Capital: Des Moines
Population: 3,170,000
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: 86,104
Average Farm Size: 355 acres
Total Farmland: 30.6 million acres

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A Look at Iowa Agriculture

Climate & Soil
• Iowa temperature averages 23°F in January and 75°F in July.
• Iowa’s average precipitation is 34", with January being the driest month and June is the wettest. Snowfall accumulation averages 30”.
• Iowa is ranked 3rd for generating wind energy. Iowa ranks first in percentage of electricity powered by wind at 34%.
• 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 198 bushels per acre. Iowa farmers harvested 13.1 million acres of corn (2.58 billion bushels) in 2019, which valued $9.81 billion.
• The average soybean yield is 55 bushels per acre. Iowa harvested 9.12 million acres (501.6 million bushels) in 2019. Iowa soybean crop values $4.34 billion.
• In 2019, Iowa produced 4 million bushels of oats and ranks 5th nationally.
• 39% of Iowa’s corn crop is used to produce ethanol.
• Iowa leads the nation in hog, egg, and commercial red meat production. In 2019, Iowa’s commercial red meat industry produced 8.624 billion pounds. Iowa also ranks 3rd in milk goats (29,000 head).
• There are 24.8 million hogs in Iowa (more than 30% of the nation’s hogs) in Iowa. That’s over 7 hogs per person in the state!
• Iowa has 58.2 million egg laying hens that produced 17.1 billion eggs in 2019. That means chickens outnumber people 18:1! Iowa produces enough eggs to feed every American one egg per day for 52 days.
• Iowa recorded 3.9 million cattle in January 2020 and is ranked 7th in the nation in cattle and calves inventory.
• As of May 2020, Iowa has 217,000 head of dairy cows. The dairy industry produced 5.62 billion pounds of milk in 2019. Each month, the average cow produced 2012 pounds of milk.
• Iowa produced over 333 million pounds of cheese in 2019, and ranks 9th in cheese production.
• There are 151,000 head of sheep in Iowa as of January 2020. 108,000 head of those are raised specifically for breeding programs.
• 130,000 sheep were shorn in 2019, producing 740,000 pounds of fleece.
• In 2019, 11.7 million turkeys were produced in Iowa, which ranks 7th nationally in turkey production.

General
• Iowa has 56,272 square miles of land. Around 85% of Iowa’s land is used for agriculture.
• Iowa has the capacity to produce 4.1 billion gallons of ethanol with 42 corn ethanol plants and 2 cellulosic plants. In 2019, Iowa produced 4.23 billion gallons, which puts Iowa first in the nation in ethanol production.
• Iowa ranks 3rd in number of farms.
• Iowa ranks 2nd in cash receipts- in 2018 it amounted to $27.4 billion.
• Iowa ranks 2nd in total agricultural exports. Iowa farmers exported $10.6 billion worth of agricultural products in 2018.