



# A Look at *Nebraska* Agriculture

Capital: Lincoln

Population: 2.005 million (2024)

Founded: March 1, 1867 (37<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Tree: Eastern Cottonwood

State Flower: Goldenrod

Number of Counties: 93

Largest City: Omaha - 483,335 (2023)

Nickname: Cornhusker State

Number of Farms: 44,300

Average Farm Size: 933 acres

Total Farmland: 44 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Nebraska has a typical Midwestern climate, which means big extremes between the four seasons – hot summers, cold winters, and moderate precipitation.
- The Nebraska State Soil is Holdrege. This soil is ideal for crops, pasture, or rangeland.
- From east to west, Nebraska experiences a 4,584-foot elevation difference.
- Most of Nebraska's soil was formed from wind-blown silt and clay or loess while soil in north central Nebraska, also known as the Sandhills, was formed from wind-blown sand.
- The average annual precipitation is 30.25" and decreases one inch every 25 miles from east to west across the state.

## Crops & Livestock

- Nebraska's 10 leading commodities (in order of value) for 2023 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, broilers, chicken eggs, hay, misc. crops, dairy products (milk), and wheat.
- In 2024, Nebraska ranked 2nd in commercial red meat production and all cattle and calves. Cattle outnumber people in Nebraska 3 to 1.
- In 2024, Nebraska ranked 3rd in corn for grain production – 1,802,920,000 bushels.
- Nebraska's production of corn, livestock, and ethanol is known as "Nebraska's Golden Triangle."
- In 2024, Nebraska ranked 2nd in popcorn production.
- Each year, Nebraska harvests between 55 and 70 million bushels of wheat.
- In 2024, Nebraska ranked 5th in soybean and sugar beet production. The sugar beet is a root crop used for sugar production.
- Nebraska has the 6th largest swine herd in the nation.
- In 2024, Nebraska ranked 1st in Great Northern Bean Production and was listed as a top producer of pulses, a group of crops that includes field peas, dry beans, chickpeas, and lentils.
- More than 9.3 million chickens populate Nebraska's chicken laying farms, producing 2.6 billion eggs each year. Broiler chickens account for over 90 million pounds of meat produced annually.
- There are approximately 39,000 bee colonies in Nebraska.

## General

- 89% of the state's total land area is utilized for farms and ranches.
- 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture.
- In 2022, every dollar in agricultural exports generated \$1.09 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$9.98 billion in agricultural exports in 2022 translates into \$10.68 billion in additional economic activity.
- The average age of a Nebraska farmer or rancher is 56.
- Nebraska's current director of agriculture is Sherry Vinton.