

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service are proud to present the 48<sup>th</sup> edition of *Alabama Agricultural Statistics*. The numbers contained in this publication are a testimony to the importance of agriculture in this state. Agriculture is the No. 1 industry in Alabama. Farm and forestry receipts for 2005 totaled over \$5 billion, with over \$40 billion impacting our state's economy. The agriculture industry employs over 467,000 people, constituting 21% of the state's workforce.



Alabama farmers produce many specialty crops such as pecans, strawberries, blueberries, and pumpkins. Not only do these fruits and nuts taste great, they are incredibly good sources of nutrition. I hope you will support your local farmers by buying their fresh from the farm specialty crops. It is good for our farmers and good for your health!

Some of the best agricultural products in the world are grown or produced right here in Alabama. I am committed to helping our farmers and producers maintain their success in the coming year. In this issue of *Alabama Agricultural Statistics*, we pay tribute to Alabama's specialty crops.

Ron Sparks  
Commissioner

Alabama agriculture has diversity in products that may surprise those that are unfamiliar with the State. This year's edition of *Alabama Agricultural Statistics* highlights our specialty crop industry. Statistics on these items can be found on pages 26, 27, and 95.



We thank the many producers of our agricultural products in Alabama for providing the basic information on our surveys to produce this bulletin. Farmers and agribusinesses across the State are the best source for the facts about our State's number one industry.

Our enumerator corps who spend hours collecting the survey data from farmers are invaluable and deserve special recognition for their part in this bulletin. Finally, the staff of the Alabama Field Office, USDA/NASS has done another excellent job in putting this publication together. My sincere thanks is extended to each of them for their roles in providing the numbers contained inside.

Remember, *Alabama Agriculture Counts!*

Herb Vanderberry  
Director