

Foreword

Even in times of economic uncertainty, Minnesota's agricultural community is a powerful economic engine. Our state remains one of America's top agricultural producers, serving as a reliable source of food and clothing for an ever-growing consumer population that reaches around the globe.

Minnesota's agriculture industry is truly a cornerstone of Minnesota's economy, generating nearly one-fifth of the state's overall economic activity. Agriculture supports many other industries as well, such as manufacturing, transportation, wholesale and retail trade, services, construction, banking, insurance, and real estate. Every agricultural production job supports an additional 1.5 jobs in all economic sectors. When you consider the business activity and jobs supported by agriculture, the total impact for Minnesota agriculture approaches \$55 billion in economic activity and 367,000 jobs.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's mission is to enhance Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy. As part of that mission, the department helps produce the annual Minnesota Agricultural Statistics book. This book provides a wide range of high-quality information on trends in crop and livestock production, farm income and other data. This accurate information is vital for decision-makers across the agricultural sector.

I want to thank all the Minnesota farmers and agri-businesses who respond to the surveys by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This useful book is possible only through their cooperation and support.

Sincerely,



Gene Hugoson, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

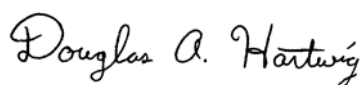


Minnesota's farmers continue to help feed the world, with their crop and livestock production ranking in the top ten for many commodities by state. Agriculture goes beyond food and fiber and now has great importance in fuels. Minnesota's producers have been leaders in bio-fuels and renewable energy. With these changing times, the demand for accurate statistics on agriculture continues to grow. USDA-NASS is the "Fact Finders" for agriculture which helps producers and consumers with their decisions. This bulletin provides easy access to the 2007 estimates for Minnesota.

A special thanks to all of the farmers who participate in our surveys, which allows USDA-NASS to provide the facts on which to base sound decisions. Agriculture continues to be vital to this nation, and we thank all who are involved in meeting the world's demand for safe agriculture commodities. At USDA-NASS we count agriculture because "Agriculture Counts".

If you would like additional information, e-mail us at nass-mn@nass.usda.gov or call us at 1-800-453-7502. You can also access our reports at www.nass.usda.gov/mn.

Sincerely,



Douglas A. Hartwig, Director
Minnesota Agricultural Statistics