



# A Look at *Michigan* Agriculture

Capital: Lansing

Population: 9,909,877

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 - 688,701

Nickname: Great Lakes State

Number of Farms: 47,641

Average Farm Size: 25 acres

Total Farmland: 9.6 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Michigan has many microclimates which support the growth of over 300 commodities on a commercial basis, making the state the second most agriculturally diverse state in the nation.
- Michigan has nearly 10 million acres of farmland with 2.3 million acres of those acres enrolled in some form of conservation program through the Natural Resource Conservation Service.
- The Kalkaska Series of soil, which cover over 750,000 acres in both the upper and lower peninsulas and 29 of 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 more than 201 million pounds, or 70% of the U.S. total in 2018.
- Michigan also ranks 1st nationally for the production of pickling cucumbers, black and cranberry beans, asparagus, chestnuts, Niagara grapes, impatiens, begonias, Easter lilies, geraniums, hostas and petunias.
- Michigan is 2nd nationally for celery, snap beans, and squash.
- Michigan ranks 3rd in the nation in apple production with about 1 billion pounds in 2018. We also rank 3rd in growth of Christmas trees harvested, supplying approximately 1.6 million trees in 2018.
- Michigan ranks 4th in the nation in raising carrots for fresh consumption raising approximately 152 million pounds annually.
- Approximately 424,000 dairy cows make more than 1.3 billion gallons of milk each year. Michigan ranks 6th nationally in milk production in 2019.
- Egg production in 2018 totaled 4.5 billion eggs from 15.4 million laying hens.
- There were more than 1.2 million beef cattle in the state in 2017 and 1.2 million hogs, 89,300 sheep and 29,200 dairy goats.

## General

- Production agriculture, food processing and related businesses employ 805,000 Michiganders nearly 17% of the state's workforce.
- Agriculture is Michigan's second largest industry, generating \$104.7 billion annually to the state's economy.
- 96% of Michigan farms are family owned. The remaining 4% are operated by universities, research facilities, or are tribal lands.
- Michigan exports nearly \$2 billion in food and agricultural products annually which have an additional \$5.6 billion impact locally.