

Nebraska Agriculture Fact Card

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

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Nebraska's Top National Rankings

- 1st Beef and veal exports, 2017 – \$1,264,739,056
Commercial red meat production, 2017 – 8,113,200,000 lbs. (3,680,085,616 kg)
Commercial cattle slaughter, 2017 – 7,463,800 head
Great Northern beans production, 2017 – 1,200,000 cwt. (60,962,815 kg)
All cattle on feed, Jan. 1, 2018 – 2,770,000 head
Popcorn production, 2012 – 353,711,118 lbs. (160,440,664 kg)
- 2nd All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2018 – 6,800,000 head
Cash receipts from all livestock and products, 2016 – \$12,147,375,000
All hay production, 2017 – 6,159,000 tons (5,587,350,814 kg)
Pinto beans production, 2017 – 2,115,000 cwt. (107,446,961 kg)
Proso millet production, 2017 – 2,349,000 bushels (63,929,308 kg)
Light red kidney beans production, 2017 – 176,000 cwt (8,941,213 kg)
Bison, number of head, Dec. 31, 2012 – 23,152 head
- 3rd Corn for grain production, 2017 – 1,683,300,000 bushels
(42,757,794,040 kg)
Corn exports, 2016 – \$1,162,600,000
Cash receipts from all farm commodities, 2016 – \$21,558,070,000
All dry edible beans production, 2017 – 3,901,000 cwt. (198,179,950 kg)
- 4th Beef Cows, number of head, Jan. 1, 2018 – 1,910,000 head
Soybean production, 2017 – 326,025,000 bushels (8,872,947,146 kg)
Alfalfa hay production, 2017 – 3,279,000 tons (2,974,658,762 kg)
Land in farms and ranches, 2017 – 45,200,000 acres (18,291,791 ha)
- 5th Soybean exports, 2016 – \$1,661,800,000
Agricultural exports, 2016 – \$6,583,500,000
Cash receipts from all crops, 2016 – \$9,410,695,000
Grain sorghum production, 2017 – 12,015,000 bushels (305,195,090 kg)
Sugarbeet production, 2017 – 1,437,000 tons (1,303,624,471 kg)
Pork exports, 2017 – \$479,016,596
Egg exports, 2017 – \$27,981,246
- 6th Harvested acres of principal crops, 2017 – 19,372,000 acres (7,839,570 ha)
Commercial hog slaughter, 2017 – 8,005,800 head
All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2017 – 3,600,000 head
- 7th Sunflower production, 2017 – 69,090,000 lbs (31,338,697 kg)
- 8th Winter wheat production, 2017 – 46,920,000 bushels (1,276,953,240 kg)

Nebraska Ag Facts

- Cash receipts from farm marketings contributed over \$21.5 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2016 and 6.0% of the U.S. total.
- Nebraska's ten leading commodities (in order of value) for 2016 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, dairy products, wheat, hay, chicken eggs, dry beans, and sorghum.
- Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.28 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing, and production. Nebraska's \$6.58 billion in agricultural exports in 2016 translate into \$8 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2016 were soybeans, corn, beef and veal, feeds and fodders, and processed grain products.
- Nebraska had 47,400 farms and ranches during 2017; the average operation consisted of 954 acres (386 ha).
- In 2017, Nebraska ranked second in ethanol production capacity, with 25 operating plants having production capacity of more than 2.1 billion gallons (2,177,175,000 gallons). Approximately 36% of the state's 2017 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 from the 2012 Census were Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Lincoln, and Phelps.
- In 2015, Nebraska was 12th nationally in certified organic cropland acres (85,172) (21,267 ha.) and in 2011 eighth in certified organic pasture acres (53,174) (21,518 ha).
- 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska are 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 96,547 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 (9,307,806 ha) of rangeland and pastureland in Nebraska – half of which are in the Sandhills.

Sources: USDA NASS, Lincoln, NE, USDA ERS,
Nebraska Department of Agriculture - phone 402-471-2341