



# A Look at *Alabama* Agriculture

Capital: Montgomery

Population: 5.158 million

Founded: December 14, 1819 (22nd)

State Bird: Yellowhammer

State Tree: Southern Pine

State Flower: Camellia

State Insect: Queen Honeybee

State Vegetable: Sweet Potato

State Legume: Peanut

Number of Counties: 67

Largest City: Huntsville- 220,000

Number of Farms: 44,000

Average Farm Size: 231 acres

Total Farmland: 8.6 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Alabama has a mild climate.
- January Temperatures average about 80 degrees throughout the state.
- The central and western counties in Alabama are known as the “Black Belt” because of the dark surface colors of many of the soils. Most soils of the Black Belt region are used for timber production and pasture.
- Soil is one of Alabama’s most important natural resources. It is vital to agriculture and forestry as well as to urban development, water quality and wildlife habitat.

## Crops & Livestock

- Cotton is the State’s largest row crop and is grown in 59 of Alabama’s 67 counties.
- Half of the Peanuts produced in the U.S. are grown within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, AL.
- Peaches are the State’s leading commercial fruit.
- Alabama’s green industry includes nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod production.
- Alabama ranks fourth nationally in sod production, with approximately 20,000 acres.
- Alabama ranks second in timber land among the lower 48 states.
- There are about 1.3 million cattle and calves on Alabama Farms.
- Alabama has over 2,400 poultry producers raising chicken or eggs in 49 of the state’s 67 counties.
- Poultry companies process over 23 million broilers weekly in Alabama. A broiler is a chicken raised for meat production.
- Pork ranks third in annual U.S. meat consumption, behind chicken and beef averaging more than 50 pounds per person.
- Alabama Catfish production ranks second in the country
- Catfish ponds cover over 14,000 water surface acres in Alabama.

## General

- Farmland covers about 25% of the state.
- Two-thirds of Alabama, or 23 million acres are covered in forestland.
- Alabama’s top commodities: Poultry, Cattle, Wheat and Feed Grains, Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture and Sod, Forestry and Cotton.