

A Look at Ohio Agriculture



Capital: Columbus

Population: 11,542,645

Founded: March 1, 1803 (17th)

State Bird: Cardinal

State Tree: Buckeye

State Flower: Scarlet Carnation

Number of Counties: 88

Largest City: Columbus - 757,885

Nickname: Buckeye State

Number of Farms: 75,000

Average Farm Size: 184 acres

Total Farmland: 13.9 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- The climate of Ohio is good for crop growth.
- Ohio typically receives 36" of rain each year.
- Most of Ohio's precipitation is from rainfall and thunderstorms.
- Monthly average temperature range from a high of 85.8°F to a low of 15.5°F.
- Ohio has 4" to 12" topsoil
- Ohio has a great diversity of soils, some of which are very productive.
- The Miamian Soil Series, named after Native Americans in the region, has been nominated as the official state soil.
- Ohio has 400 different soil types.
- Ohio is one of only four states in which over 50% of its land is classified as "prime farmland."

Crops & Livestock

- Corn and soybeans are the top Ohio crops.
- Ohio leads the U.S. in production of Swiss cheese.
- Ohio has 3,400 beekeepers containing 29,900 bee colonies.
- Other Ohio crops include winter wheat, hay, tomatoes for processing, apples, grapes, poinsettia's, sweet corn, mushrooms, maple syrup and many, many more.
- Ohio harvested over 1 million pounds of tomatoes in 2008. The state is ranked 5th for fresh tomato production and 3rd for processing tomatoes.
- The hills of Ohio's eastern and southern regions are blanketed in hardwood forests. Ohio wood carries an international reputation for its tight pattern and shape. Red and white oak and walnut are primarily exported as the world's finest logs, lumber, chips, and dimension pieces for use in the veneer, furniture, and paper industries. An estimated 300 to 400 million board feet are harvested each year.
- There are 1,470,000 cattle, 2,000,000 hogs, and 115,000 sheep in Ohio.
- Ohio dairy cattle produce over 5.13 billion pounds of milk each year.
- Ohio poultry produce 7.1 billion, or 592 million dozen eggs per year.
- Ohio ranks 16th in beef production with 15,000 beef farms with 292,000 cows.

General

- Ohio has 40,948 square miles of land.
- Ohio has approximately 800 food processing plants throughout the state.
- Ohio's agricultural industry contributes \$93 billion to the state's economic growth and employs one-in-seven Ohioans in areas such as wholesaling and retailing, farm production, marketing and processing, and agribusiness.