

# A Look at North Dakota Agriculture



Capital: Bismarck

Population: 642,200

Founded: November 2, 1889 (39<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Tree: American Elm

State Flower: Wild Prairie Rose

Number of Counties: 53

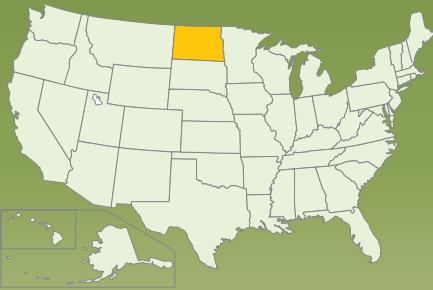
Largest City: Fargo- 95,556

Nickname: Peace Garden State

Number of Farms: 32,000

Average Farm Size: 1,238 acres

Total Farmland: 39.6 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- North Dakota's climate is described as sub-humid continental, excellent for production of small grains and livestock.
- Annual precipitation ranges from 13" per year in the northwest to more than 20" in the south-east.
- January is the coldest month with average temperatures of 2°F in the northeast to 17°F in the southwest.
- July is the warmest month with average temperatures of 67°F in the northeast to 73°F in the south.
- North Dakota weather can be extreme! The state's highest temperature reading – 121°F – and all-time low reading – 60°F below zero – were recorded less than six months apart in the same year, 1936!
- North Dakota soil ranges from thick black loam in the Red River Valley, some of the richest agricultural land in the world, to more porous, sandy soils in the west.
- North Dakota farmers are experts in no-tillage and reduced tillage practices that help save the soil.
- The North Dakota State Soil is Williams.
- The motto, "Strength from the Soil," appears on the state's coat of arms and governor's flag.

## Crops & Livestock

- North Dakota ranks first in the nation in the production of many crops, including:

	<u>% of U.S. total</u>
Spring wheat	50%
Durum	56%
Barley	35%
Sunflowers	43%
Dry edible beans	34%
Pinto beans	56%
Flaxseed	95%
Canola	90%
Honey	24%

- North Dakota is also an important producer of sugar beets, potatoes and oats. Specialty crops include canola, lentils, field peas and buckwheat.
- Every time you eat spaghetti, chances are there's North Dakota durum in it.
- There are 1.7 million head of cattle, 160,000 pigs, 88,000 sheep in North Dakota.
- North Dakota dairy cattle produce 385 million pounds of milk.
- North Dakota produces about 1.2 million turkeys annually.

## General

- North Dakota is 68,976 square miles in area with an average of 9.3 people per square mile.
- Farms and ranches occupy more than 39 million acres, almost 90% of North Dakota's land area.
- North Dakota's Agriculture Commissioner is Roger Johnson, a third-generation family farmer.