

A Look at Wyoming Agriculture



Capital: Cheyenne

Population: 544,270

Founded: July 10, 1890 (44th)

State Bird: Meadowlark

State Tree: Plains Cottonwood

State Flower: Indian Paintbrush

Number of Counties: 23

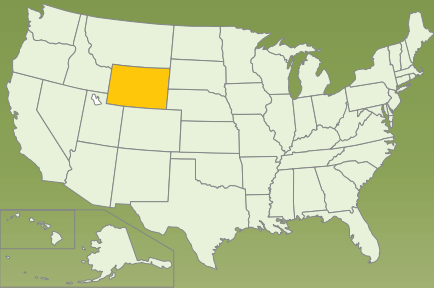
Largest City: Cheyenne - 55,641

Nickname: Cowboy State

Number of Farms: 11,000

Average Farm Size: 2,726 acres

Total Farmland: 30.2 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Wyoming has the second highest mean elevation in the United States at 6,700 feet above sea level. The highest point of elevation is Gannett Peak at 13,804 feet in Fremont and Sublette counties, and the lowest level, 3,125 feet, is on the Belle Fourche River in Crook County.
- The climate of any area in Wyoming is largely determined by its latitude, altitude, proximity to oceans and its local topography. Annual precipitation is 15.45". Temperature can vary from below 20°F in the winter to above 90°F in the summer, however the average temperature is 45.6°F for Wyoming.
- The growing season ranges from 140 days in the eastern side (lower elevation) of the state to 60 days in the higher elevation (central and western) part of the state.
- The Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming. The state is a great plateau broken by a number of important mountain ranges. The majority of Wyoming's land surface is mountainous. The natural vegetation in the grasslands and mountains makes Wyoming a favorable place for livestock production.
- As a "headwaters" state, Wyoming provides water to streams and rivers that span the U.S. The continental divide cuts through Wyoming from the northwest to the south central border. Rivers east of the divide drain into the Missouri River Basin and eventually the Atlantic Ocean.

Crops & Livestock

- Wyoming grows hay, barley, wheat, dry edible beans, sugarbeets and corn. Hay is the leading crop in Wyoming in terms of value of production - \$65 million in 2008. Barley had the next highest crop value in 2008, at \$32 million followed by wheat at \$31 million followed by corn for grain at \$28 million.
- Wyoming ranks 8th nationwide in barley production, 20th in Hay, and 33rd in wheat production.
- The cattle industry is by far the largest component of Wyoming agriculture. Cattle led the way in 2008 in terms of value of production at \$599 million dollars.
- Wyoming sheep producers produced 3,124,299 pounds of wool in 2007. Wyoming is ranked 4th in lambs and sheep. Wyoming inventory of sheep and lambs was 411,952 head. Ewes one year old and older was 258,096 in 2008.
- Livestock inventories for Hogs and pigs in 2007 was 107,180, Horses and ponies at 80,476, and colonies of bees were 45,633.

General

- Wyoming's economic well-being revolves around three industries- minerals, agriculture and tourism.
- Historically, agriculture has been an important part of Wyoming's economy. It is also an essential part of Wyoming's culture and lifestyle. The main agricultural commodities produced in Wyoming include beef, hay, sugar beets, grain (wheat and barley), and wool. More than 91% of land in Wyoming is classified as rural.
- Wyoming is the 9th largest state in the U.S., it covers 97,914 square miles. Forty-two percent of the land is owned by the federal government.