

# A Look at Nebraska Agriculture



Capital: Lincoln

Population: 1,796,619

Founded: March 1, 1867 (37<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Tree: Eastern Cottonwood

State Flower: Goldenrod

Number of Counties: 93

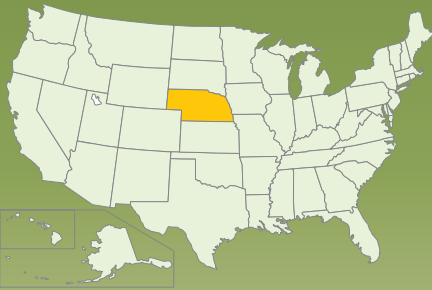
Largest City: Omaha - 454,731

Nickname: Cornhusker State

Number of Farms: 47,000

Average Farm Size: 953 acres

Total Farmland: 45.5 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Hot summers and cold winters, variability in rainfall distribution, fluctuating length of growing season, and frequent winds typify Nebraska's climate.
- Average precipitation during the last decade ranged from slightly below 30 inches in the south-east to slightly below 17 inches in the west.
- About 75% of the precipitation falls as rain during April - September, the crop growing season.
- Average growing season ranges from 170 days in the southeast to 120 days in the extreme northwest.
- The Nebraska state soil is "Holdrege".
- The parent material of the vast majority of Nebraska's soils was formed from wind-blown silt and clay or loess while the parent material of the soil in the north-central or Sandhills region is wind-blown sand.
- Topography and subsequent soil drainage have greatly influenced development of soil properties in local areas.

## Crops & Livestock

- Corn is Nebraska's number one crop in terms of acres, bushels produced, and value of cash receipts. In 2008, 8.8 million acres were planted to corn and produced nearly 1.4 billion bushels.
- Ethanol, a motor fuel additive, uses over 40 percent of Nebraska's corn crop.
- Soybeans are Nebraska's second most popular crop. In 2008, 4.9 million acres were planted to soybeans and produced nearly 226 million bushels.
- In 2008, Nebraska ranks 3rd in corn production, 3rd in the U.S. for Dry Edible Bean and Sorghum production, 5th for Soybean production, 6th for All Hay Production, 7th for Sunflower production, and 9th for Winter Wheat production.
- Irrigation is important to Nebraska's crop production. Of the total cropland harvested during 2007, 46 percent was irrigated.
- As of January 1, 2009 there were 6,350,000 Cattle and Calves and 71,000 Sheep and Lambs in Nebraska. As of December 1, 2008 there were 3,300,000 Hogs and Pigs and 11,505,000 Chickens.
- Nebraska's dairy cattle produced nearly 1.1 billion pounds of milk in 2008.
- Nebraska's poultry produced 2,777,000 eggs in 2008.
- Nebraska's slaughter plants processed 7.1 million cattle and 8 million hogs in 2008.
- As of January 1, 2009, Nebraska ranks 2nd in the U.S. for All Cattle and Calves inventory. As of December 1, 2008, Nebraska ranks 6th for All Hogs and Pigs inventory.

## General

- In Nebraska 45.6 million acres of land is used for farming, or 92.7 percent of the 49.2 million acres of land in the State.
- Nebraska has 76,872 square miles of land.
- Nebraska's current Director of Agriculture is Greg Ibach.