A Look at Rhode Island Agriculture

Capital: Providence
Population: 1,053,209
Founded: May 29, 1790 (13th)
State Bird: Rhode Island Red
State Tree: Red Maple
State Flower: Violet
Number of Counties: 5
Largest City: Providence - 175,600
Nickname: The Ocean State
Number of Farms: 1,220
Average Farm Size: 56 acres
Total Farmland: 67,819 acres

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Climate & Soil
• The climate of Rhode Island is very mild because of the warm winds from Narragansett Bay.
• The yearly precipitation in Rhode Island averages about 44”.
• The extreme temperatures averages for Rhode Island are 29° F and 71° F.
• The richest soil in Rhode Island is around the Narragansett Bay.
• Glocester stony loam is the state’s least fertile soil.

Crops & Livestock
• The top agricultural commodities in the state are greenhouse and nursery products, dairy products, sweet corn, aquaculture (seafood), and apples.
• Farmers grow potatoes mostly in the southeastern region of the state.
• Milk is the second most important source of agricultural income for the state of Rhode Island.
• The annual fish catch for the state is about $85 million.

General
• Farmland covers 10% of the state’s total area.
• Rhode Island is a small state. It ranks 49th out of 50 states in agricultural exports within the United States.
• The state’s top industries are health services, tourism, manufacturing, and agriculture.