

# ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agriculture has always been a vital part of the lives of Illinois citizens and the economy of the state. Illinois is gifted with some of the richest agricultural resources in the world. The fertile soil, favorable climate, availability of excellent transportation via water, highway, rail and air, good marketing opportunities and a productive work force are some of the many resources that allow Illinois to be recognized as a world supplier of food and fiber. The variations in soil types, climate and topography in the state make it possible for Illinois farmers to produce a wide variety of agricultural commodities. Approximately 1,500 different soil types can be found in Illinois.

## **“VALUE ADDED” AGRICULTURE**

Food and agricultural product manufacturing and processing contribute significantly to Illinois' economy. Illinois ranks among the leading states in the number of food and agricultural processing companies in the state, including meat packing, soybean processing, dairy manufacturing, corn processing, feed milling, vegetable processing and many others. Approximately 1,400 food companies are located in Illinois. Furthermore, Illinois ranks number one among all states in the production of ethanol. According to the Illinois Corn Growers Association, Illinois companies produce approximately 678 million gallons of ethanol annually from approximately 274.2 million bushels of corn.

## **AGRICULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The diversity in soil types allows farmers to grow many well known crops and lesser known specialty crops including alfalfa, amaranth, apples, bell peppers, blueberries, broccoli, buckwheat, canola, Christmas trees, clover, cucumbers, field corn, ginseng, grain sorghum, herbs, horseradish, mushrooms, nursery products, oats, peaches, popcorn, potatoes, potted plants, rye, seed corn, snap beans, sod, soybeans, strawberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter wheat and others. Livestock is produced using a wide variety of methods ranging from one ostrich in a pen to thousands of head of hogs in total production confinement. Other agricultural animals raised include beef cattle, broilers, buffalo, catfish, crayfish, dairy cattle, dairy goats, deer, emus, horses, hybrid striped bass, layers, mink, minnows, rabbits, sheep, tilapia, turkeys and others.

## **FARMS AND LAND VALUES**

In 2000, there were 78,000 farms in Illinois that contained 27.7 million acres of land. The average size of the farms in 2000 was 355 acres. The average per acre nominal value of farm real estate as of January 1, 2001, was \$2,450 per acre, which compared to \$2,380 per acre on January 1, 2000.

## **COMMODITY PRODUCTION**

Illinois ranked second among all states in the production of corn and soybeans in 2000. Production of corn for grain during 2000 totaled 1.67 billion bushels, 12 percent more than produced in 1999, and the second highest production level on record. The corn yield averaged 151 bushels per acre, 11 bushels per acre more than produced in 1999. Soybean production in 2000 totaled 459.8 million bushels, four percent higher than in 1999 and the second highest production level on record. The soybean yield in 2000 was 43.0 bushels per acre, one bushel above 1999.

In 2000, Illinois pork producers produced 1.78 billion pounds of pork, ranking Illinois fourth among all states. Pork production decreased five percent from the previous year. Cattle and calf production during 2000 totaled 617.9 million pounds, less than one percent above the production of 1999. Illinois ranked 24th in the United States in marketings of cattle and calves.

## **CASH RECEIPTS**

In 2000, total cash receipts from farm marketings in Illinois totaled 7.0 billion dollars, which was six percent above 1999. Illinois ranked 9th among all states in total cash receipts in 2000. Crop cash receipts in Illinois in 2000 totaled 5.3 billion dollars, up four percent from 1999 and placed Illinois third among all states in total crop cash receipts in 2000. Livestock and livestock products cash receipts in Illinois in 2000 totaled 1.7 billion dollars, which was up 12 percent from 1999 and placed Illinois 22nd among all states in total livestock and livestock products cash receipts in 2000.

In 2000, corn accounted for 36.8 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois and soybeans accounted for 30.5 percent. All other crops combined accounted for 8.4 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois. Compared to 1999, cash receipts for both corn and soybeans increased four percent in 2000.

In 2000, hogs accounted for 11.8 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois while cattle and calves accounted for 7.6 percent and dairy products accounted for 3.6 percent of the total cash receipts. All other livestock combined accounted for 1.3 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois in 2000. Compared to 1999, cash receipts increased 28 percent for hogs and nine percent for cattle, but decreased 14 percent for dairy products, in 2000.

## **AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS**

During the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, Illinois' export shares totaled 2.98 billion dollars, which ranked Illinois sixth among all states in total agricultural exports. During the same year, Illinois ranked second in the export of feed grains and products, second in soybeans and products, eleventh in wheat and products and sixth in live animals and meat.