

A Look at Nevada Agriculture



Capital: Carson City

Population: 2,643,085

Founded: October 31, 1864 (36th)

State Bird: Mountain Bluebird

State Tree: Single Leaf Pinion and the
Bristlecone Pine

State Flower: Sagebrush

Number of Counties: 17

Largest City: Las Vegas - 567,641

Nickname: Silver State

Number of Farm: 3,100

Average Farm Size: 1,873 acres

Total Farmland: 5.8 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Mostly mountainous and desert terrain. Much of Nevada is uninhabited, sagebrush-covered desert.
- In the driest state in the nation, with an average annual rainfall of only about 7".
- The wettest part of the state receives about 40" of precipitation per year, while the driest spot, less than 4" per year.
- SOIL: Orovida Soil
- MINING: Nevada was made famous by the discovery of the Comstock Lode, the richest known U.S. silver deposit, in 1859.
- Over the years its mines have produced large quantities of gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, mercury, tungsten, uranium, manganese, titanium, iron, mercury, opal, barite, molybdenum, magnesite, diatomite, talc, gypsum, dolomite, lime, turquoise, fluorspar, brucite, antimony, perlite, pumice, salt, sulfur oilshale, magnesite, lime, and other minerals.
- Coal and oil are also underground resource.

Crops & Livestock

- Agricultural crops consist mainly of alfalfa hay, sold as cubes and compressed bales, alfalfa seed, potatoes, barley, wheat, rye, oats, vegetables, mint, garlic and onions, and some fruits.
- The state's leading agricultural industry is range livestock production.
- Cow-calf operations predominate.
- Dairy, sheep and lambs, and hogs are among Nevada's other livestock enterprises.
- The larger cattle and sheep ranches are in the northern half of the state.
- The greatest number of dairies are in northern Nevada, the largest dairies are in the south.
- Horses and poultry are also raised.

General

- Agriculture is one of Nevada's most important industries, contributing significantly to the economies of rural communities and the state as a whole.
- Nevada's total land area amounts to 110,567 square miles. Eighty-five percent of the state is owned by the federal government.
- Nevada is the nations most urban state. The majority of its residents live in urban areas, greater than 70% of its residents live in Las Vegas alone.