

Dear Friend:

We are happy to bring you another edition of the *Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Summary*. This annual summary represents the efforts of a large number of people all around Illinois and serves as a historical document which recaps the results from a multitude of surveys during the previous year. The basic information is supplied voluntarily by grain farmers, livestock producers, fruit and vegetable growers, grain elevators, slaughter and dairy plants, retail stores that serve farm families, and other producers and agribusinesses. We would like to especially thank the Illinois farmers who take time from their busy schedules to complete our questionnaires and share information about their farm operations.

Our surveys gather data from about 40,000 separate individuals each year via the mail, on the telephone, and in face-to-face interviews. The part time employees we hire to gather this information in our office and in the field is comprised of approximately 90 enumerators. Our State office staff of 23, made up of both U.S. Department of Agriculture and Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) employees, are co-located in the IDOA complex.

Our mission is to **“serve Illinois, its agriculture and its rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information”**. The year 2001 edition of the *Annual Summary* will continue to provide over 150 tables of statistical information covering virtually every commodity grown or livestock raised in the State in addition to a wealth of economic data. Due to popular demand, the county highlight statistics will once again be included near the end of the publication.

Although much of the statistical information we publish is for the benefit of farmers, others who serve the agriculture sector also benefit. One of the strengths of our free society is our public information system. Our statistics are not just for the government but are provided on an equal basis to producers, buyers, processors, suppliers, and other interested parties.

Those of you with access to the INTERNET will find this publication and our other reports online at our homepage located at <http://www.agr.state.il.us/agstats.htm>.

The staff of the Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service is dedicated to serving agricultural data needs for all users. Please contact us any time with your questions, comments and requests for information.

Respectfully,

Brad Schwab  
State Statistician