

A Look at Minnesota Agriculture



Capital: St. Paul

Population: 5.26 million

Founded: May 11, 1858 (32nd)

State Bird: Common Loon

State Tree: Norway Pine

State Flower: Pink and White Lady Slipper

Number of Counties: 87

Largest City: Minneapolis - 387,711

Nickname: Land of 10,000 Lakes

Number of Farms: 81,000

Average Farm Size: 332 acres

Total Farmland: 26.9 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- In Minnesota, the average temperature ranges from 0°F – 74°F, with extremes reaching -20°F and the lower 100s°F.
- Minnesota's growing season varies depending on where you are in the state: 100 days in the north to 150 days in the south.
- The average annual precipitation in Minnesota ranges from about 30" in the southeast to less than 20" in the northwest.
- In Minnesota, the number of annual frost free days range from 96 in the north to 163 in the south.
- Minnesota is home to three of North America's ecological regions; Laurentian Mixed Forest, Eastern Broadleaf Forest and Prairie Parkland.
- The Minnesota state soil is "Lester".
- In Minnesota, 1.32 million acres of farmland is devoted to conservation and wetland reserve programs.
- Each of the world's soils is classified to one of the 12 soil orders. This classification is based primarily on soil properties. Minnesota has soils that are classified in 7 of the 12 soil orders.

Crops & Livestock

- Corn and soybeans are the state's top producing crops. Nationally, Minnesota ranks third in soybean and fourth in corn production.
- Minnesota has 19 ethanol plants and three biodiesel plants. Total projected ethanol production for 2008 is nearly 1 billion gallons. The state currently has a 10% mandate for ethanol blend and 5% for biodiesel. The state hopes to boost those blends in the next few years.
- Minnesota leads the nation in producing sugarbeets, turkeys, oats and sweet corn and green peas for processing. The state is second only to California in wild rice production. The state is also a major producer of spring wheat, canola, hogs, dry beans and milk cows.
- Minnesota is unique in the production of wild rice, with both cultivated paddy wild rice and traditional Native American hand harvested wild rice.
- Minnesota leads the nation in turkey production. The state is also a major producer of hogs, milk cows and mink pelts.
- Hogs are Minnesota's top-producing livestock commodity.
- Other livestock raised in Minnesota include bison, elk and ostriches. Minnesota is second nationally for number of bison producers, raising 12,000 head.

General

- Minnesota has 81,000 farms totaling nearly 27 million acres of the state's 54 million acres.
- Minnesota has 86,943 square miles of land.
- The Agriculture and Food Industry is the 2nd largest employer in Minnesota.
- Two-thirds of all agricultural jobs are off-farm, in processing, distribution, supply and service sectors.
- Minnesota ranks 7th in farm exports with Canada, Mexico and Japan being the state's largest export customers.
- Mississippi River: Starts in Minnesota. 680 miles of its 2,552 total miles flow through Minnesota. The Mississippi transports 66% of all grain exported from the United States.