



A Look at *Pennsylvania* Agriculture

Capital: Harrisburg

Population: 12,763,536

Founded: December 12, 1787

State Bird: Ruffed Grouse

State Tree: Hemlock

State Flower: Mountain Laurel

Number of Counties: 67

Largest City: Philadelphia-1.5 million

Nickname: Keystone State

Number of Farms: 59,309

Average Farm Size: 130 acres

Total Farmland: 7.7 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Pennsylvania has climates that are generally known as humid continental. There are distinct seasonal variations and an abundance of rainfall.
- Lowland Pennsylvania has comparatively long summers and mild winters, with growing seasons ranging from six to seven months. Mean annual temperature for the region is 57°F.
- In Upland Pennsylvania, summers are short and winters are comparatively severe. The growing season is confined to a frost-free period of about 130 days. The mean annual temperature is 47°F.
- Rainfall averages 42" a year.
- The best agricultural soils tend to be found in southeastern Pennsylvania.
- In the valleys of Central Pennsylvania, limestone-derived soils predominate which are some of the most productive soils in the state and are used intensively for agriculture.

Crops & Livestock

- Pennsylvania ranks 1st in the nation in producing mushrooms, with annual production of 577 million pounds, or 65 percent, of all mushroom production in the United States.
- Corn, soybeans, winter wheat and oats are all important crops grown in Pennsylvania. Our farmers produce \$2.7 billion in total crop sales each year. Thanks to our climate, soil and location to markets, Pennsylvania is one of the leading states in selling produce directly to consumers.
- Pennsylvania ranks within the top five nationally in the growing of fruits like apples, peaches and grapes.
- The sale of livestock products accounts for 69% of Pennsylvania's farm income.
- Milk production is the leading segment of the agriculture industry, generating roughly \$14 billion in overall economic activity. Pennsylvania is the sixth largest milk producing state in the United States.
- Pennsylvania ranks 13th nationally in the total value of livestock, poultry, and their products valued at \$4.6 billion in 2012.

General

- Pennsylvania ranks 22nd nationally in agriculture products sold, at \$7.4 billion in 2012.