



# A Look at *Iowa* Agriculture

Capital: Des Moines

Population: 3,190,369

Founded: December 28, 1846 (29th)

State Bird: Eastern Goldfinch

State Tree: Oak

State Flower: Wild Rose

Number of Counties: 99

Largest City: Des Moines - 215,636

Nickname: The Hawkeye State

Number of Farms: 85,300

Average Farm Size: 359 acres

Total Farmland: 30.6 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Iowa temperature averages 23°F in January and 75°F in July.
- Iowa's average precipitation is 34", with January being the driest month and June is the wettest. Snowfall accumulation averages 30".
- Iowa is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> for generating wind energy. Iowa ranks first in percentage of electricity powered by wind at 36%.
- The Iowa state soil is a series called "Tama." Most of Iowa's soil parent material is Loess or Glacial Till.
- Iowa has at least 11,000 different soils.
- Iowa has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.

## Crops & Livestock

- Iowa ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in the US in corn production and 2<sup>nd</sup> in soybean production. Iowa ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in total grain storage capacity, holding 3.6 billion bushels!
- The average corn yield is 182 bushels per acre. Iowa farmers harvested 13.5 million acres of corn (2.3 billion bushels) in 2020.
- The average soybean yield is 53 bushels per acre. Iowa harvested 9.3 million acres (493 million bushels) in 2020.
- In 2020, Iowa produced 5.7 million bushels of oats and ranks 5<sup>th</sup> nationally.
- 45% of Iowa's corn crop is used to produce ethanol.
- Iowa leads the nation in hog, egg, and commercial red meat production. In 2019, Iowa's commercial red meat industry produced 8.96 billion pounds. Iowa also ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in milk goats (29,000 head).
- There are 24.8 million hogs in Iowa (more than 30% of the nation's hogs) in Iowa. That's over 7 hogs per person in the state!
- Iowa has 47 million egg laying hens that produced 12.4 billion eggs in 2020. That means chickens outnumber people 18:1! Iowa produces enough eggs to feed every American one egg per day for 52 days.
- Iowa recorded 3.9 million cattle in January 2020 and is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in cattle and calves inventory.
- As of January 2021, Iowa has 220,000 head of dairy cows. The dairy industry produced 5.62 billion pounds of milk in 2019. Each month, the average cow produced 2012 pounds of milk.
- Iowa produced over 355 million pounds of cheese in 2020, and ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in cheese production.
- There are 151,000 head of sheep in Iowa as of January 2020. 108,000 head of those are raised specifically for breeding programs.
- 135,000 sheep were shorn in 2020, producing 795,000 pounds of fleece.
- In 2020, 11.7 million turkeys were produced in Iowa, which ranks 7<sup>th</sup> nationally in turkey production.

## General

- Iowa has 56,272 square miles of land. Around 85% of Iowa's land is used for agriculture.
- Iowa has the capacity to produce 4.1 billion gallons of ethanol with 42 corn ethanol plants and 2 cellulosic plants. In 2020, Iowa produced 3.7 billion gallons, which puts Iowa first in the nation in ethanol production.
- Iowa ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in number of farms.
- Iowa ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in cash receipts- in 2019 it amounted to \$27.3 billion.
- Iowa ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in total agricultural exports. Iowa farmers exported \$12.6 billion worth of agricultural products in 2020.