

A Look at Iowa Agriculture

Capital: Des Moines

Population: 3,007,856

Founded: December 28, 1846 (29th)

State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch

State Tree: Oak

State Flower: Wild Rose

Number of Counties: 99

Largest City: Des Moines - 198,682

Nickname: The Hawkeye State

Number of Farms: 92,600

Average Farm Size: 331 acres

Total Farmland: 30.7 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Iowa temperature averages 15°F in January and 75°F in July. The annual average temperature is 49°F
- Iowa's average precipitation is 43.35".
- Iowa is the 10th windiest state in the nation, and has more than 600 wind turbines that generate enough energy for 140,000 average Iowa residential customers.
- The Iowa state soil is a series called "Tama."
- Iowa has at least 11,000 different soils.
- Iowa has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.

Crops & Livestock

- Iowa ranks 1st in the U.S. in corn and soybean production.
- Iowa farmers harvested 13.9 million acres of corn (2.37 billion bushels) in 2007. Iowa corn crop values \$9.47 billion.
- Iowa harvested 8.52 million acres of soybeans (439 million bushels), in 2007, which valued \$4.78 billion.
- Livestock in Iowa consumes 400 million bushels of Iowa Grown corn annually.
- Iowa leads the nation in hog and egg production.
- Over 147 million pounds of cheese are made in Iowa per year.
- There are 19.2 million hogs (almost 27% of the nation's hogs), 4 million cattle, 260,000 sheep and 66.9 million chickens in Iowa. Iowa chickens laid 13.9 billion eggs in 2007.
- Iowa's dairy industry produced an estimated 4.28 billion pounds of milk in 2007. The average milk produced per cow was 20,146 pounds.
- Iowa ranks second nationally in red meat production. In 2007, 6.6 billion pounds of red meat were produced.
- The 200,000 sheep shorn in 2006 produced 1.23 million pounds of wool valued at \$295,000. Iowa ranks ninth in wool production.
- Iowa's cash receipts of \$4.15 billion from hog markets in 2007 was greater than the total of the next two largest states—North Carolina (\$1.41 billion) and Minnesota (\$1.07 billion).
- In 2007, a little more than 4 million turkeys produced nearly 274 million pounds of turkey was produced at a value of \$123 million.

General

- Iowa has 55,875 square miles of land. Over 90% of Iowa's land is used for agriculture.
- Iowa ranked 3rd in 2007 in the nation in farm cash receipts at \$15.1 billion.
- Iowa has the most acres of land enrolled in the continuous CRP sign-up. Iowa farmers have enrolled more than 460,000 acres, or 13% of the total acres enrolled nationwide. Trees, grasses and soil on CRP land removed an estimated 17 million metric tons of carbon annually from the atmosphere through photosynthesis.
- Iowa ranks second in total agricultural exports. Iowa farmers exported more than \$4 billion worth of agricultural products in 2005.