

# A Look at Illinois Agriculture



Capital: Springfield

Population: 12,910,409

Founded: December 3, 1818 (21<sup>st</sup>)

State Bird: Cardinal

State Tree: White Oak

State Flower: Violet

Number of Counties: 102

Largest City: Chicago - 2,896,016

Nickname: Land of Lincoln

Number of Farms: 75,900

Average Farm Size: 348 acres

Total Farmland: 26.7 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- The climate of Illinois is good for crop growth.
- Hot summers help plants grow and cold winters help soil replenish itself.
- Southern Illinois typically receives 40" of rain each year and Northern Illinois typically receives 34".
- Winds from the Gulf of Mexico bring most of the rain and snow to Illinois.
- The Northern part of Illinois averages 25°F in January and 75°F in July. The Southern part of Illinois averages 36°F in January and 79°F in July.
- The average depth of top soil in Illinois is 12.6".
- Illinois has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.
- "Drummer" soil series has been designated the official state soil.
- Illinois has approximately 1,500 different soil types.

## Crops & Livestock

- Corn and soybeans are the top Illinois crops. Corn and Soybeans combined account for over \$13 billion dollars in farm sales.
- Most corn is used for livestock feed, but can also be used for ethanol (a fuel additive), plastics, foods, and much more.
- Illinois produces enough corn each year to fill a train of box cars stretching more than 7,600 miles from here to Hong Kong.
- Most soybeans are used for livestock feed but can also be used for soybean oil, medicines, soy ink, paints, cosmetics, and much more.
- Illinois ranks #2 in the U.S. for both corn and soybeans.
- Illinois leads in the production of pumpkins and horseradish, both of which are specialty crops.
- There are 1,380,000 cattle, 4,050,000 pigs, 69,000 sheep and 200,000 horses in Illinois.
- Illinois dairy cattle produce over 1.8 million pounds of milk each year.
- Illinois poultry producers produce over 1.4 million eggs each year.

## General

- Each Illinois farmer feeds 156 people.
- In Illinois, 30.8 million acres of land is used for agricultural purposes. 3.3 million acres are urban and built up land. 1.9 million acres are rural transportation and governmental lands.
- Illinois ranks 7th nationally for agricultural sales in the United States.