

A Look at Kentucky Agriculture



Capital: Frankfort

Population: 4,914,113

Founded: June 1, 1792 (15th)

State Bird: Cardinal

State Tree: Tulip Tree

State Flower: Goldenrod

Number of Counties: 120

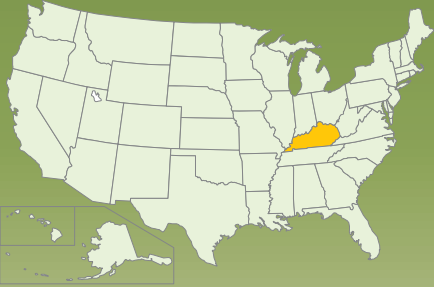
Largest City: Lexington - 260,512

Nickname: Bluegrass State

Number of Farms: 85,300

Average Farm Size: 164 acres

Total Farmland: 13.9 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- The state of Kentucky has a moderate climate, characterized by warm, yet moist conditions. Summers are usually warm, and winters cool.
- Monthly average temperatures range from a high of 87.6° F to a low of 23.1° F.
- Kentucky's weather patterns are influenced by the Gulf of Mexico, especially during summer.
- Much of Kentucky's average 46" of precipitation a year falls in spring, the rainiest season. From south to north, precipitation decreases.
- Southern Kentucky receives the highest average precipitation, about 50" a year, while the north averages only 40".
- Kentucky is located in a path several storm systems follow. Storms happen year-round; however most storms occur between March and September.
- The Crider soils are extensive, making up about 500,000 acres in Kentucky and occurring in 35 counties in the state.
- The Crider series consists of very deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils on uplands.
- The Crider series was established in Caldwell County, Kentucky, in 1957. It is named after a community in the county.
- Crider soils are highly productive. Corn, small grain, soybeans, tobacco, and hay are the main crops grown in this soil.

Crops & Livestock

- Lexington is the world's largest burley tobacco market. Annually, Kentucky produces 262,500,000 pounds of burley tobacco.
- Union county is the top producing county of both corn and soybeans in the state.
- Kentucky ranks 1st in the production of non-alfalfa hay.
- Livestock and livestock products account for about half of Kentucky's farm income.
- Kentucky ranks 1st in both the thoroughbred horse breeding industry and in the value of sales at \$1 billion.
- The top agricultural commodities in 2008 were: horses & mules, broiler/meat chickens, corn, cattle & calves, and soybeans.

General

- Farmland covers 54%, of the total acreage in the state.
- Kentucky is in the top five nationally for having the highest number of farms within a state.