

# A Look at *North Dakota* Agriculture

Capital: Bismarck

Population: 762,062

Founded: November 2, 1889 (39<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Western Meadowlark

State Tree: American Elm

State Flower: Wild Prairie Rose

Number of Counties: 53

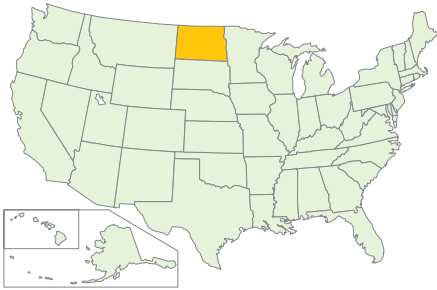
Largest City: Fargo- 129,530

Nickname: Peace Garden State

Number of Farms: 26,100

Average Farm Size: 1,238 acres

Total Farmland: 39.6 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- North Dakota's climate is described as sub-humid continental, excellent for production of small grains and livestock.
- Annual precipitation ranges from 13" per year in the northwest to more than 20" in the southeast.
- January is the coldest month with average temperatures of 2°F in the northeast to 17°F in the southwest.
- July is the warmest month with average temperatures of 67°F in the northeast to 73°F in the south.
- North Dakota weather can be extreme! The state's highest temperature reading – 121°F – and all-time low reading – 60°F below zero – were recorded less than six months apart in the same year, 1936!
- North Dakota soil ranges from thick black loam in the Red River Valley, some of the richest agricultural land in the world, to more porous, sandy soils in the west.
- North Dakota farmers are experts in no-tillage and reduced tillage practices that help save the soil.
- The North Dakota State Soil is Williams.
- The motto, "Strength from the Soil," appears on the state's coat of arms and governor's flag.

## Crops & Livestock

- North Dakota ranks first in the nation in the production of many crops, including:

	<u>% of U.S. total</u>
Spring wheat	50%
Durum	53%
Dry edible peas	52%
Dry edible beans	35%
Pinto beans	62%
Navy beans	40%
Flaxseed	89%
Canola	82%
Honey	23%

- North Dakota is also an important producer of sugar beets, potatoes and oats. Specialty crops include canola, lentils, field peas and buckwheat.
- Every time you eat spaghetti, chances are there's North Dakota durum in it.
- There are 1.86 million head of cattle, 142,000 pigs, 75,000 sheep in North Dakota.
- North Dakota dairy cattle produce 326 million pounds of milk.
- North Dakota produces about 1.2 million turkeys annually.

## General

- North Dakota is 68,976 square miles in area with an average of 9.7 people per square mile.
- Farms and ranches occupy more than 39 million acres, almost 90% of North Dakota's land area.
- North Dakota's Agriculture Commissioner is Doug Goehring, farmer.