



A Look at *Alaska* Agriculture

Capital: Juneau

Population: 741,147

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 - 398,807

Nickname: The Last Frontier

Number of Farms: 1,173

Average Farm Size: 742 acres

Total Farmland: 869,852 acres



www.agclassroom.org/ak

Climate & Soil

- Alaska's temperatures vary widely. The coastal areas range in temperature from 60.6oF to 28.9oF, while the inland areas average is more extreme from 72oF to -1.5oF. Average January temperatures range from -8oF in Barrow to 37oF in Valdez; average July temperatures range from 44oF in Barrow to 72oF 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!
- Other world record vegetables: 39 pound turnip, 106 pound kale, 65 pound cantaloupe, 97 pound kohlrabi, 63 pound celery, 42 pound beet
- Top agricultural products include floriculture, hay, cattle and calves, other animals and animal products, and barley.
- Barley was planted on 8000 acres in 2024. Hay is planted on the most Alaska acreage: 23,000 acres.
- Greenhouse and nursery crops are the fastest-growing segment of Alaska's agricultural industry.
- Mariculture, the production of ocean grown seaweed and kelp and oysters, is a growing business in Alaska. Commercial aquaculture, or farmed fish production, is not allowed in Alaska. The state Department of Fish and Game manages the sport fish hatcheries.
- Alaskans have unique farm products including reindeer, antlers and velvet, bison, yak and elk.
- Alaska has 1,173 farms with 870,000 acres being farmed.
- Total cash receipts from Agriculture Products in 2023: nearly \$91 million.

General

- Alaska is the largest US state (365 million acres), it is one-fifth the size of the contiguous U.S.; 488 times larger than the state of Rhode Island.
- Alaska's crude oil production is 3.7% of the total U.S. production
- 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.
- Alaska exports more than one million metric tons of seafood each year, bringing over \$3 billion of new money into the U.S. economy.
- Alaska boasts the northernmost (Point Barrow), the easternmost (Pochnoi Point on Semisopochnoi 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.