

Nebraska Agriculture Fact Card

A cooperative effort of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture USDA, NASS, Nebraska Field Office and Nebraska Bankers Association

February 2017

Nebraska's Top National Rankings

- 1st** Beef and veal exports, 2016 – \$1,126,575,000
Commercial red meat production, 2016 – 8,009,800,000 lbs. (3,633,184,165 kg)
Commercial cattle slaughter, 2016 – 7,239,500 head
Great Northern beans production, 2016 – 746,000 cwt. (37,898,550 kg)
All cattle on feed, Jan. 1, 2017 – 2,470,000 head
Popcorn production, 2012 – 353,711,118 lbs. (160,440,664 kg)
- 2nd** All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2017 – 6,450,000 head
Pinto beans production, 2016 – 1,687,000 cwt. (85,703,556 kg)
Proso millet production, 2016 – 3,080,000 bushels
Bison, number of head, Dec. 31, 2012 – 23,152
- 3rd** Corn for grain production, 2016 – 1,699,900,000 bushels (43,179,418,285 kg)
Corn exports, 2015 – \$987,200,000
Cash receipts from all livestock and products, 2015 – \$13,951,023,000
Light red kidney beans production, 2016 – 50,000 cwt (2,540,117 kg)
- 4th** Cash receipts from all farm commodities, 2015 – \$23,007,018,000
Cash receipts from all crops, 2015 – \$9,055,996,000
Agricultural exports, 2015 – \$6,385,100,000
All dry edible beans production, 2016 – 2,766,000 cwt. (140,519,288 kg)
Beef Cows, number of head, Jan. 1, 2017 – 1,920,000
Land in farms and ranches, 2015 – 45,200,000 acres (18,291,791 ha)
- 5th** Soybean exports, 2015 - \$1,395,900,000
Soybean production, 2016 – 314,150,000 bushels (8,549,755,608 kg)
Grain sorghum production, 2016 – 17,850,000 bushels (453,410,563 kg)
- 6th** Harvested acres of principal crops, 2016 – 19,223,000 acres (7,779,272 ha)
Commercial hog slaughter, 2016 – 7,985,400 head
All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2016 – 3,400,000 head
All Hay production, 2016 - 5,748,000 tons (5,214,497,886 kg)
Sugarbeet production, 2016 – 1,411,000 tons (1,280,037,668 kg)
- 7th** Sunflower production, 2016 – 58,150,000 lbs (26,376,396 kg)
Winter wheat production, 2016 – 70,740,000 bushels (1,925,225,885 kg)
Alfalfa hay production, 2016 – 3,113,000 tons (2,824,066,096 kg)

Nebraska Ag Facts

- Cash receipts from farm marketings contributed over \$23 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2015 and 6.1 percent of the U.S. total.
- Nebraska's ten leading commodities (in order of value) for 2015 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, chicken eggs, dairy products, wheat, hay, dry beans and potatoes.
- Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.22 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$6.4 billion in agricultural exports in 2015 translate into \$7.8 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2015 were soybeans, feeds and fodders, beef and veal, corn and soybean meal.
- Nebraska had 48,700 farms and ranches during 2015; the average operation consisted of 928 acres (376 ha).
- In 2015, Nebraska ranked second in ethanol production capacity, with 25 operating plants having production capacity of more than 2 billion gallons (378,541,178 daL). Approximately 31% of the state's 2015 corn crop was utilized in ethanol production.
- Livestock or poultry operations were found on 49% of Nebraska farms.
- The top five counties ranked by agricultural sales in 2012 were Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Lincoln and Phelps.
- In 2015, Nebraska was 12th nationally in certified organic cropland acres (85,172) (34,468 ha.) and in 2011 eighth in certified organic pasture acres (53,174) (21,519 ha).
- 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska is related to agriculture.
- The average age of a Nebraska principal operator was 55.7 in 2012.
- During the 5-year period between 2007 and 2012, Nebraska experienced a 5% increase in the number of farms and a 10% increase in the number of new farmers.
- From east to west, Nebraska experiences a 4,584 foot elevation difference and the average annual precipitation decreases by one inch every 25 miles, allowing Nebraska to have a diverse agricultural industry from one side of the state to the other.

Nebraska's Natural Resources

- Nebraska's farms and ranches utilize 45.2 million acres – 91% of the state's total land area.
- Nebraska is fortunate to have aquifers below it. If poured over the surface of the state, the water in those aquifers would have a depth of 37.9 feet (11.6 meters). The state has 96,131 registered, active irrigation wells supplying water to over 8.3 million acres of harvested cropland and pasture. Of the total cropland harvested during 2012, 44% was irrigated.
- Nearly 24,000 miles of rivers and streams add to Nebraska's bountiful natural resources.
- There are nearly 23 million acres (9,307,770 ha) of rangeland and pastureland in Nebraska – half of which are in the Sandhills.