



A Look at *Alaska* Agriculture

Capital: Juneau

Population: 731,007

Founded: January 3, 1959 (49th)

State Bird: Willow ptarmigan

State Tree: Sitka spruce

State Flower: Forget-me-not

Counties: 16 Boroughs and

11 Geographical Census Areas

Largest City: Anchorage - 396,150

Nickname: The Last Frontier

Number of Farms: 990

Average Farm Size: 858 acres

Total Farmland: 849,753 acres



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Climate & Soil

- Alaska's temperatures vary widely.
- The coastal areas range in temperature from 60.6°F to 28.9°F, while the inland areas average is more extreme from 72°F to -1.5°F. Average January temperatures range from -8°F in Barrow to 37°F in Valdez; average July temperatures range from 44°F in Barrow to 72°F in Fairbanks.
- Alaska has 318 different soil types.
- Permafrost is more than 2,000 feet deep on Alaska's North Slope.
- The state soil is Tanana, found in the Fairbanks area.
- An estimated 15 million acres of soil in Alaska is suitable for farming.

Crops & Livestock

- Summer days of nearly constant daylight allow some crops to be nurtured to enormous size.
- Jumbo crops include a world-record 19lb carrot, a 83lb rutabaga, and a 138lb cabbage!
- Barley was planted on 4,847 acres in 2017, with production for grain at about 225,217 bushels.
- Hay is planted on the most Alaska acreage: 24,238 acres.
- Greenhouse and nursery crops are the fastest-growing segment of Alaska's agricultural industry.
- Alaska exports more than one million metric tons of seafood each year, bringing over \$3 billion of new money into the U.S. economy.
- Alaskans rely on the sale of cattle, pigs, sheep, reindeer, milk, wool, antlers and velvet, bison, yak and elk.
- Alaska is the largest state (365 million acres), but fewer than 1 million acres are farmed.

General

- Alaska's oil production is 14% of the total U.S. production.
- Alaska is one-fifth the size of the contiguous U.S.; 488 times larger than the state of Rhode Island.
- 61% of Alaska is owned by the U.S. Government.
- The Tongass National Forest, at 16.9 million acres, is the largest national forest.
- The state fish of Alaska is the King Salmon. The state animal of Alaska is the moose.
- Alaska is divided into boroughs, instead of counties or parishes. There are 16 organized boroughs and 246 recognized tribal governments.
- Total cash receipts from farm marketing in 2017: nearly \$70.5 million.
- Other world record vegetables:

39 pound turnip	97 pound kohlrabi
106 pound kale	63 pound celery
65 pound cantaloupe	
- Alaska boasts the northernmost (Point Barrow), the easternmost (Pochnoi Point on Semisopchnoi Island in the Aleutians), and the westernmost (Amatignak Island in the Aleutians) points in the United States.
- Alaska has an estimated 100,000 glaciers.
- Of the 20 highest peaks in the United States, 17 are in Alaska. Denali, the highest peak in North America, is 20,310 ft. above sea level. The peak's name was officially changed in 2015 from the former Mount McKinley.