



A Look at *Idaho* Agriculture

Capital: Boise

Population: 1,990,456

Founded: July 3, 1890 (43rd)

State Bird: Mountain Bluebird

State Tree: Western White Pine

State Flower: Syringa

Number of Counties: 44

Largest City: Boise - 235,684

Nickname: Gem State

Number of Farms: 25,500

Average Farm Size: 467 acres

Total Farmland: 11.5 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Southern Idaho typically receives 12" of rain each year and Northern Idaho typically receives 25".
- The climate is influenced by Pacific weather patterns, which help moderate temperature extremes.
- The Northern part of Idaho averages 22°F in January and 85°F in July. The Southern part of Idaho averages 21°F in January and 90°F in July.
- There are 50 Soil Conservation Districts in Idaho.

Crops & Livestock

- Idaho is ranked in the top ten in the nation for 26 different crops and livestock.
- Idaho ranks first nationally for potato production with nearly 1/3 of the US total. Idaho grows 14 billion pounds per year of America's favorite vegetable.
- Idaho also ranks 1st in production of barley, peppermint, and Alfalfa hay.
- Idaho supplies 70% of the commercial trout production in the U.S. making it the No. 1 trout-producing state in the country.
- Idaho is the 2nd largest grower of sugarbeets and hops in the U.S.
- Idaho ranks 3rd in the nation for milk and cheese production.
- Idaho is known for its seed industry producing 70% of the hybrid temperate sweet corn seed produced in the world; and is also a leading supplier for alfalfa seed, Kentucky Bluegrass seed; and carrot, onion, turnip, and lettuce seeds.
- First grapes grown in Idaho date back to 1864 and Idaho now has over 1,600 acres that produce both wine and table grapes with more than 50 wineries.

General

- Idaho produces more than 185 commodities from over 24,000 farms and ranches.
- Idaho has two time zones – Northern Idaho (dry land farming) is in the Pacific time Zone. Southern and Eastern Idaho are in the Mountain Time Zone.
- Idaho has a very extensive system of dams, reservoirs, canals and drainage ditches allowing water to be used many times in many different ways. There are 3.2 million acres of irrigated land with the state.
- Idaho covers an area of 82,751 square miles or 52.8 million acres.
- The McDonald French Fry was developed by Idaho Agriculture Leader J. R. Simplot who developed the dehydrated shoestring potato that could be quickly frozen.