

## General Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture–National Agricultural Statistics Service is pleased to team with Iowa Farm Bureau to provide for you the twenty-ninth edition of *Iowa Agricultural Statistics*, a statistical profile of Iowa's agriculture.

In 2004, Iowa maintained its position as the number one state in the production of corn and the number two position in soybean production. Corn for grain production in Iowa was estimated at 2.24 billion bushels, setting a new record high. Iowa producers averaged 181 bushels per acre, also a new record high. Corn planted acreage was 12.7 million acres, up 3 percent from 2003. Iowa farmers saw corn prices average \$2.41 per bushel in 2004, the highest calendar year average since 1997. Corn prices were in the \$2.33 to \$2.80 range the first half of 2004, then dropped to the \$2.00 to \$2.48 range in July through November, continuing to drop to \$1.99 in December. County yields across the state ranged from 153 bushels per acre in Ringgold County, to more than 195 bushels per acre in Pocahontas County.

Soybean production in Iowa was estimated at 497.4 million bushels in 2004, down less than 1 percent from the record production in 2002. Producers averaged 49 bushels per acre in 2004, down 1.5 bushels from the record yield in 1994. Iowa farmers planted 10.2 million acres, down 400,000 acres from 2003. Soybean prices at the start of 2004 were near \$7.62 per bushel, climbed to \$9.72 per bushel in May, and fell to \$6.80 per bushel during August. Prices continued to decrease to nearly \$5.32 in December. The 2004 calendar year average price for soybeans, at \$7.65, was \$0.33 higher than the record high calendar year average price of \$7.32 set in 1997. County yields across the state ranged from nearly 40 bushels per acre in Howard County, to more than 55 bushels per acre in Des Moines County.

Iowa continues to rank number one among the states in hog inventory with 16.2 million hogs on hand on December 1, 2004. Barrow and gilt prices started the year around \$34 per hundredweight, before improving to the low \$59 level in May and July. By August the price started to fall, decreasing by December to around \$54. The 2004 calendar year average barrow and gilt price was \$52.47, up \$15.70 from the 2003 calendar year average price. Sow prices averaged \$44.52 per hundredweight during 2004, \$14.28 better than the 2003 calendar year average.

Cattle inventories in Iowa rose during 2004. There were 3.6 million cattle and calves on farms as of January 1, 2005, up 150,000 from a year earlier. Steer and heifer prices began 2004 around \$90 per hundredweight, but prices rose slightly to the \$91 level by the end of the year. The 2004 calendar year average price was \$87.65 per hundredweight, the highest on record. Cow prices averaged nearly \$50.12, up more than \$6 from 2003.

The publication and dissemination of agricultural statistics are possible only through the support of the entire agricultural industry. We thank the farmers who

completed the questionnaires on inventories and production, the buyers and processors who graciously provided data on their inventories and purchases, as well as all those who supplied analyses that made the *Iowa Agricultural Statistics* possible. Agriculture is a basic industry involving more people than any other in the world. Since each of us relies on food and fiber only available from this industry, we should give thanks to those who make it possible for us to be well fed and clothed.

We also want to extend our thanks to the staff of Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service for their efforts in conducting the surveys and compiling the statistics. The preparation of the materials for your viewing is a large task, and it is possible only through joint contribution of everyone involved. We hope the results of our efforts will serve your needs.

Public funds are not used in the publishing of this book. The proceeds from the sale of this publication are used to cover its production and printing.

Thank you for your support and interest in American agriculture.



Jim Sands  
Director