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

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.

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Revised 7/2010