 1,545,801

Founded: July 3, 1890 (43<sup>rd</sup>)

State Bird: Mountain Bluebird

State Tree: Western White Pine

State Flower: Syringa

Number of Counties: 44

Largest City: Boise - 205,314

Nickname: Gem State

Number of Farms: 25,200

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 1864 and Idaho now has over 1000 acres with 38 wineries.
- Idaho ranks third nationally for vegetable (mainly potato) production in the United States.
- The top agricultural commodities in Idaho in 2008 were: dairy products, cattle and calves, potatoes, hay, wheat, sugarbeets and barley.
- Idaho exports more than 50% of its wheat crop.
- Idaho exports more than 86% of its lentil crop.

## General

- There are over 24,500 farms in Idaho, with over 160 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.