A Look at Nebraska Agriculture

Capital: Lincoln
Population: 1,932,549
Founded: March 1, 1867 (37th)
State Bird: Western Meadowlark
State Tree: Eastern Cottonwood
State Flower: Goldenrod
Number of Counties: 93
Largest City: Omaha - 443,885
Nickname: Cornhusker State
Number of Farms: 47,400
Average Farm Size: 954 acres
Total Farmland: 45.2 million acres

Climate & Soil
• Nebraska has a typical Midwestern climate, which means big extremes between the four seasons – hot summers, cold winters, and moderate precipitation.
• The Nebraska State Soil is Holdrege. This soil is ideal for crops, pasture, or rangeland.
• From east to west, Nebraska experiences a 4,584-foot elevation difference.
• Most of Nebraska’s soil was formed from wind-blown silt and clay or loess while soil in north central Nebraska, also known as the Sandhills, was formed from wind-blown sand.
• The average annual precipitation is 30.25” and decreases one inch every 25 miles from east to west across the state.

Crops & Livestock
• Nebraska’s ten leading commodities (in order of value) for 2016 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, dairy products, wheat, hay, chicken eggs, dry beans, and sorghum.
• In 2017, Nebraska ranked 1st in commercial red meat production. Cattle outnumber people in Nebraska 4 to 1.
• In 2017, Nebraska ranked 3rd in corn for grain production – 1,683,300,000 pounds.
• Nebraska's production of corn, livestock, and ethanol is known as “Nebraska's Golden Triangle.”
• In 2017, Nebraska ranked 4th in soybean production and alfalfa hay production.
• Each year, Nebraska harvests between 55 and 70 million bushels of wheat.
• In 2017, Nebraska ranked 5th in sugar beet production. The sugar beet is a root crop used for sugar production.
• Nebraska has the 6th largest swine herd in the nation.
• In 2017 Nebraska ranked 1st in Great Northern Bean Production and was listed as a top producer of pulses, a group of crops that includes field peas, dry beans, chickpeas, and lentils.
• More than 9.5 million chickens populate Nebraska’s chicken laying farms.
• There are approximately 50,000 bee colonies in Nebraska.

General
• 91% of the state’s total land area is utilized for farms and ranches.
• 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture.
• Every dollar in agricultural exports generates $1.28 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska’s $6.58 billion in agricultural exports generates $8 billion in additional economic activity.
• The average age of a Nebraska farmer or rancher is 56.
• Nebraska’s current director of agriculture is Steve Wellman.

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