MINNESOTA COMMODITY CARD SET

This informative and colorful agriculture commodity card set comes to you courtesy of the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom education program (**www.mda.state.mn.us/maitc**). MAITC is based at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

The set includes 18 crop and livestock cards which represent Minnesota agriculture's strength and diversity, plus a handy vocabulary card. Feel free to also download a master set from our program website listed above.

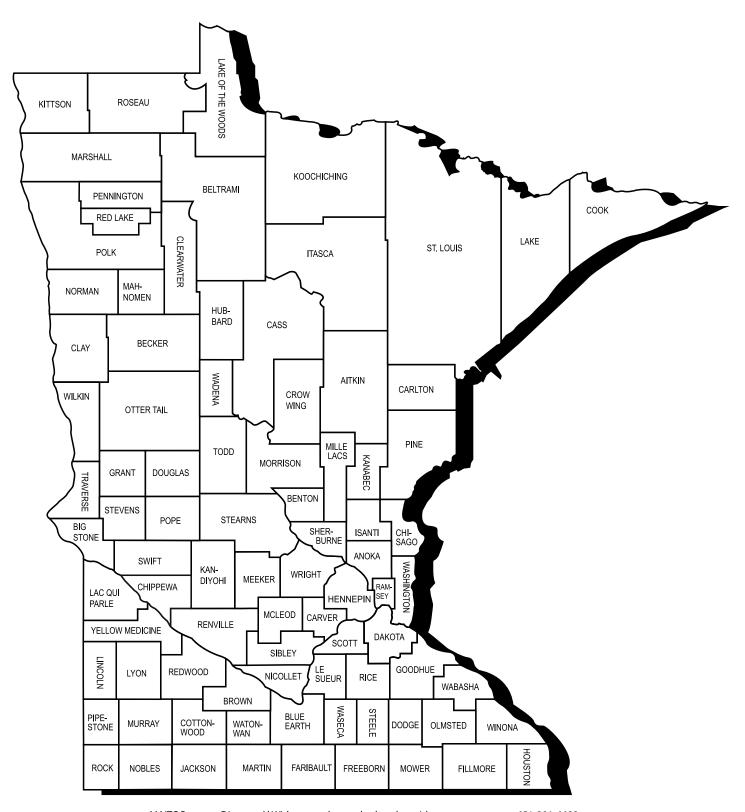
This commodity card set is designed to provide you with a handy reference to Minnesota agriculture. They're great for: student projects in science or social studies; supporting the growing emphasis on non-fiction, factual reading in language arts; a stand-alone technical reference for educators and; a companion to the popular Minnesota AgMag Series, Food for Thought geography curriculum or other agricultural literacy materials.

What makes Minnesota such a terrific state for agriculture? It starts with a great variety of soil types and terrain that are good for farming. Add the right weather pattern. That means the right amount of rainfall at the right time in the right place during our growing season. All of this makes Minnesota a leader in a wide variety of crops and livestock, and a leading state in overall agricultural production!

The map below further details Minnesota's significant growing regions. When using the commodity cards, consider why and where these crops and livestock are grown or raised. Use the blank Minnesota map on the back of this card to plot the Top 10 counties producing various commodities. What patterns do you see? What geographic features are present for each commodity? Why are some crops and livestock located in the same growing region?

Rough, rocky areas and less fertile forest soils. Few field RED crops, but many pine and Flat land with fertile prairie hardwood forests. **RIVER** soils. Enough moisture to be a VALLEY big producer of cash grains: **FOREST CASH** wheat, oats, soybeans, barley, **AREA** sunflowers, sugarbeets, dry **GRAIN** beans and potatoes. **AREA DAIRY AREA** Hilly region dotted with hay and Fertile soils, more moisture. pasturelands. Leading area for dairy, Location farther south gives CROP/ cattle and turkeys. Other livestock and longer growing season. Big crops, too. Many farmers' markets to producer of crops and livestock. **LIVESTOCK** Corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs serve a large urban population. **AREA** are examples.

MINNESOTA



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