

## **STATE STATISTICIAN'S NOTE**

We are pleased to present the 1999-2000 edition of the *Kentucky Agricultural Statistics*. This publication is a result of a cooperative effort between the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The data presented and used in this bulletin were made possible by the voluntary cooperation of thousands of farmers and businesses in Kentucky who respond to our many surveys. This joint effort is essential to maintain reliable facts on changes occurring in Kentucky agriculture. All Kentucky citizens and data users owe them a debt of gratitude for taking the time to complete the surveys.

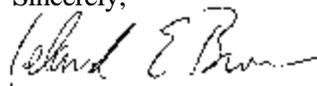
A special thanks goes to the dedicated staff of field and telephone enumerators who have spent many hours collecting data from the Kentucky farmers and agribusinesses selected on our surveys. These enumerators are our ambassadors to the agricultural community throughout the Commonwealth.

The importance of Kentucky's agriculture is reflected throughout this publication. Cash receipts received by producers in 1999 totaled nearly \$3.5 billion in sales. Agriculture is the Commonwealth's largest industry, and this past year has been an extremely challenging one for farmers across Kentucky. In addition to one of the State's worst droughts, farmers in 1999 faced low commodity prices, low crop yields, uncertainty about the future of tobacco, and the premature liquidation of their cow herds. Management decisions become extremely important as profit margins narrow. Current reliable statistics are the critical component that provides a basis for sound financial and production decisions.

The Internet has quickly become a key source for information and statistics about U.S. agriculture. Those with access to the Internet can get all the information in this publication from our web site at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky/>. National releases including results from the 1997 Census of Agriculture can be accessed at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Free e-mail subscriptions are offered for many of the reports so that they will be automatically delivered to your electronic mailbox shortly after the report is released. Historic estimates of commodity production by county are available on the NASS home page for nearly every county in the United States.

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

Sincerely,



LELAND E. BROWN  
State Statistician