

A Look at *Oklahoma* Agriculture

Capital: Oklahoma City

Population: 3,956,971

Founded: November 16, 1907 (46th)

State Bird: Scissortail flycatcher

State Tree: Redbud

State Flower: Mistletoe

Number of Counties: 77

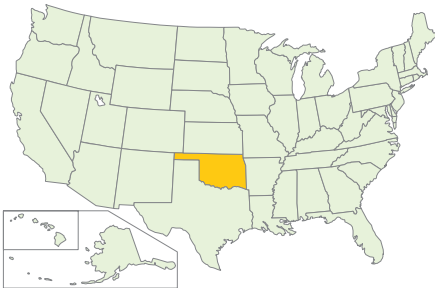
Largest City: Oklahoma City 649,021

Nickname: Sooner State

Number of Farms: 77,300

Average Farm Size: 445 acres

Total Farmland: 35 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Temperatures range from below zero in the winter to over 100°F in the summer. Strong winds make it seem much colder in the winter. Oklahoma is a “plains” state, with no mountains to stop the wind. It is known for its thunderstorms and tornados, which usually occur in the spring.
- The southeast part of the state is the wettest, receiving an average of 56” of rain annually.
- The Panhandle is driest, averaging less than 17” of rain annually.
- In the winter, the snowfall ranges from 30” in the Panhandle to occasional snow in the southeast.
- The growing season in Oklahoma ranges from 168 days in the Panhandle to 238 days in the southeast part of the state.
- Oklahoma has 2,500 different types of soil.
- Oklahoma is known for its red soil, which is red because of the iron content.
- Although Oklahoma is often associated with the Dust Bowl, it actually only affected the Oklahoma Panhandle. Drought in the years 1934-37 occurred on grasslands that had been plowed and planted with wheat to meet the demands of World War I. With no grass root system to hold the soil in place, it simply blew away. Conservation measures changed the Oklahoma landscape. Because of the man-made lakes, created as one conservation measure, Oklahoma now has more miles of shoreline than the Atlantic and Gulf coasts combined.

Crops & Livestock

- Winter wheat, hay, sorghum for grain, corn for grain, soybeans, peanuts, and cotton are the top Oklahoma crops.
- Hay is a good crop to grow on land that is rolling and steep. These lands would erode away if they were tilled for row crops. Native grass and alfalfa are the most popular kind of hay to grow.
- Oklahoma ranks 1st in the nation in the production of rye; 2nd in the nation for beef cows and calf crop; 3rd in the nation for cattle operations; 4th in the nation for meat goats and and cattle/calf production; 5th in the nation for winter wheat and pecan production; 6th in the nation for canola and grain sorghum production; 7th in the nation for hay; 8th in the nation for cotton; 9th in the nation for cottonseed production, hog production, and cattle on feed; and 10th in the nation for silage sorghum and peanuts.
- In 2019, Oklahoma harvested over 70 million bushels of winter wheat; 5.1 million tons of hay; and 18 million pounds of pecans. Oklahoma has 5.3 million cattle; 4.4 million chickens; 2.1 million hogs; 84,000 meat goats; and 50,000 sheep.
- Oklahoma beef cattle, hogs, sheep, meat goats, and broilers produce 1.2 billion pounds of meat per year.
- Oklahoma poultry produce 697 million eggs per year.
- Oklahoma dairies produce 725 million pounds of milk each year.

General

- The name “Oklahoma” comes from two Choctaw words: “okla,” which means “people,” and “humma,” which means “red,” so the state’s name means “red people.”
- Oklahoma has over 44 million acres of land.
- The grocery shopping cart was invented and first used in Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma is a grassland and home to one of the last remaining tall grass prairie preserves, located in Osage county in the northwest part of the state.
- Oklahoma ranks 4th in the nation for number of farms.
- Oklahoma agriculture employs 321,454 people