

# A Look at South Dakota Agriculture



Capital: Pierre

Population: 812,383

Founded: November 2, 1889 (40<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Chinese Ring-Necked Pheasant

State Tree: Black Hills spruce

State Flower: Pasque

Number of Counties: 67

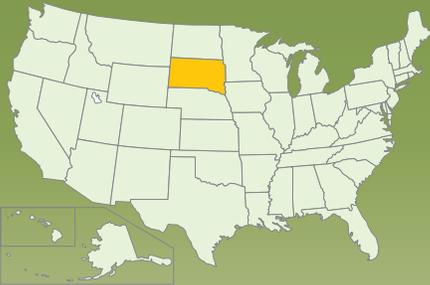
Largest City: Sioux Falls - 157,935

Nickname: Mount Rushmore State

Number of Farms: 31,800

Average Farm Size: 1,374 acres

Total Farmland: 44 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- South Dakota receives from 14-25" of rain and from 25-100" in snow across the state.
- Temperatures range from 10°F to 96°F throughout the state.
- The state experiences all four seasons. The summer often has hot days and cool nights while the winter allows for excellent winter sporting activities.
- Topsoil in our state ranges from 10-12" thick in the east to 5-7" thick in the western part of the state. The range is due to climactic differences. Soil scientists have identified over 650 different soil types in South Dakota.
- The South Dakota Legislature made Houdek (pronounced hoo-deck) the official state soil in 1990. Houdek soil is not found in any other state. It was chosen because it, and closely related soils occur on more than two million acres across South Dakota.

## Crops & Livestock

- **Wheat:** South Dakota produces 3 different types of wheat: hard red winter, hard red spring and durum. In an average year, almost 3 million acres are planted to wheat.
- **Corn:** More than 4 million acres of corn are planted in South Dakota in an average year. It is grown primarily east of the Missouri River, mainly in the southeast. It is our most frequently irrigated crop. We harvest over 400 million bushels each year. Ethanol plants, which process the corn into ethanol fuel and distillers grain, are prevalent across our state.
- **Soybeans:** South Dakota grown soybeans are processed into meal and oil at our locally owned processing plant in Volga, SD. Nearly 4 million acres are planted to beans, producing 100 million bushels annually. South Dakota State University is a leader in the development of varieties that are suitable to our growing conditions.
- **Sunflowers:** Two types of sunflowers are grown in South Dakota—oilseed and confectionery. The confectionery variety is used for human consumption and birdseed. The state ranks 2nd in sunflower seed and oil production in the United States.
- **Other crops:** South Dakota is also a leading producer of a variety of small grains including oats, barley, rye, flaxseed, sorghum and alfalfa.
- **Beef:** In South Dakota there are approximately 17,000 ranchers and cattlemen that produce 3.7 million head of cattle—we have more cattle than people! In South Dakota, the cattle industry is a family business with nearly all of the cattle businesses having been in the same families for more than 25 years.
- **Pork:** South Dakota's pork farmers raise 1.4 million hogs per year. John Morrell & Co. alone handles over 17,000 hogs a day. South Dakota's pork industry provides nearly 6,900 jobs in our state.

## General

- Agriculture is the state's leading industry. It has a \$21 billion impact on the state's economy.
- The state encompasses 77,123 square miles. It is 380 miles from east to west and 245 miles from north to south. South Dakota is 16<sup>th</sup> in size among the 50 states.
- South Dakota ranks in the top 10 in the production of 25 agricultural commodities.