A Look at Illinois Agriculture

Capital: Springfield
Population: 12,630,000
Founded: December 3, 1818 (21st)
State Bird: Cardinal
State Tree: White Oak
State Flower: Violet
Number of Counties: 102
Largest City: Chicago - 2,693,000
Nickname: Land of Lincoln
Number of Farms: 75,900
Average Farm Size: 375 acres
Total Farmland: 27 million acres

Climate & Soil
• The climate of Illinois is good for crop growth.
• Hot summers help plants grow and cold winters help soil replenish itself.
• Southern Illinois typically receives 40" of rain each year and Northern Illinois typically receives 34".
• Winds from the Gulf of Mexico bring most of the rain and snow to Illinois.
• The Northern part of Illinois averages 25°F in January and 75°F in July. The Southern part of Illinois averages 36°F in January and 79°F in July.
• The average depth of top soil in Illinois is 12.6”.
• Illinois has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.
• “Drummer” soil series has been designated the official state soil.
• Illinois has approximately 1,500 different soil types.

Crops & Livestock
• Corn and soybeans are the top Illinois crops. Corn and Soybeans combined account for over $13 billion dollars in farm sales.
• Most corn is used for livestock feed, but can also be used for ethanol (a fuel additive), plastics, foods, and much more.
• Illinois produces enough corn each year to fill a train of box cars stretching more than 7,600 miles from here to Hong Kong.
• Most soybeans are used for livestock feed but can also be used for soybean oil, medicines, soy ink, paints, cosmetics, and much more.
• Illinois led the nation in the production of soybeans in 2018 and 2019, and typically ranks #2 nationally in corn production.
• Illinois leads in the production of pumpkins and horseradish, both of which are specialty crops.
• There are 1,380,000 cattle, 4,050,000 pigs, 69,000 sheep and 200,000 horses in Illinois.
• Illinois dairy cattle produce over 1.8 million pounds of milk each year.
• Illinois poultry producers produce over 1.4 million eggs each year.

General
• Each Illinois farmer feeds 156 people.
• In Illinois, 27 million acres of land is used for agricultural purposes. 4.3 million acres are urban and built up land. 1.9 million acres are rural transportation and governmental lands.
• Illinois ranks 6th nationally in agricultural sales in the United States.

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