

# A Look at *Oklahoma* Agriculture

Capital: Oklahoma City

Population: 3,687,050

Founded: November 16, 1907 (46<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Scissortail flycatcher

State Tree: Redbud

State Flower: Mistletoe

Number of Counties: 77

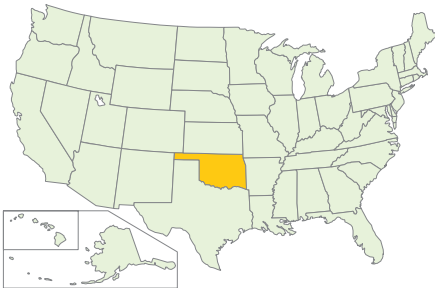
Largest City: Oklahoma City- 551,789

Nickname: Sooner State

Number of Farms: 86,600

Average Farm Size: 405 acres

Total Farmland: 35 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Temperatures range from below zero in the winter to over 100°F in the summer. Strong winds make it seem much colder in the winter. Oklahoma is a “plains” state, with no mountains to stop the wind. It is known for its thunderstorms and tornados, which usually occur in the spring.
- The southeast part of the state is the wettest, receiving an average of 56” of rain annually.
- The Panhandle is driest, averaging less than 17” of rain annually.
- In the winter, the snowfall ranges from 30” in the Panhandle to occasional snow in the southeast.
- The growing season in Oklahoma ranges from 168 days in the Panhandle to 238 days in the southeast part of the state.
- Oklahoma has 2,500 different types of soil.
- Oklahoma is known for its red soil, which is red because of the iron content.
- Although Oklahoma is often associated with the Dust Bowl, it actually only affected the Oklahoma Panhandle. Drought in the years 1934-37 occurred on grasslands that had been plowed and planted with wheat to meet the demands of World War I. With no grass root system to hold the soil in place, it simply blew away. Conservation measures changed the Oklahoma landscape. Because of the man-made lakes, created as one conservation measure, Oklahoma now has more miles of shoreline than the Atlantic and Gulf coasts combined.

## Crops & Livestock

- Winter wheat, hay, corn for grain, peanuts and pecans are the top Oklahoma crops.
- Hay is a good crop to grow on land that is rolling and steep. These lands would erode away if they were tilled for row crops. Native grass and alfalfa are the most popular kind of hay to grow.
- Oklahoma ranks 5th in the nation in the production of winter wheat, 5th in the production of pecans, 1st in the production of rye, 5th in the production of grain sorghum, 6th in peanuts, 22nd in peaches and 15th in watermelons.
- Oklahoma produced over 81.6 million bushels of winter wheat and 16,000 pounds of pecans in 2005. Oklahoma has 2.5 million cattle, 80,000 sheep, 5.65 million chickens, 2.35 million hogs and 150,142 horses.
- Oklahoma ranks 5th in the nation in cattle and calf production, 8th in hogs production and 17th in broiler production.
- Oklahoma beef cattle, hogs and sheep produce 3.22 billion pounds of meat per year.
- Oklahoma poultry produce 933 million eggs per year.

## General

- The name “Oklahoma” comes from two Choctaw words: “okla,” which means “people,” and “humma,” which means “red,” so the state’s name means “red people.”
- Oklahoma has over 44 million acres of land.
- The grocery shopping cart was invented and first used in Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma is a grassland and home to one of the last remaining tall grass prairie preserves, located in Osage county in the northwest part of the state.