

A Look at Iowa Agriculture



Iowa

Capital: Des Moines
Population: 2,966,334
Founded: December 28, 1846 (29th state)
State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch
State Tree: Oak
State Flower: Wild Rose
State Rock: Geode
Number of Counties: 99
Largest City: Des Moines **Population:** 194,331

Climate



- The climate of Iowa is good crop growth.
- Hot summers help plants grow and cold winters help soil replenish itself.
- Iowa temperature averages 18°F in January and 74°F in July. The annual average temperature is 48.5°F
- Iowa's average rainfall is 35".
- Iowa is the 10th windiest state in the nation, and has 354 wind turbines that generate enough energy for 66,204 average Iowa residential customers.

Crops



- Iowa ranks 1st in the U.S. in corn production and 2nd in soybeans.
- One bushel of corn makes 32 pounds of starch, 33 pounds of sweetener, or 2.5 gallons of ethanol.
- Corn is used to make crayons, mayonnaise, batteries, paper, peanut butter, licorice, catsup, marshmallows, pet food, dyes, plastics, chewing gum, soft drinks, toothpaste, cooking oil, margarine, and dozens of other products.
- Livestock in Iowa consumes 400 million bushels of Iowa Grown corn annually.
- Soybeans are used to make soap, paints, tofu, livestock feed, baby food, cosmetics, salad dressings, and much more.
- Soybeans are the world's leading source of protein and oil.
- Out of the 26 million acres of crop land in Iowa, more than 90% is farmed using some kind of conservation practices (contouring, crop rotation, grass waterways, crop residue management.)

Soil



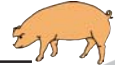
- The Iowa state soil is a series called "Tama."
- Iowa has at least 11,000 different soils.
- Iowa has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.
- All living things depend on soil as a source of food, so it is the responsibility of each generation to use soil wisely.

General



- Iowa has 55,875 square miles of land. In Iowa, 31.7 million acres of land is devoted to farming. Over 90% of Iowa's land is used for agriculture.
- Iowa ranked 3rd in 2004 in the nation in farm cash receipts at \$14.8 billion.
- There were 90,000 farms in Iowa in 2003. The average Iowa farm is 352 acres.
- Iowa ranks second in total agricultural exports. Iowa farmers exported \$3.2 billion worth of agricultural products in 2002. Iowa ranked 1st in soybean and 2nd in feed grain.
- The state average value per acre in 2004 was \$2,629.

Animals



- Iowa leads the nation in hog and egg production. Iowa chickens laid 11.61 billion eggs in 2004.
- Over 2.5 million pounds of cheese are made in Iowa per year.
- There are 16.2 million hogs (almost 27% of the nation's hogs), \$3.6 million cattle, 245,000 sheep and 54.8 million chickens in Iowa.
- Iowa's dairy industry produced an estimated 3.84 billion pounds of milk in 2004. The average milk produced per cow was 19,912 pounds.
- Iowa ranks second nationally in red meat production.
- The 230,000 sheep shorn in 2004 produced 1.37 million pounds of wool valued at \$466,000. Iowa ranks ninth in wool production.
- Iowa's cash receipts of \$2.4 billion from hog markets in 2002 was greater than the total of the next two largest states—North Carolina (\$1.41 billion) and Minnesota (\$1.07 billion).



Iowa Agriculture in the Classroom
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