



A Look at *Tennessee* Agriculture

Capital: Nashville

Population: 6,214,888

Founded: June 1, 1796 (16th)

State Bird: Mockingbird

State Tree: Tulip Poplar

State Flower: Iris

Number of Counties: 95

Largest City: Memphis - 670,100

Nickname: Volunteer State

Number of Farms: 79,000

Average Farm Size: 138 acres

Total Farmland: 10.9 million acres



www.agclassroom.org/tn

Climate & Soil

- The climate of Tennessee is good for crop growth.
- Tennessee typically receives 50" of rain each year.
- Winds from the Gulf of Mexico bring most of the rain and snow to Tennessee.
- Tennessee averages 40°F in winter and 78°F in summer. West Tennessee averages 5" of snow while northeastern Tennessee gets 16".
- Tennessee has 3 regional land types:
 - West: row crop land
 - Middle: fertile rolling land
 - East: hilly to mountainous
- The Tennessee state rock is Limestone.
- Tennessee is home to Milan No-till Field Day, the largest field day devoted to conservation tillage.

Crops & Livestock

- Nursery products, soybeans, and corn are the top Tennessee crops.
- Tobacco plants grow five to seven feet tall.
- Cotton is harvested using a picker or stripper.
- Tennessee has more species of trees than any other state.
- Tennessee ranks #2 in the U.S. for hardwood and #3 for tobacco production.
- Tennessee's top agricultural commodities are cattle and calves, broilers (meat chickens), soybeans, corn, and greenhouse/nursery products.
- There are 2,040,000 cattle, 131,400 goats, 2,808,000 chickens and 210,000 horses in Tennessee.
- Tennessee dairy cattle produce over 909 million pounds of milk each year.
- Tennessee farmers produce 323 million eggs per year.

General

- Tennessee has 42,244 square miles of land. (27 million acres)
- In Tennessee, 80 percent of the land is used for agricultural purposes including forestry.