

# A Look at Michigan Agriculture



Capital: Lansing

Population: 9,883,640

Founded: January 26, 1837 (26<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: American Robin

State Tree: White pine

State Flower: Apple Blossom

Number of Counties: 83

Largest City: Detroit - 713,777

Nickname: Great Lakes State

Number of Farms: 56,000

Average Farm Size: 182 acres

Total Farmland: 10 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Michigan has many microclimates which support the growth of over 200 commodities on a commercial basis, making the state the second most agriculturally diverse state in the nation.
- Michigan has over 10 million acres of farmland with 33 percent of the total farmland in some form of preservation agreement.
- The Kalkaska Series of soils, which cover over 750,000 acres in both the upper and lower peninsulas and 29 of the 83 counties, was named the state soil on December 4, 1990.
- The soil series supports the growth of hardwood timber trees like sugar maple, yellow birch and Christmas trees.

## Crops & Livestock

- Michigan is the national leader in the production of tart cherries, having grown 135 million pounds, or 72% of the U.S. total in 2010.
- Michigan also ranks 1st nationally for the production of pickling cucumbers, geraniums, petunias and squash.
- Michigan ranks 3rd in the nation in apple production with over 590 million pounds produced in 2010. The estimated farm-level value was \$104.1 million.
- Michigan is 2nd nationally for beans, carrots, celery and plums and 3rd in asparagus production.
- Over 702,310 tons of fresh market and processing vegetables were grown in Michigan in 2010. The state ranks 8th in fresh and 5th in processed vegetable production nationally.
- Michigan ranks 3rd nationally in value of wholesale sales of floriculture products.
- In 2010, Michigan led the nation in the value of sales for 10 crops, including Impatiens (flats and hanging baskets), Begonia Hanging Baskets, Geraniums (flats, seeds and cuttings), Potted Easter Lilies, Potted Geraniums (seed) and Potted Petunias
- Approximately 361,000 cows produced 8,327 million pounds of milk in 2010. Michigan ranks eighth nationally for milk production.
- Michigan's hog production totaled 617 million pounds in 2010. Michigan ranks thirteenth in the nation in terms of inventory.
- There were nearly 1.1 million head of cattle in the state in 2010, 1.04 million head of hogs, 74,000 head of sheep and lambs, 10,800 goats and 12, 822,000 chickens.

## General

- Production agriculture, food processing and related businesses employ over one million Michigan residents.
- Agriculture is Michigan's second largest industry, generating \$71.3 billion for the state economy.
- In 2010, Michigan ranked eighteenth nationally for agriculture exports in the nation with a total value of \$1.75 billion.