

# A Look at Nebraska Agriculture



Capital: Lincoln

Population: 1,826,341

Founded: March 1, 1867 (37<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Tree: Eastern Cottonwood

State Flower: Goldenrod

Number of Counties: 93

Largest City: Omaha - 454,731

Nickname: Cornhusker State

Number of Farms: 47,200

Average Farm Size: 966 acres

Total Farmland: 45.6 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Hot summers and cold winters, variability in rainfall distribution, fluctuating length of growing season, and frequent winds typify Nebraska's climate.
- Average precipitation during the last decade ranged from slightly above 30 inches in the south-east to 16 inches in the northwest.
- About 75% of the precipitation falls as rain during April - September, the crop growing season.
- Average growing season ranges from 170 days in the southeast to 120 days in the extreme northwest.
- The Nebraska state soil is "Holdrege".
- The parent material of the vast majority of Nebraska's soils was formed from wind-blown silt and clay or loess while the parent material of the soil in the north-central or Sandhills region is wind-blown sand.
- Topography and subsequent soil drainage have greatly influenced development of soil properties in local areas.

## Crops & Livestock

- In 2010, nearly 9.2 million acres were planted to corn and produced nearly 1.5 billion bushels.
- In 2010, nearly 5.2 million acres were planted to soybeans and produced nearly 268 million bushels.
- In 2010, Nebraska ranked 3rd in corn production, 3rd in dry edible bean production, 4th in soybean production, 5th in all hay production, 6th in sorghum production, 7th in winter wheat production, and 7th in sunflower production.
- As of Jan. 1, 2011, there were 6,200,000 cattle and calves and 74,000 sheep and lambs in Nebraska. As of Dec. 1, 2010, there were 3,100,000 hogs and pigs and 11,592,000 chickens.
- Nebraska's dairy cows produced over 1.1 billion pounds of milk in 2010.
- Nebraska's laying hens produced 2,751,000,000 eggs in 2010.
- Nebraska's slaughter plants processed nearly 6.8 million cattle and nearly 7.7 million hogs in 2009.
- As of January 1, 2011, Nebraska ranks 3rd in the U.S. for all cattle and calves inventory.
- As of December 1, 2010, Nebraska ranks 6th in hog and pig inventory.

## General

- In Nebraska 45.6 million acres of land is used for farming, or 92.7 percent of the 49.2 million acres of land in the State.
- Nebraska has 76,872 square miles of land.
- Nebraska's current Director of Agriculture is Greg Ibach.