

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, 2014 – \$1,128,700,000
Cash receipts from meat animals, 2014 – \$13,885,411
Commercial red meat production, 2015 – 7,470,600,000 lbs. (3,388,607,159 kg)
Commercial cattle slaughter, 2015 – 6,575,100 head
All cattle on feed, Jan. 1, 2016 – 2,520,000 head
Great Northern bean production, 2015 – 763,000 cwt.
(38,762,189 kg)
Popcorn production, 2012 – 353,711,118 lbs. (160,440,651 kg)
Irrigated acres of cropland, 2012 – 8,225,973 acres (3,328,933 ha)
- 2nd All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2016 – 6,450,000 head
Pinto bean production, 2015 – 1,878,000 cwt. (95,406,804 kg)
Proso millet production, 2015 – 3,298,000 bushels (116,218 m3)
Light red kidney bean production, 2015 – 298,000 cwt.
(15,139,098 kg)
Bison, Dec. 31, 2012 – 23,152 head
- 3rd Corn for grain production, 2015 – 1,692,750,000 bushels
(59,650,936 m3)
Cash receipts from all farm commodities, 2014 – \$24,942,122,000
Corn exports, 2014 – \$1,212,400,000
- 4th Cash receipts from all livestock and products, 2014, – \$14,531,158,000
Cash receipts from all crops, 2014 – \$10,410,964,000
All dry edible bean production, 2015 – 3,117,000 cwt.
(158,350,910 kg)
Beef Cows, Jan. 1, 2015 – 1,786,000 head
Land in farms and ranches, 2014 – 45,200,000 acres (18,291,791 ha)
Alfalfa hay production, 2015 – 3,400,000 tons (3,084,428,116 kg)
Grain sorghum production, 2015 – 23,040,000 bushels (811,908 m3)
Soybean production, 2015 – 305,660,000 bushels (10,771,174 m3)
- 5th Agricultural exports, 2014 – \$7,262,200,000
Soybean exports, 2014 – \$1,728,600,000
All Hay, production, 2015 – 6,360,000 tons (5,769,694,946 kg)
- 6th Harvested acres of principal crops, 2015 – 19,175,000 acres (7,759,847 ha)
All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2015 – 3,300,000 head
Sugar beet production, 2015 – 1,329,000 tons (1,205,648,519 kg)
- 7th Sunflower production, 2015 – 79,410,000 lbs. (36,019,770 kg)
Commercial hog slaughter, 2015 – 7,934,000 head
- 8th Oat production, 2015 – 2,680,000 bushels (94,440 m3)
Winter wheat production, 2015 – 45,980,000 bushels (1,620,292 m3)

Nebraska Ag Facts

- ❑ Cash receipts from farm marketings contributed almost \$25 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2014 and 5.9 percent of the U.S. total.
- ❑ Nebraska's ten leading commodities (in order of value) for 2014 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybean, hogs, wheat, dairy products, chicken eggs, hay, dry bean and potatoes.
- ❑ Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.27 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$7.2 billion in agricultural exports in 2014 translates into \$9.2 billion in additional economic activity.
- ❑ Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2014 were soybean and soybean meal, corn, beef and veal, feeds and fodder, and hides and skins.
- ❑ Nebraska had 49,100 farms and ranches during 2014; the average operation consisted of 921 acres (373 ha).
- ❑ In 2014, Nebraska had 25 operating ethanol plants with a total production capacity of 2.125 billion gallons. Nebraska ranked 2nd among states in ethanol production and utilized 43% of the state's 2014 corn crop.
- ❑ Livestock or poultry operations were found on 49% of Nebraska farms.
- ❑ The top five counties ranked by agricultural sales in the 2012 Census were Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Lincoln and Phelps.
- ❑ In 2011, Nebraska was eighth nationally in certified organic cropland acres (129,858) (52,551 ha.) and eighth in certified organic pasture acres (53,174) (21,518 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 45.3 million acres – 92% 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. Of the total cropland harvested during 2012, 44 percent 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.

(Source: USDA NASS, Lincoln, NE; Phone 402-437-5541.)