

Foreword

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Minnesota's economy. While challenges continue to test the industry, production agriculture is the economic engine that provides the spark for industries such as manufacturing, transportation and processing. One of every five Minnesota workers has a job directly or indirectly related to agriculture.

As generations of Minnesotans become further removed from direct contact with agriculture, we must continue to remind others that farmers provide us with the safe, healthy food we enjoy, and are responsible for the economic well-being of many Minnesotans.

Accurate and timely information is vital for any industry, especially one as competitive and fast-changing as agriculture. This edition of the annual *Minnesota Agricultural Statistics* provides a wide range of quality information on trends in crops and livestock production, farm income and expenses and weather data on planting and harvesting conditions.

Thank you to the Minnesota farmers and agri-businesses for responding to the surveys by the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Minnesota Field Office and making this publication possible.

Sincerely,



Gene Hugoson, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Agriculture



I am proud to present, on behalf of the staff in the Minnesota Field Office of USDA's, National Agricultural Statistics Service, the "Minnesota Agricultural Statistics 2005". We are highlighting from the farm to the consumer on this year's cover. Agriculture is important to everyone and U.S. and Minnesota farmers work hard to ensure that safe and abundant food is available to feed the nation and the world. At USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, we count agriculture because "Agriculture Counts".

I want to thank all Minnesota farmers and agribusiness people, County Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff and the University of Minnesota Extension Service personnel who voluntarily provide the data presented in this annual bulletin. Their participation in our surveys allows us to produce the accurate facts on Minnesota agriculture. As you are sitting down to a meal don't forget to give thanks for the nation's farmers who are providing food for the nation.

If you would like additional information, e-mail us at nass-mn@nass.usda.gov or call us at 1-800-453-7502. You will also find all of our data on our web site at www.nass.usda.gov/mn/.



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