

A Look at *Minnesota* Agriculture

Capital: St. Paul

Population: 5.42 million

Founded: May 11, 1858 (32nd)

State Bird: Common Loon

State Tree: Norway Pine

State Flower: Pink and White Lady Slipper

Number of Counties: 87

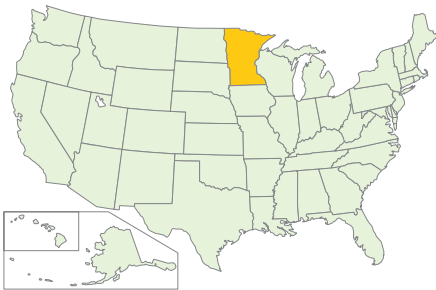
Largest City: Minneapolis - 400,070

Nickname: Land of 10,000 Lakes

Number of Farms: 79,800

Average Farm Size: 349 acres

Total Farmland: 27 million acres



www.agclassroom.org/mn

Climate & Soil

- In Minnesota, the average temperature ranges from 0°F – 74°F, with extremes reaching -20°F and the lower 100s°F.
- Minnesota's growing season varies depending on where you are in the state: 100 days in the north to 150 days in the south.
- The average annual precipitation in Minnesota ranges from about 30" in the southeast to less than 20" in the northwest.
- In Minnesota, the number of annual frost free days range from 96 in the north to 163 in the south.
- Minnesota is home to three of North America's ecological region's; Laurentian Mixed Forest, Eastern Broadleaf Forest and Prairie Parkland.
- The Minnesota state soil is "Lester".
- Each of the world's soils is classified to one of the 12 soil orders. This classification is based primarily on soil properties. Minnesota has soils that are classified in 7 of the 12 soil orders.

Crops & Livestock

- Corn and soybeans are the state's top producing crops. Nationally, Minnesota ranks third in soybean and corn production.
- Minnesota has 20 ethanol plants and three biodiesel plants. Total projected ethanol production for 2012 is 1.1 billion gallons. The state currently has a 10% mandate for ethanol blend and 10% for biodiesel. By 2018, state law mandates the blending of 20 percent biodiesel into the fuel supply. Minnesota also has the most E85 stations in the nation.
- Minnesota leads the nation in producing sugarbeets and turkeys. The state is number two in corn, sweet corn, oats, wild rice, and hogs and is also a major producer of green peas for processing, dry edible beans, spring wheat, canola, dry beans and milk cows.
- Minnesota is unique in the production of wild rice, with both cultivated paddy wild rice and traditional Native American hand harvested wild rice.
- Minnesota leads the nation in turkey production. The state is also a major producer of hogs, milk cows and mink pelts.
- Hogs are Minnesota's top-producing livestock commodity.
- Other livestock raised in Minnesota include bison, elk and ostriches. Minnesota raises over 3,000 bison on nearly 100 farms.

General

- Minnesota has 79,800 farms totaling 27 million acres and 53% of the total land area.
- Minnesota has 86,943 square miles of land.
- The Agriculture and Food Industry is the 2nd largest employer in Minnesota.
- Two-thirds of all agricultural jobs are off-farm, in processing, distribution, supply and service sectors.
- Minnesota is the 4th largest agricultural exporting state in the U.S. with China, Canada, Mexico and Japan being the state's largest export consumers.
- Mississippi River: Starts in Minnesota. 680 miles of its 2,552 total miles flow through Minnesota. The Mississippi transports 66% of all grain exported from the United States.