

A Look at *Minnesota* Agriculture

Capital: St. Paul

Population: 5.64 million

Founded: May 11, 1858 (32nd)

State Bird: Common Loon

State Tree: Norway Pine

State Flower: Pink and White Lady Slipper

Number of Counties: 87

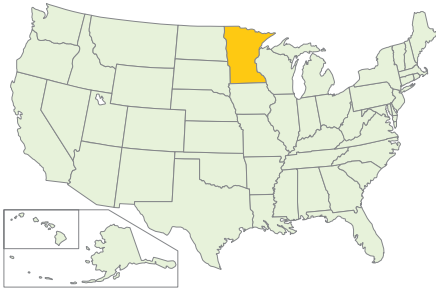
Largest City: Minneapolis - 425,403

Nickname: Land of 10,000 Lakes

Number of Farms: 74,542

Average Farm Size: 372 acres

Total Farmland: 26 million acres



www.agclassroom.org/mn

Climate & Soil

- In Minnesota, the average temperature ranges from 0°F – 74°F, with extremes reaching -20°F and the lower 100s°F.
- Minnesota's growing season varies depending on where you are in the state: 100 days in the north to 150 days in the south.
- The average annual precipitation in Minnesota ranges from about 30" in the southeast to less than 20" in the northwest.
- In Minnesota, the number of annual frost free days range from 96 in the north to 163 in the south.
- Minnesota is home to three of North America's ecological region's; Laurentian Mixed Forest, Eastern Broadleaf Forest and Prairie Parkland.
- The Minnesota state soil is "Lester".
- The Lester soil is well suited for growing annual crops, forages, and forest production. Most areas of Lester soils are in cropland, but some areas are grazed by livestock or used as forestlands.

Crops & Livestock

- Corn and soybeans are the state's top producing crops. Nationally, Minnesota ranks fourth in soybean and corn production.
- Minnesota has 20 ethanol plants and three biodiesel plants. Total projected ethanol production for 2017 is 1.1 billion gallons. The state currently has a 10% mandate for ethanol blend and 10% for biodiesel. By 2018, state law mandates the blending of 20 percent biodiesel into the fuel supply.
- Minnesota also has the most E85 stations in the nation.
- Minnesota leads the nation in producing sugarbeets, turkeys, sweet corn and green peas. The state is number two in wild rice and hogs, number three in oats and number four in field corn.
- Minnesota is unique in the production of wild rice, with both cultivated paddy wild rice and traditional Native American hand harvested wild rice.
- Minnesota leads the nation in turkey production. The state is also a major producer of hogs, dairy and beef cattle.
- Hogs are Minnesota's top-producing livestock commodity.
- There are 9 million pigs on 3,000 Minnesota hog farms.

General

- Minnesota has 74,542 farms totaling 26 million acres and about half (51%) of the total land area.
- Minnesota has 86,943 square miles of land.
- The Agriculture and Food Industry is the 2nd largest employer in Minnesota.
- Two-thirds of all agricultural jobs are off-farm, in processing, distribution, supply and service sectors.
- Minnesota is the 4th largest agricultural exporting state in the U.S. with China, Canada, Mexico and Japan being the state's largest export consumers.
- Mississippi River: Starts in Minnesota. 680 miles of its 2,552 total miles flow through Minnesota. The Mississippi transports 66% of all grain exported from the United States.