



# A Look at *Alabama* Agriculture

Capital: Montgomery

Population: 4,871,547

Founded: December 14, 1819 (22<sup>nd</sup>)

State Bird: Yellowhammer

State Tree: Southern Pine

State Flower: Camellia

Number of Counties: 67

Largest City: Birmingham - 212,237

Number of Farms: 43,000

Average Farm Size: 206 acres

Total Farmland: 9 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Alabama has a mild climate.
- January temperatures average about 51° F in the southern part of the state, and about 46° F in the north.
- July temperatures average about 80° F throughout the whole state.
- The central and western counties in Alabama are known as the “Black Belt” because of the dark surface colors of many of the soils. Most of the soils of the Black Belt region of the state are used for timber production and pasture.
- Soil is one of Alabama’s most important natural resources. It is vital to agriculture and forestry as well as to urban development, water quality and wildlife habitat.

## Crops & Livestock

- Cotton is the State’s largest row crop and is grown in 59 of Alabama’s 67 counties.
- Alabama’s green industry contributes \$2.9 billion annually to the state’s economy and employs 43,000 Alabamians.
- Peaches are the state’s leading commercial fruit.
- Half of the peanuts produced in the U.S. are grown within a 100 mile radius of Dothan, AL.
- Alabama farmers primarily raise catfish but also farm tilapia, shrimp and crawfish. Alabama’s catfish industry’s annual economic impact is \$158.4 million.
- Alabama is home to 1.2 million head of cattle and this is a \$2.5 billion industry.
- Broiler production is Alabama’s top agricultural commodity generating more than \$15 billion annually. Poultry production and processing employs close to 90,000 people.

## General

- Farmland covers about 25% of the state.
- Two-thirds of Alabama, or 23 million acres is covered in forestland.
- The queen honeybee is the official state agricultural insect.
- Alabama’s top 5 commodities are: Poultry, Cattle and Calves, Greenhouse, Nursery and Sod, Cotton and Soybeans.