



# A Look at *Kansas* Agriculture

Capital: Topeka

Population: 2,818,747

Founded: January 29, 1861 (34<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Meadowlark

State Tree: Cottonwood

State Flower: Sunflower

Number of Counties: 105

Largest City: Wichita - 389,938

Nickname: The Sunflower State

Number of Farms: 58,569

Average Farm Size: 781 acres

Total Farmland: 45,759,319 acres



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## Climate & Soil

- The state has a typical midwestern climate with temperature extremes in the summer and winter, while the average January temperature is 28.9 degrees, and the average July temperature is 78.7
- Average yearly precipitation is 27.23 inches, with an average in Western Kansas 20 inches and Eastern Kansas 36 inches.
- The average topsoil depth is 7-16 inches of predominantly harney silt loam, which is very suitable for growing crops and providing grasslands for livestock.

## Crops & Livestock

- The top five agricultural products grown or raised in Kansas (in order of value) include: cattle and calves, wheat, corn, sorghum, and soybeans.
- Kansas is a recognized leader in agriculture production:
  - 1st in grain sorghum (64% of the nation's crop) and 2nd in sorghum for silage.
  - 2nd in winter wheat production, growing 24% of the nation's crop.
  - 3rd in cattle production and beef processing.
  - 4th in sunflower production.
  - 16th-ranked dairy state for milk production and is home to 173,000 dairy cows on over 210 dairy farms.

## General

- In 2017, 58,569 farms generated more than \$18.7 billion in agricultural output.
- Family-owned farms and ranches are the backbone of Kansas agriculture:
- 84.6% family, 6.2% partnership, 5.3% corporation and 3.8% other-cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.
- The face of agriculture is changing as the average age of the Kansas farmer is 58.1.
- Agriculture is the largest economic driver in Kansas, with a total contribution of \$76 billion to the Kansas economy.
- The agriculture sector in Kansas supports more than 256,000 jobs through direct, indirect and induced effect careers or about 14% percent of the entire workforce.
- There are 45,759,319 acres of farmland, accounting for 87.5% of all Kansas land.
- Kansas agriculture is not just growing crops and raising animals. The Kansas agricultural sector includes renewable energy production, food processing, research and education, agribusiness and more.
- Kansas is part of the animal health corridor. Between Columbia, Missouri and Manhattan, Kansas is the single largest concentration of animal health interests globally.
- Kansas farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses are feeding the world. Kansas exported over \$5.3 billion in agricultural products in 2021 to 187 foreign markets. The leading exports include meat and edible offal, cereals, oil seed, residues and wastes, and beverages, vinegar.

<https://ksagclassroom.org/about/facts/>