A Look at Iowa Agriculture

Capital: Des Moines
Population: 3,156,145
Founded: December 28, 1846 (29th)
State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch
State Tree: Oak
State Flower: Wild Rose
Number of Counties: 99
Largest City: Des Moines - 216,853
Nickname: The Hawkeye State
Number of Farms: 86,000
Average Farm Size: 356 acres
Total Farmland: 30.6 million acres

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Climate & Soil
- Iowa temperature averages 20°F in January and 74°F in July.
- Iowa’s average precipitation is 35”, with January being the driest month and June is the wettest. Snowfall accumulation averages 32”.
- Iowa is ranked 3rd for generating wind energy and generates enough to power nearly 2 billion homes. In 2018, wind accounted for approximately 34% of the in-state energy production.
- The Iowa state soil is a series called “Tama.” Most of Iowa’s soil parent material is Loess or Glacial Till.
- Iowa has at least 11,000 different soils.
- Iowa has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.

Crops & Livestock
- Iowa ranks 1st in the US in corn production and 2nd in soybean production. Iowa ranks 1st in total grain storage capacity, holding 3.6 billion bushels!
- The average corn yield is 196 bushels per acre. Iowa farmers harvested 12.8 million acres of corn (2.5 billion bushels) in 2018. Iowa corn crop values $8.78 billion.
- The average soybean yield is 57 bushels per acre. Iowa harvested 9.91 million acres of soybeans (564.8 million bushels) in 2018, which valued $4.8 billion.
- In 2018 Iowa produced 2 million bushels of oats, and ranks 8th nationally.
- 21% of Iowa grown corn is consumed by livestock.
- Iowa leads the nation in hog and egg production, is 2nd in commercial red meat production (7.7 billion pounds), and 3rd in milk goats (32,000 head).
- There are 23.5 million hogs (31% of the nation’s hogs) in Iowa. That’s over 7 hogs per person in the state!
- Iowa has 58 million egg laying hens that produced 16.2 billion eggs in 2018. That means chickens outnumber people 17:1! Iowa produces enough eggs to feed every American one egg per day for 47 days.
- Iowa recorded 4 million cattle in January 2019, and is ranked 8th in the nation for cattle production.
- Iowa started the year of 2019 with 220,000 dairy cows. The dairy industry produced 5.26 billion pounds of milk in 2018. The average milk produced per cow was 23,945 pounds!
- Iowa produced 296 million pounds of cheese in 2018, and ranks 8th in cheese production.
- There are 153,000 sheep in Iowa, and 103,000 of those are raised specifically for breeding programs.
- 140,000 sheep were shorn in 2018, producing 760,000 pounds of fleece.
- In 2018, 11.9 million turkeys were produced in Iowa which ranks 7th nationally in turkey production. Many of these turkeys went to supply Subway restaurants.

General
- Iowa has 55,875 square miles of land. Over 85% of Iowa’s land is used for agriculture.
- Iowa has the capacity to produce 4.5 billion gallons of ethanol with 44 refineries, but produced just shy of that max with 4.35 billion gallons in 2018. This is a new record for the state, and why Iowa ranks 1st in ethanol production.
- Iowa ranks 3rd in number of farms.
- Iowa ranks 2nd in cash receipts – in 2017 it amounted to $26.6 billion.