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ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE

This report highlights the importance of Agriculture in Illinois and contains information that was published as of March 1, 2009. In 2008, there were 75,900 farms utilizing almost 27 million acres or 75 percent of the total land area in the state. Approximately 89 percent of Illinois agricultural land could be used to grow crops.

About 1.5 million Illinois workers are employed in the food and fiber system, ranking it as one of the top states in dependency on agriculture. In addition to farming, Illinois is a leading state in agricultural related industries, such as soybean processing, meat packing, dairy manufacturing, feed milling, vegetable processing, machinery manufacturing, foreign exports, and service industries.

Crop and livestock statistics date back to the beginning of this country with the issue of the first official monthly crop report over 130 years ago. From the beginning, statistics on crops, livestock, prices, and other subjects have informed both buyers and sellers, helping to keep agricultural markets efficient and helping to maintain a "level playing field" for all. Illinois farm operators and agricultural service firms form the backbone of this system by voluntarily reporting the data needed to compile the many reports.

THE FARMER

The 2007 Census of Agriculture showed the average Illinois farm operator was 56.2 years of age. The average value of land and buildings on each farm was more than 1.3 million dollars. Machinery and equipment were valued at \$136,609 per farm. The average farm sold products valued at \$173,421 and had production expenses of \$117,683. Forty-eight percent of principal farm operators considered farming to be their principal occupation.

PRODUCTIVITY

Illinois farm families are industrious and their work shows it. On a peak spring day, they may plant nearly 800,000 acres of corn or 500,000 acres of soybeans. With fewer than 4 percent of the farms in the U.S., they produce about 17 percent of the soybeans, 17 percent of the corn, 6 percent of the pigs, and account for nearly 6 percent of the agricultural exports.



ILLINOIS FARMS AND FARMLAND

Year	Number of farms	Land in farms	
		1,000 acres	Acres
1960	159,000	30,700	193
1970	128,000	29,500	230
1980	107,000	28,800	269
1990	83,000	28,400	342
2000	77,000	27,500	357
2001	75,000	27,500	367
2002	73,000	27,500	377
2003	73,000	27,400	375
2004	72,800	27,200	374
2005	72,500	27,000	372
2006	72,400	26,900	372
2007	76,900	26,800	349
2008	75,900	26,700	352

STATE RANKING

Illinois usually ranks second in both corn and soybean production and fourth in hog production. Generally it is one of the top five states in cash income, crop cash receipts, and total value of farm real estate.

THE CLIMATE

Illinois lies midway between the Continental Divide and the Atlantic Ocean and some 500 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. The climate is typically continental with cold winters, warm summers, and frequent short-period fluctuations of temperature, humidity, cloudiness, and wind direction. The excellent soil and well-distributed annual precipitation of 32 to 48 inches favors a very high standard of agricultural production.

FARM INCOME

WORKERS ON FARMS AND WAGE RATES: Regional averages, 1998-2007

Year	Number of hired workers Thousands	Wage rates by type of worker		
		All hired workers	Field	Field & livestock
Region 1/				
1998	45.5	8.02	7.43	7.53
1999	51.0	8.23	7.65	7.62
2000	52.8	8.55	8.02	8.09
2001	52.8	9.14	8.22	8.38
2002	42.2	9.21	8.44	8.65
2003	42.7	9.61	8.88	9.00
2004	41.0	9.89	9.16	9.20
2005	43.3	9.79	9.35	9.22
2006	46.8	10.59	10.18	9.88
2007	46.5	10.55	10.08	9.90

1/ Region consists of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

ILLINOIS FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES, JANUARY 1

Year	Value per acre farmland and buildings	Cropland rent per acre
---Dollars---		
1960	316	NA
1970	490	36.40
1980	2,041	107.00
1990	1,405	99.40
2000	2,260	119.00
2002	2,350	122.00
2003	2,430	123.00
2004	2,560	126.00
2005	3,210	129.00
2006	3,590	132.00
2007	4,020	141.00
2008	4,550	163.00

CROPS

Corn, soybeans, and wheat are the major field crops grown in Illinois, accounting for over 90 percent of the cultivated acres. An abundance of other crops is also grown, including hay, grain sorghum, oats, apples, peaches, sweet corn, pumpkins, melons, popcorn, horseradish, asparagus, green beans, peas, potatoes, nursery crops, and numerous other items.

Farm marketings of crops accounted for 82 percent of the total farm marketings in 2007. Corn accounted for 59 percent of the total crop marketings and soybeans 33 percent. Cash receipts from marketing of all crops totaled \$9.6 billion in 2007.

ILLINOIS CROP PRODUCTION, 2008

Commodity	Acres harv.	Yield per acre	Production	Illinois' rank among states
	1,000 acres	Bushels	1,000 bushels	
Corn	11,900	179	2,130,100	2
Soybeans	9,100	47	427,700	2
Winter Wheat	1,150	64	73,600	8
Grain Sorghum	76	103	7,828	7
Oats	30	70	2,100	13
Apples (million pounds)			39.6	14
Peaches (tons)			7,960	9
		Tons	1,000 tons	
Alfalfa Hay	350	3.9	1,365	19
Other Hay	270	1.9	513	34
Snap Beans, Processing	12.5	3.59	44.8	5
		Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	
Sweet Corn, Fresh Mkt.	6.8	102	694	11
Potatoes, Summer	5.3	395	2,094	2
Cabbage, Fresh Market	0.4	318	118	14

CROPS: RECORD HIGHS FOR ILLINOIS THROUGH 2008

Crops	Year of record	Record high
Corn:		
Yield Per Acre	2004	180 bu.
Production (thous.)	2007	2,283,750 bu.
Soybeans:		
Yield Per Acre	2004	50 bu.
Production (thous.)	2004	495,000 bu.
Wheat:		
Yield Per Acre	2006	67 bu.
Production (thous.)	1989	105,020 bu.
Grain Sorghum:		
Yield Per Acre	2004	109 bu.
Production (thous.)	1985	36,190 bu.
Oats:		
Yield Per Acre	2003	89 bu.
Production (thous.)	1917	207,000 bu.
All Hay:		
Yield Per Acre	1990	3.7 tons
Production (thous.)	1956	5,065 tons

ILLINOIS CROP PRODUCTION

Year	Acres planted for all purposes	Acres harvested	Yield per harv. acre	Production
	---Thous.---		Bushels	Thous. bu.
CORN				
1960	10,425	9,985	68	678,980
1970	10,310	9,940	74	735,560
1980	11,700	11,440	93	1,063,920
1990	10,600	10,400	127	1,320,800
2000	11,200	11,050	151	1,668,550
2006	11,300	11,150	163	1,817,450
2007	13,200	13,050	175	2,283,750
2008	12,100	11,900	179	2,130,100
SOYBEANS				
1960	5,013	4,973	26.0	129,298
1970	6,848	6,800	31.0	210,800
1980	9,400	9,350	33.5	313,225
1990	9,200	9,100	39.0	354,900
2000	10,500	10,450	44.0	459,800
2006	10,100	10,050	48.0	482,400
2007	8,300	8,280	43.5	360,180
2008	9,200	9,100	47.0	427,700
WINTER WHEAT				
1960	1,617	1,577	29.0	45,733
1970	1,075	1,030	37.0	38,110
1980	1,600	1,570	49.0	76,930
1990	2,050	1,850	48.0	88,800
2000	950	920	57.0	52,440
2006	930	910	67.0	60,970
2007	1,000	890	55.0	48,950
2008	1,200	1,150	64.0	73,600
GRAIN SORGHUM				
1960	19	14	50	700
1970	30	20	56	1,120
1980	100	83	59	4,897
1990	210	195	75	14,625
2000	90	85	95	8,075
2006	75	72	89	6,408
2007	80	77	81	6,237
2008	80	76	103	7,828
OATS				
1960	1,912	1,867	51	95,217
1970	935	612	56	34,272
1980	280	230	61	14,030
1990	600	170	68	11,560
2000	75	55	73	4,015
2006	60	40	77	3,080
2007	35	24	62	1,488
2008	45	30	70	2,100
ALL HAY				
			Tons	Thous. tons
1960		2,171	2.16	4,682
1970		1,230	2.69	3,303
1980		1,160	3.07	3,558
1990		900	3.72	3,348
2000		830	3.13	2,594
2006		730	3.27	2,385
2007		680	2.82	1,916
2008		620	3.03	1,878

LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

Cash receipts from livestock and products marketings account for 18 percent of total farm marketings and totaled \$2.1 billion in 2007.

ILLINOIS LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY PRODUCTION, 2008

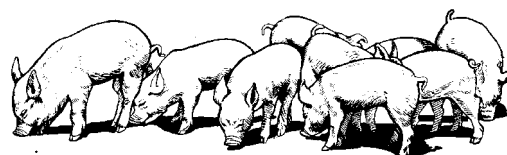
Item	Unit	Number	Illinois' rank among states
Inventory:			
Hogs & Pigs 1/	Thou. Head	4,350	4
Cattle & Calves 2/	Thou. Head	1,200	27
Beef Cows 2/	Thou. Head	408	25
Milk Cows 2/	Thou. Head	102	21
Sheep & Lambs 2/	Thou. Head	58	26
Production:			
Pig Crop	Thou. Head	8,989	4
Calf Crop	Thou. Head	470	27
Lamb Crop	Thou. Head	45	25
Turkeys Raised	Thou. Head	2,700	15
Milk Production 3/	Mil. Lbs.	1,917	20
Egg Production	Mil. Eggs	1,453	18
Wool Production	Thou. Lbs.	360	23

1/ As of 12/1/08 2/ As of 1/1/09 3/ Milk production statistics are for 2007.



NUMBER OF ILLINOIS FARMS WITH LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY

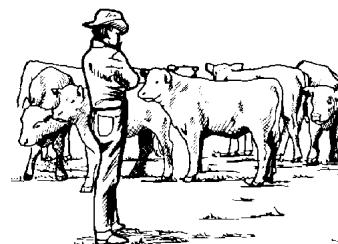
Year	Cattle	Milk Cows	Hogs	Sheep
----- Number -----				
1960	115,000	52,000	92,000	26,000
1970	68,000	16,000	50,000	13,000
1980	50,000	6,500	30,000	7,000
1990	33,000	3,700	15,300	4,500
2000	25,000	2,100	5,100	2,400
2004	20,000	1,500	3,400	1,900
2005	19,800	1,400	3,100	2,000
2006	19,700	1,300	2,900	2,000
2007	18,500	1,200	2,900	1,900



ILLINOIS LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY INVENTORY NUMBERS, JANUARY 1

Year	Hogs & Pigs 1/	Cattle & Calves	Beef Cows	Milk Cows	Sheep & Lambs
----- 1,000 head -----					
1960	7,469	3,981	668	648	722
1970	6,842	3,325	785	347	386
1980	6,950	2,700	699	235	173
1990	5,700	1,750	493	177	159
2000	4,050	1,510	480	120	74
2006	4,000	1,330	446	104	70
2007	4,200	1,340	427	103	67
2008	4,350	1,230	427	103	60
2009	4,350	1,200	408	102	58

1/ December 1, preceding year for 1970-2009.



LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY: RECORD HIGHS FOR ILLINOIS THROUGH JANUARY 2009

Item	Year of record	Record high
Hogs & Pigs Inventory	1963/1964	7,748,000
Cattle & Calves Inventory	1957	4,149,000
Milk Cow Inventory	1935	1,231,000
Sheep & Lambs Inventory	1931	975,000
Chicken Inventory	1927	28,236,000
Milk Production	1945	5.8 billion lbs.
Egg Production	1955	3.0 billion eggs
Turkeys Raised	1990	4,460,000
Wool Production	1942	6.6 million lbs.

ILLINOIS PRODUCTION OF SELECTED COMMODITIES

Year	Milk	Eggs	Turkeys raised	Wool
	Mil. lbs.	Million	Thousand	Thou. Lbs.
1960	4,229	2,397	1,034	4,787
1970	2,850	1,820	832	2,232
1980	2,540	1,266	474	1,327
1990	2,559	793	4,460	925
2000	2,094	944	2,900	520
2004	1,978	1,044	2,900	405
2005	1,958	1,210	2,900	385
2006	1,983	1,307	2,700	370
2007	1,917	1,357	2,700	410
2008	N/A	1,453	2,700	360

N/A – Not available.

ECONOMICS

PRICES RECEIVED BY ILLINOIS FARMERS 1/

Commodity	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008 2/
---Dollars---						
Corn, bu.	1.00	1.37	3.14	2.36	1.91	3.80
Soybeans, bu.	2.23	2.90	7.62	5.85	4.62	9.35
Wheat, all, bu.	1.74	1.30	3.93	2.75	2.09	5.45
Oats, bu.	.61	.66	1.82	1.09	1.33	2.95
Hay all,baled,ton	19.50	24.50	55.50	70.00	83.00	140.00
Sorghum, bu.	.82	1.12	2.94	2.09	1.93	2.58
Beef Cattle, cwt.	22.10	27.50	62.30	75.70	67.70	92.00
Calves, cwt.	23.90	33.70	72.20	119.00	115.00	112.00
Hogs, cwt.	15.40	23.20	38.50	53.90	40.40	45.80
Lambs, cwt.	18.10	27.00	58.80	53.10	72.00	93.00
Milk Cows, head	207	303	1,200	1,150	1,290	1,800
Milk, cwt.	3.76	5.49	12.90	12.90	12.30	19.70
Turkeys, lb.	.26	.25	.48	.42	.41	.44
Table Eggs,	.29	.35	.53	.65	.47	.73
Wool, lb.	.44	.33	.69	.35	.08	.26

1/ Marketing year average prices. 2/ Crop prices are preliminary for 2008. Livestock prices are final for 2007.

FARM VALUE SHARE OF RETAIL FOOD PRICES, U.S., 2000

Product	Percent	Product	Percent
Beef, choice	49	Apples, red delicious	21
Pork	31	Potatoes	17
Chicken, broiler	48	Corn, canned	22
Milk	34	Tomatoes, canned	7
Eggs	53	Flour, wheat	19
Cheese, Natural cheddar	29	Bread	5

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

ILLINOIS CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS

Commodity	1970	1980	1990	2000	2007
---Million dollars---					
All Commodities:	2,809	7,951	7,779	7,019	11,679
Crops	1,499	5,627	5,336	5,346	9,605
Livestock					
Dairy & Poultry	1,310	2,324	2,443	1,672	2,073
Selected Commodities:					
Corn	774	2,712	2,691	2,649	5,681
Soybeans	574	2,438	2,023	2,081	3,149
Hogs	592	1,036	1,206	788	809
Cattle	491	884	800	532	731
Dairy Products	153	324	326	255	375
Wheat	44	268	230	135	261
Other	143	215	416	483	673

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

ILLINOIS AG SECTOR OUTPUT AND INCOME

Year	Ag Sector output 1/	Net value added 2/	Net farm income 3/
---Million dollars---			
1950	1,927	1,017	734
1960	2,129	836	534
1970	2,908	1,104	630
1980	7,347	1,916	112
1990	8,462	3,811	1,508
2000	7,993	4,011	1,561
2004	11,635	6,296	4,022

1/ Gross value of the commodities and services produced.

2/ Contribution of the agricultural sector to the National economy.

3/ Farm operators' share of income from the sector's production.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, U.S.

Food Group	1970	1980	1990	2000
Beef 1/	79.6	72.1	63.9	64.5
Pork 1/	48.0	52.1	46.4	47.8
Chicken 1/	27.4	32.7	42.4	53.2
Turkey 1/	6.4	8.1	13.8	13.7
Eggs 2/	39.5	34.8	30.2	32.4
Cheese 2/	11.4	17.5	24.6	30.0
Fresh Fruits 2/	101.2	104.8	116.3	127.2
Fresh Vegetables 2/	152.9	149.3	167.2	200.4

1/ Pounds of boneless, trimmed meat. 2/ Pounds.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

VALUE OF ILLINOIS FARM EXPORTS

Commodity Group	1980	1990	2000	2007
---Million dollars---				
Wheat & Products	165.8	235.3	122.9	210
Feed grains	1,862.9	1,435.7	935.9	1,895
Soybeans & Products	1,437.9	979.5	1,110.0	1,495
Live Animals & Meat	50.2	129.5	264.0	405
Other	128.0	326.4	252.9	715
TOTAL	3,644.8	3,106.4	2,842.5	4,720

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA