



Nebraska Agri-Facts Special Edition

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

Nebraska Field Office

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Nebraska Agriculture

This report highlights the importance of agriculture to Nebraska. In 2005, the State's 48,000 farms and ranches utilized 45.7 million acres or about 93 percent of the State's total land area. Agriculture is Nebraska's primary source of wealth and its dominant industry. Approximately one-fifth of Nebraska workers depend on agriculture and the many related industries involved in all phases of the food and fiber chain from production to marketing for their employment.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office, compiled this report as a service to the public, foreign interests looking to buy Nebraska products, and the many farmers, ranchers and agricultural service firms who voluntarily provide survey data to make these reliable agricultural estimates possible. Crop and livestock reports date back to the beginning of this country. The National agency issued the first official monthly crop report in 1863. These statistics reports continue to inform both buyers and sellers, helping to keep agricultural markets updated, stable and efficient, and help to maintain a "level playing field" for all.

We hope this report will be useful and answer many questions about Nebraska agriculture. If more information is needed, please contact us at the address shown above.

Nebraska Farms and Ranches and Land in Farms

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Size of Farms
	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
1960	93,000	48,200	518
1970	73,000	48,100	659
1980	65,000	47,700	734
1990	57,000	47,100	826
2000	52,000	46,100	887
2004	48,300	45,800	948
2005	48,000	45,700	952

Agro Climatic Resources

Nebraska is located in the mid-section of the United States (latitude 40°N-43°N; longitude 96°W-104°W). Hot summers and cold winters, variability in rainfall distribution, fluctuating length of growing season, and frequent winds typify Nebraska's climate and each has affected agricultural production decisions and resource distribution over the years. Average "precipitation" during the last decade ranged from slightly under 30 inches in the southeast to slightly over 17 inches in the west. About 75 percent of the precipitation falls as rain during April - September, the crop growing season. Average growing season ranges from 170 days in the southeast to 120 days in the extreme northwest. The southeast is about 1,000 feet above sea level, while the Panhandle has elevations of 4,000 - 5,400 feet. "Irrigation" is used by 36 percent of farms, covering 7.6 million acres of harvested cropland, pastureland, and other land, providing a buffer against drought, a serious recurrent problem for the Great Plains. A careful selection of adaptable crops, improved varieties, use of no till, minimum till, strip and contour cropping, stubble mulching, deferred grazing, and other proven practices enable Nebraska farmers to cope with climatic uncertainty and supply domestic and international markets with top quality products.

Water Resources

Nebraska is a water-rich State. Underneath over half of its 49-million-acre land surface, in porous rock beds called aquifers, is stored about 2 billion acre-feet of good quality groundwater, most of which is readily accessible. Add to that an average of 80 to 100 million acre-feet of annual precipitation and an annual surface-water inflow of roughly 2 million acre-feet to obtain a measure of available water. In terms of surface water, approximately 7 to 8 million acre-feet flows on to other States, making Nebraska a donor of approximately 5 to 6 million acre-feet more than flows into its borders. Groundwater irrigation began in the 1920's. At the beginning of 1975, nearly 46,000 registered irrigation wells and about 5,000 surface water rights supplied 4 million acres. Currently, 90,086 registered wells and some 8,422 surface water rights supply water to over 7.6 million acres of harvested cropland, pastureland, and other land.

Soil Resources

Nebraska soils are a product of interaction of climate and biological organisms on parent materials as modified by local topography, drainage, and exposure to weathering. Two types of geologic deposits are parent materials for the vast majority of soils in the State. Wind-blown sand is the parent material in the Sandhills grazing region that occupies much of the north-central part of the State. Elsewhere, most soils have formed in wind-blown silt and clay or loess. Topography and subsequent soil drainage have greatly influenced development of soil properties in local areas.



Land Uses

Nebraska's 45.7 million acres in farms and ranches is divided between cropland and other land used primarily for pastures and rangeland to support the State's livestock industry. In 2005, the area planted to crops and used for hay totaled 18.9 million acres. Active participation in government acreage reduction programs has reduced planted acreages in some years. Comparable area planted estimates for 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 were 19.2, 18.9, 19.1 and 18.8 million acres, respectively.

Corn, soybeans, winter wheat and sorghum are the State's leading crops, utilizing 15.4 million acres of cropland in 2005. Corn and winter wheat are grown essentially statewide, while most soybeans are produced in the eastern one-half of Nebraska. Primary sorghum producing counties lie in the southeastern and south central portions of the State. The specialty crops of dry edible beans and sugarbeets are produced in western irrigated fields. Sandhill pastures of north central Nebraska produce much of the State's wild hay production and maintain many cow/calf operations.

Nebraska Crop Summary, Selected Years and 2005, Domestic Units

Year	Planted ¹	Harvested	Yield	Production
Corn for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	7,800	7,100	85.0	603,500
1985	7,800	7,450	128.0	953,600
1990	7,700	7,300	128.0	934,400
1995	8,000	7,700	111.0	854,700
2000	8,500	8,050	126.0	1,014,300
2003	8,100	7,700	146.0	1,124,200
2004	8,250	7,950	*166.0	*1,319,700
2005	8,500	8,250	154.0	1,270,500

Soybeans				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	1,830	1,770	30.0	53,100
1985	2,400	2,360	36.0	84,960
1990	2,400	2,360	34.5	81,420
1995	3,100	3,060	33.0	100,980
2000	4,650	4,575	38.0	173,850
2003	4,550	4,500	40.5	182,250
2004	4,800	4,750	46.0	218,500
2005	4,700	4,660	*50.5	*235,330

All Wheat				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	3,000	2,850	38.0	108,300
1985	2,600	2,300	39.0	89,700
1990	2,450	2,250	38.0	85,500
1995	2,150	2,100	41.0	86,100
2000	1,750	1,650	36.0	59,400
2003	1,900	1,820	46.0	83,720
2004	1,850	1,650	37.0	61,050
2005	1,850	1,760	39.0	68,640

Sorghum for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	2,200	2,030	60.0	121,800
1985	2,100	1,930	80.0	154,400
1990	1,600	1,410	77.0	108,570
1995	1,250	980	58.0	56,840
2000	600	500	70.0	35,000
2003	660	500	62.0	31,000
2004	550	415	78.0	32,370
2005	340	250	87.0	21,750

Oats				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	525	380	41.0	15,580
1985	550	420	61.0	25,620
1990	450	280	48.0	13,440
1995	155	90	50.0	4,500
2000	130	45	42.0	1,890
2003	220	90	*73.0	6,570
2004	140	50	68.0	3,400
2005	150	60	*73.0	4,380

All Hay				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
1980		3,700	1.91	7,083
1985		3,300	2.05	6,755
1990		3,650	1.97	7,205
1995		3,150	2.29	7,200
2000		2,950	2.02	5,945
2003		3,150	2.41	7,600
2004		2,800	2.29	6,423
2005		2,850	*2.44	6,945

Alfalfa Hay				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
1980		1,650	3.05	5,033
1985		1,400	3.40	4,760
1990		1,450	3.30	4,785
1995		1,350	3.60	4,860
2000		1,350	3.10	4,185
2003		1,450	3.60	5,220
2004		1,250	3.65	4,563
2005		1,250	3.70	4,625

Year	Planted ¹	Harvested	Yield	Production
Irrigated Corn for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980			4,950	101.0
1985			5,050	141.5
1990			5,050	145.5
1995	5,283		5,125	130.1
2000	4,975		4,800	154.4
2003	4,885		4,765	185.5
2004	5,020		4,885	*186.1
2005	5,040		4,925	184.7

Dry Edible Beans				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>
1980	160	150	1,820	2,730
1985	165	151	1,850	2,794
1990	*260	*254	1,970	*5,004
1995	225	205	1,750	3,588
2000	165	156	2,070	3,230
2003	155	148	2,130	3,151
2004	120	110	2,160	2,376
2005	175	172	*2,250	3,870

Sugarbeets				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
1980	87.0	85.0	20.9	1,777
1985	59.1	53.2	23.1	1,229
1990	75.1	71.0	21.0	1,491
1995	75.9	72.3	16.4	1,186
2000	78.2	54.8	20.3	1,112
2003	45.3	42.4	20.3	861
2004	49.8	47.5	22.1	1,050
2005	48.4	45.3	20.4	924

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Crops Record Highs Through 2005

Crops	Year	Record High	
		Value	Unit
Corn for Grain	Harvested	1932	10,005,000 Acres
	Yield	2004	166.0 Bushels
	Production	2004	1,319,700,000 Bushels
Soybeans	Harvested	2001	4,900,000 Acres
	Yield	2005	50.5 Bushels
	Production	2005	235,330,000 Bushels
All Wheat	Harvested	1938	4,691,000 Acres
	Yield	1999	48.0 Bushels
	Production	1958	113,488,000 Bushels
Sorghum for Grain	Harvested	1965	2,271,000 Acres
	Yield	1994	98.0 Bushels
	Production	1981	164,800,000 Bushels
All Hay	Harvested	1954	5,595,000 Acres
	Yield	2005	2.44 Tons
	Production	1982	7,855,000 Tons

Nebraska's Rank Among States in 2005

Rank	Commodity	Number	Unit
1	Great northern bean production	1,382,000	Cwt.
2	Pinto beans production	1,982,000	Cwt.
3	Corn for grain production	1,270,500,000	Bushels
3	Sorghum for grain production	21,750,000	Bushels
4	On-farm grain storage capacity	1,050,000,000	Bushels
4	Off-farm grain storage capacity	691,186,000	Bushels
4	All hay production	6,945,000	Tons
5	Soybean production	235,330,000	Bushels
6	Alfalfa hay production	4,625,000	Tons
6	Winter wheat production	68,640,000	Bushels
7	Sugarbeet production	924,000	Tons
7	Cash receipts from crops, 2004	4,441,545,000	Dollars

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Nebraska Crop Summary, Selected Years and 2005, Metric Units

Year	Planted ¹	Harvested	Yield	Production
Corn for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	3,157	2,873	5.34	15,330
1985	3,157	3,015	8.03	24,222
1990	3,116	2,954	8.03	23,735
1995	3,238	3,116	6.97	21,710
2000	3,440	3,258	7.91	25,764
2003	3,278	3,116	9.16	28,556
2004	3,339	3,217	*10.42	*33,522
2005	3,440	3,339	9.67	32,272

Soybeans				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	741	716	2.02	1,445
1985	971	955	2.42	2,312
1990	971	955	2.32	2,216
1995	1,255	1,238	2.22	2,748
2000	1,882	1,851	2.56	4,732
2003	1,841	1,821	2.72	4,960
2004	1,943	1,922	3.09	5,947
2005	1,902	1,886	*3.40	*6,405

All Wheat				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	1,214	1,153	2.56	2,947
1985	1,052	931	2.62	2,441
1990	992	911	2.56	2,327
1995	870	850	2.76	2,343
2000	708	668	2.42	1,617
2003	769	737	3.09	2,279
2004	749	668	2.49	1,662
2005	749	712	2.62	1,868

Sorghum for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	890	822	3.77	3,094
1985	850	781	5.02	3,922
1990	648	571	4.83	2,758
1995	506	397	3.64	1,444
2000	243	202	4.39	889
2003	267	202	3.89	787
2004	223	168	4.90	822
2005	138	101	5.46	552

Oats				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	212	154	1.47	226
1985	223	170	2.19	372
1990	182	113	1.72	195
1995	63	36	1.79	65
2000	53	18	1.51	27
2003	89	36	*2.62	95
2004	57	20	2.44	49
2005	61	24	*2.62	64

All Hay				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980		1,497	4.29	6,426
1985		1,335	4.59	6,128
1990		1,477	4.42	6,536
1995		1,275	5.12	6,532
2000		1,194	4.52	5,393
2003		1,275	5.41	6,895
2004		1,133	5.14	5,827
2005		1,153	*5.46	6,300

Alfalfa Hay				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980		668	6.84	4,566
1985		567	7.62	4,318
1990		587	7.40	4,341
1995		546	8.07	4,409
2000		546	6.95	3,797
2003		587	8.07	4,736
2004		506	8.18	4,139
2005		506	8.29	4,196

Year	Planted ¹	Harvested	Yield	Production
Irrigated Corn for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980		2,003	6.34	12,699
1985		2,044	8.88	18,157
1990		2,044	9.13	18,664
1995	2,138	2,074	8.17	16,935
2000	2,013	1,943	9.69	18,830
2003	1,977	1,928	11.64	22,446
2004	2,032	1,977	*11.68	23,089
2005	2,040	1,993	11.59	*23,109

Dry Edible Beans				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	65	61	2.04	124
1985	67	61	2.08	127
1990	*105	*103	2.21	*227
1995	91	83	1.96	163
2000	67	63	2.32	147
2003	63	60	2.39	143
2004	49	45	2.42	108
2005	71	70	*2.52	176

Sugarbeets				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	35.2	34.4	46.86	1,612
1985	23.9	21.5	51.79	1,115
1990	30.4	28.7	47.07	1,353
1995	30.7	29.3	36.77	1,076
2000	31.6	22.2	45.49	1,009
2003	18.3	17.2	45.52	781
2004	20.2	19.2	49.55	953
2005	19.6	18.3	45.72	838

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Crops Record Highs Through 2005

Crops		Year	Record High	
Corn for Grain	Harvested	1932	4,049,000	Hectares
	Yield	2004	10.42	Metric Tons
Soybeans	Production	2004	33,522,000	Metric Tons
	Harvested	2001	1,983,000	Hectares
	Yield	2005	3.40	Metric Tons
	Production	2005	6,405,000	Metric Tons
All Wheat	Harvested	1938	1,898,000	Hectares
	Yield	1999	3.23	Metric Tons
	Production	1958	3,087,000	Metric Tons
Sorghum for Grain	Harvested	1965	919,000	Hectares
	Yield	1994	6.15	Metric Tons
Grain	Production	1981	4,186,000	Metric Tons
All Hay	Harvested	1954	2,264,000	Hectares
	Yield	2005	5.46	Metric Tons
	Production	1982	7,126,000	Metric Tons

Nebraska's Rank Among States in 2005

Rank	Commodity	Number	Unit
1	Great northern bean production	63,000	Metric Tons
2	Pinto beans production	90,000	Metric Tons
3	Corn for grain production	32,272,000	Metric Tons
3	Sorghum for grain production	552,000	Metric Tons
4	On-farm grain storage capacity	26,671,000	Metric Tons
4	Off-farm grain storage capacity	17,557,000	Metric Tons
4	All hay production	6,300,000	Metric Tons
5	Soybean production	6,405,000	Metric Tons
6	Alfalfa hay production	4,196,000	Metric Tons
6	Winter wheat production	1,868,000	Metric Tons
7	Sugarbeet production	838,000	Metric Tons
7	Cash receipts from crops, 2004	4,441,545,000	Dollars

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Nebraska Livestock and Poultry Summary

Highlights

- ❖ Over half of Nebraska farms have sales of livestock, dairy, poultry, and products.
- ❖ Cash receipts from livestock, dairy, poultry, and products accounted for about 62% of total cash receipts in 2004.
- ❖ National rank among States (Number and Date):
 - 1st - Commercial red meat production (7.0 billion lbs. 2005)
 - 2nd - Commercial cattle slaughter (7.0 million - 2005)
 - 2nd - Cattle on feed (2.60 million - 1/06)
 - 3rd - Cattle & calves (6.55 million - 1/06)
 - 3rd - Fed cattle marketed, 1000+ lots (4.4 million - 2005)
 - 3rd - Livestock cash receipts (\$7.3 billion - 2004)
 - 4th - Beef cows (1.93 million - 1/06)
 - 5th - Calves born (1.80 million - 2005)
 - 5th - Commercial Hog slaughter (7.2 million - 2005)
 - 6^h - Hogs & pigs (2.85 million - 12/05)
 - 12th - All Chickens (13.8 million lbs. - 12/05)
 - 15th - Honey production (2.72 million lbs. - 2005)
 - 15th - Sheep & lambs (106,000 - 1/06)

Livestock Record Highs to Date

Commodity	Number	Mo./Yr.
All Cattle & Calves	7.41 million head	1/74
All Cattle on Feed	2.60 million head	1/06
Fed Cattle Marketed	5.18 million head	2000
Milk Cows	820 thousand head	1/34
Hogs & Pigs	5.98 million head	1/24
Sheep & Lambs	1.26 million head	1/43
Chickens	19.9 million head	1/44

Livestock Inventories, Selected Years

Year	All Cattle Jan. 1	Beef Cows Jan. 1	Milk Cows Jan. 1	Hogs & Pigs Dec. 1	All Sheep Jan. 1	All Chickens Dec. 1
<i>1,000 Head</i>						
1970	6,330	1,915	175	3,691	377	5,230
1980	6,400	1,950	120	3,900	210	4,000
1990	5,700	1,760	100	4,300	177	6,200
2000	6,650	1,974	76	3,050	102	13,895
2002	6,400	1,932	68	3,000	101	13,747
2003	6,200	1,934	66	2,900	97	14,223
2004	6,250	1,848	62	2,850	102	13,972
2005	6,350	1,909	61	2,850	97	13,813
2006	6,550	1,930	60		106	

Commercial Cattle & Hog Slaughter, Selected Years

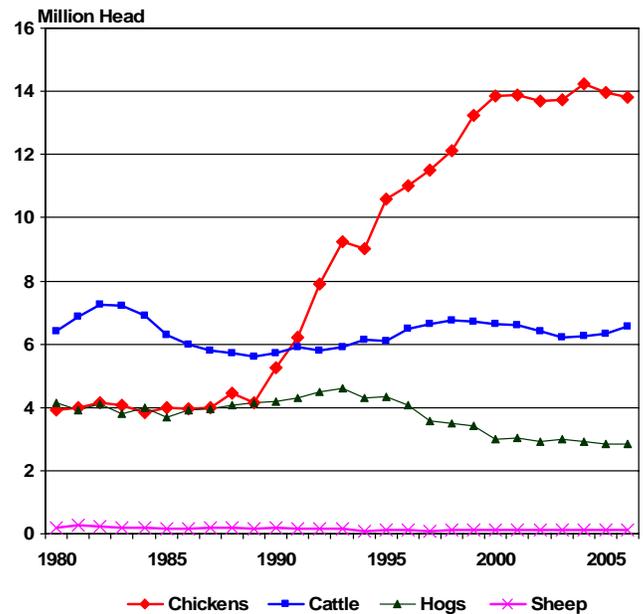
Year	Coml. Cattle Slaughter		Coml. Hog Slaughter	
	1,000 Head	NE % of U.S.	1,000 Head	NE % of U.S.
1970	4,338	12.4	2,566	3.0
1980	5,612	16.6	4,581	4.8
1990	5,882	17.7	5,401	6.3
2000	7,617	21.0	6,270	6.4
2001	7,694	21.8	6,681	6.8
2002	7,862	22.0	6,945	6.9
2003	7,661	21.5	6,874	6.8
2004	6,903	21.1	6,953	6.7
2005	7,029	21.7	7,186	6.9

Number of Operations with Livestock, 1996-2005

Year	Cattle	Beef ¹ Cows	Milk ¹ Cows	Hogs	Sheep	Cattle Feedlots ¹	
						All	1000+
<i>Number</i>							
1996	28,000	23,000	1,600	8,500	1,700	5,400	670
1997	28,000	23,000	1,500	6,500	1,700	5,100	665
1998	28,000	23,000	1,400	5,900	1,700	5,000	665
1999	27,000	23,000	1,300	5,000	1,700	5,020	685
2000	26,000	23,000	1,200	4,000	1,700	5,200	695
2001	25,000	22,000	1,100	3,400	1,600	5,100	720
2002	25,000	21,000	1,000	3,200	1,500	5,000	740
2003	25,000	21,000	900	3,000	1,500	4,900	760
2004	24,000	20,000	830	2,600	1,500	4,560	760
2005	24,000	20,000	770	2,600	1,500	3,800	770

¹ Included in number of cattle operations.

Trends in Livestock and Poultry Inventories



Number of Livestock Slaughter Plants, F.I. Cattle & Hog Slaughter, Selected Years

Year	Slaughtering Plants			Cattle		Hogs	
	F.I. ¹	Other	Total	Plants	Head	Plants	Head
<i>Number</i>							
1970	34	231	265				
1980	72	159	231	67	5,607	46	4,532
1990	49	140	189	47	5,834	36	5,348
2000	33	81	114	32	7,592	22	6,252
2002	35	76	111	31	7,808	22	6,900
2003	34	69	103	31	7,715	21	6,957
2004	35	66	101	35	6,856	25	6,895
2005	35	66	101	33	7,004	23	7,170
2006	35	78	113				

¹ F.I. - Federally Inspected.

Cattle in Nebraska

- ❖ In 2004, cash receipts totaled \$6.2 billion, or 53% of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- ❖ Account for about 6.7% of the Nation's cattle herd, 5.8% of the Nation's beef cow herd, and 18.4% of the Nation's cattle on feed.
- ❖ Feeding more cattle in fewer feedlots:
In 1962, operators of 24,303 lots marketed 1.8 million fed cattle.
In 2005, only 4,570 lots marketed 4.7 million.
- ❖ Commercial cattle slaughter totaled about 7.0 million head in 2005 and 21.7% of U.S. total cattle slaughter.

Cattle Statistics, Selected Years

Year	All Cattle & Calves	All Cows	Calf Crop	All Cattle on Feed
<i>1,000 Head</i>				
1960	5,072	1,855	1,689	
1970	6,330	2,090	2,006	1,477
1980	6,400	2,070	1,970	1,680
1990	5,700	1,860	1,730	2,060
2000	6,650	2,050	1,840	2,450
2002	6,400	2,000	1,820	2,400
2003	6,200	2,000	1,770	2,300
2004	6,250	1,910	1,800	2,450
2005	6,350	1,970	1,800	2,470
2006	6,550	1,990		2,600

Percent of Fed Cattle Marketed by Capacity of Feedlots, Selected Years

Feedlot Capacity	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1,000 head	35.3	30.2	22.1	9.3	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.2	6.5	6.2
1,000-3,999 head	19.2	17.6	19.0	18.0	17.2	18.3	17.9	18.9	18.4	17.8
4,000-15,999 head	26.1	29.8	36.1	41.2	41.1	39.5	40.5	38.8	37.3	37.5
16,000-31,999 head	11.8	12.2	16.2	20.5	23.8	23.7	22.4	23.0	23.0	23.4
32,000+ head	7.6	10.2	6.6	11.0	12.3	12.7	13.1	13.1	14.8	15.1
Total Marketed All Lots (000)	3,825	4,600	4,990	4,730	5,175	4,855	4,910	4,865	4,790	4,710

Hogs and Pigs in Nebraska

- ❖ December 1, 2005 hog numbers totaled 2.85 million head, unchanged from December 1, 2004.
- ❖ Cash receipts in 2004 totaled \$762 million or about 6.5% of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- ❖ Account for about 4.7% of the Nation's hog herd.
- ❖ Commercial hog slaughter, at 7.2 million head in 2005 was 6.9% of U.S. total hog slaughter.

Poultry in Nebraska

- ❖ Chicken inventory totaled 13.8 million head on December 1, 2005, down 1% from December 1, 2004.
- ❖ In 2004, cash receipts for chicken eggs were \$139 million, 1.2% of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- ❖ Nebraska ranked 9th in 2005 for table egg production.
- ❖ Broiler production increased to 4.3 million head in 2004.

Hogs and Pigs Statistics, Selected Years

Year	December 1 Inventory	Annual Sows Farrowed ¹	Litter Rate ¹	Annual Pig Crop ¹
<i>1,000 Head</i>				
1960	2,527	565	7.03	3,972
1970	3,691	815	7.19	5,862
1980	3,900	853	7.36	6,290
1990	4,300	865	7.98	6,900
2000	3,050	625	8.84	5,525
2001	2,900	620	8.75	5,425
2002	3,000	720	8.96	6,453
2003	2,900	735	8.86	6,515
2004	2,850	695	8.93	6,204
2005	2,850	700	9.04	6,327

¹ December previous year - November current year.

Poultry Statistics, Selected Years

Year	Eggs Prod.	Chickens Dec. 1 ¹	Broiler Prod. ²	Chickens Sold ²
<i>Million</i>				
<i>1,000</i>				
1960	1,843	10,425	2,175	4,798
1970	858	5,230	1,371	2,398
1980	847	4,000	2,000	1,600
1990	1,202	6,200	2,950	1,345
2000	2,999	13,895	3,400	6,193
2001	3,001	13,704	3,400	4,830
2002	2,977	13,747	3,700	5,161
2003	3,126	14,223	4,000	5,440
2004	3,174	13,972	4,300	5,035
2005	3,217	13,813		

¹ Excludes commercial broilers. ² December previous year - November current year.

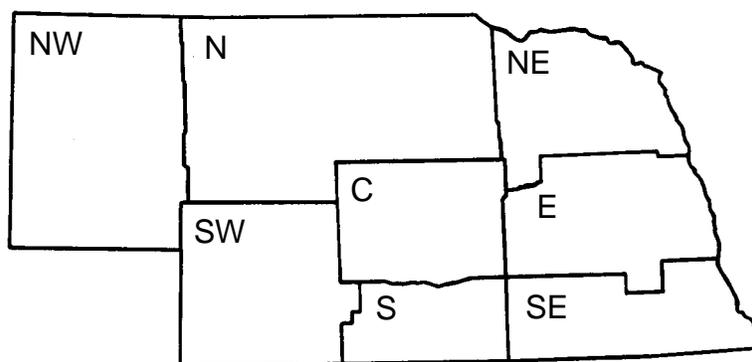
Nebraska's Top Ten Producing Counties, Selected Commodities, 2005

Rank	Corn for Grain		Soybeans		Winter Wheat		Sorghum for Grain	
	District	County	District	County	District	County	District	County
1	E	Hamilton	E	Saunders	NW	Cheyenne	SE	Gage
2	E	York	SE	Fillmore	NW	Box Butte	SE	Nuckolls
3	C	Dawson	SE	Gage	SW	Perkins	SE	Jefferson
4	C	Custer	E	York	SW	Red Willow	SE	Saline
5	C	Hall	NE	Antelope	S	Furnas	SE	Thayer
6	S	Phelps	E	Platte	SW	Hitchcock	SW	Red Willow
7	C	Buffalo	NE	Cuming	NW	Kimball	SE	Fillmore
8	E	Platte	E	Hamilton	SW	Frontier	SW	Hitchcock
9	SW	Lincoln	E	Cass	SW	Chase	S	Webster
10	S	Adams	S	Phelps	NW	Deuel	S	Furnas

Rank	Oats for Grain		Sunflowers		All Cattle and Calves January 1, 2005		Beef Cows January 1, 2005	
	District	County	District	County	District	County	District	County
1	NE	Knox	NW	Kimball	N	Cherry	N	Cherry
2	NE	Cedar	NW	Box Butte	C	Custer	N	Holt
3	N	Boyd	NW	Banner	NE	Cuming	C	Custer
4	NE	Thurston	NW	Cheyenne	SW	Lincoln	SW	Lincoln
5	N	Holt	SW	Perkins	N	Holt	NW	Sheridan
6	NE	Dixon	NW	Scotts Bluff	C	Dawson	NE	Knox
7	E	Colfax	SW	Red Willow	S	Phelps	C	Buffalo
8	SW	Frontier	NW	Sheridan	NW	Morrill	C	Dawson ¹
9	NW	Sheridan	NW	Deuel	NE	Knox	NW	Morrill ¹
10	NE	Pierce	SW	Chase	NW	Sheridan	N	Rock

¹ Tied for 8th.

Nebraska's Agricultural Statistics Districts



Nebraska's Usual Planting and Harvesting Dates, Selected Crops ¹

Crop	Usual Planting Dates			Usual Harvesting Dates		
	Begin	Most Active	End	Begin	Most Active	End
Barley, Spring	Mar 20	Mar 25 - Apr	Apr 18	Jul 18	Jul 20 - Jul 25	Jul 30
Beans, Dry	May 26	Jun 9 - Jun 16	Jun 23	Sep 8	Sep 15 - Sep 29	Oct 13
Corn, for Grain	Apr 21	May 3 - May	Jun 1	Sep 21	Oct 11 - Nov 6	Dec 1
Corn, for Silage	Apr 21	May 3 - May	Jun 1	Aug 25	Sep 5 - Sep 25	Oct 10
Hay, Alfalfa				May 10		Oct 5
Hay, Other				Jun 5		Sep 20
Oats, Spring	Mar 24	Apr 2 - Apr 27	May 9	Jul 4	Jul 15 - Aug 2	Aug 12
Rye	Aug 30	Sep 12 - Sep 26	Oct 6	Jun 30	Jul 12 - Jul 30	Aug 8
Sorghum, for	May 11	May 20 - Jun 8	Jun 19	Sep 19	Oct 8 - Oct 30	Nov 17
Sorghum, for	May 11	May 20 - Jun 8	Jun 19	Aug 25	Sep 10 - Sep 30	Oct 10
Soybeans	May 9	May 18 - Jun 4	Jun 17	Sep 19	Sep 30 - Oct 15	Oct 27
Sugarbeets	Apr 1	Apr 10 - Apr 30	May 5	Oct 5	Oct 10 - Oct 30	Nov 5
Wheat, Winter	Aug 30	Sep 12 - Sep 26	Oct 6	Jun 26	Jul 7 - Jul 26	Aug 8

¹ Source: USDA's Usual Planting and Harvesting Dates for U.S. Field Crops, December 1997.

**Nebraska Precipitation Data
by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 1985-2004 ¹**

Year	Agricultural Statistics Districts							
	Northwest	North	Northeast	Central	East	Southwest	South	Southeast
<i>Inches</i>								
1985	14.65	21.03	26.35	27.73	29.88	18.87	26.07	30.26
1986	20.11	27.12	32.72	25.02	38.34	17.91	22.46	38.63
1987	18.09	24.06	26.40	28.26	32.59	22.32	29.23	37.80
1988	16.92	23.41	20.70	22.13	20.15	20.32	20.53	18.38
1989	11.92	13.44	17.20	20.38	22.26	16.17	20.93	24.49
1990	16.59	21.11	25.60	22.79	27.31	17.13	23.17	26.57
1991	16.70	21.41	26.24	23.03	30.32	21.19	21.57	26.61
1992	17.11	24.34	33.76	24.94	31.87	22.10	24.70	37.17
1993	21.80	28.72	35.72	34.02	39.71	27.05	38.64	48.25
1994	14.07	22.79	27.12	23.24	26.83	19.24	23.47	26.32
1995	20.48	28.78	32.24	24.33	24.87	20.31	23.36	29.21
1996	18.61	23.13	27.61	26.31	30.79	24.86	32.02	34.91
1997	18.00	21.47	22.17	23.39	25.45	19.00	22.78	30.59
1998	19.56	26.73	33.52	25.29	34.31	18.65	23.68	34.36
1999	18.53	21.24	27.63	25.27	30.48	21.77	25.00	27.16
2000	17.37	19.47	23.31	20.36	23.83	17.43	22.76	24.76
2001	16.67	25.44	31.93	23.63	28.07	20.06	25.95	38.86
2002	9.95	14.74	20.74	15.77	23.33	11.64	15.79	23.28
2003	15.45	17.49	24.79	20.47	25.48	16.78	19.89	28.52
2004	16.69	22.46	27.86	25.19	27.09	23.17	24.58	27.24

¹ Source: NOAA/National Climatic Data Center.

**Number of Days Temperature 95 Degrees Fahrenheit or Above
by Agricultural Statistics Districts, Selected Reporting Stations, May-September, 1986-2005 ¹**

Year	Agricultural Statistics Districts, Reporting Station							
	Northwest (Alliance)	North (Atkinson)	Northeast (Hartington)	Central (Broken Bow)	East (David City)	Southwest (Culbertson)	South (Franklin)	Southeast (Pawnee City)
<i>Number of Days</i>								
1986	8	10	2	14	6	19	16	16
1987	19	13	14	16	19	27	11	20
1988	23	25	23	14	25	28	28	35
1989	18	11	14	6	11	20	9	19
1990	14	15	12	15	10	35	13	27
1991	14	22	15	13	14	21	19	30
1992	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
1993	0	2	0	0	1	6	2	9
1994	18	1	1	3	2	23	12	17
1995	26	17	14	7	13	33	23	19
1996	6	0	0	0	0	9	5	7
1997	18	12	2	5	5	24	20	13
1998	10	9	1	6	2	25	22	5
1999	17	11	4	2	3	20	15	25
2000	25	22	8	15	12	51	46	18
2001	17	11	2	6	15	46	25	11
2002	18	29	13	19	13	51	39	28
2003	24	14	3	10	15	39	24	22
2004	9	7	0	5	2	23	12	3
2005	19	10	1	12	11	39	28	15

¹ Source: High Plains Climate Center, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nebraska Agriculture Economics

Nebraska All Land Average Value per Acre by Statistical District, Selected Years

District	Selected Years						
	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005
	<i>Dollars</i>						
Northwest	250	269	275	274	276	302	325
North	251	275	285	312	308	343	379
Northeast	860	962	1,052	1,107	1,266	1,388	1,537
Central	744	833	859	854	939	1,005	1,110
East	1,378	1,600	1,718	1,747	1,850	1,999	2,268
Southwest	384	417	439	471	467	500	542
South	944	1,066	1,099	1,060	1,102	1,188	1,268
Southeast	925	1,057	1,111	1,143	1,204	1,354	1,609
State	582	654	690	709	757	827	924

Source: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Developments 2004-2005, Department of Agricultural Economics, UNL.

Nebraska Selected Land Average Cash Rental Rates per Acre by Statistical District, 2004-2005

District	Dryland Cropland		Gravity Irrigated Cropland		Center Pivot Irrigated Cropland		Pastureland	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>	
Northwest	22	24	88	94	97	107	8	8
North	35	37	105	104	114	119	13	13
Northeast	91	92	129	133	144	142	36	37
Central	60	62	134	134	139	139	24	25
East	94	99	138	142	151	155	32	32
Southwest	33	33	101	105	117	121	13	12
South	55	56	128	130	139	143	22	23
Southeast	75	79	131	134	143	147	27	27

Source: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Developments 2004-2005, Department of Agricultural Economics, UNL.

Prices Received by Nebraska Farmers, Selected Years ¹

Commodity	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004	2005 ²
	<i>Dollars</i>					
Corn, Bu.	1.25	3.08	2.28	1.90	2.02	1.85
Soybeans, Bu.	2.78	7.25	5.59	4.44	5.54	5.50
Sorghum, Cwt.	1.93	5.09	3.66	3.28	3.08	2.85
All Wheat, Bu.	1.22	3.82	2.53	2.61	3.23	3.25
Oats, Bu.	.65	1.85	1.19	1.42	1.51	1.60
All Hay, Ton	21.00	55.00	58.00	69.50	50.50	47.50
Sugarbeets, Ton	14.80	47.00	40.10	29.20	39.90	
Dry Beans, Cwt.	8.00	26.90	16.90	15.80	22.80	17.40
Steers & Heifers, Cwt.	29.10	66.70	80.00	70.00	89.90	93.40
Cows, Cwt.	20.50	45.80	52.00	38.40	52.60	54.80
Calves, Cwt.	35.30	78.70	100.00	106.00	129.00	142.00
Hogs, Cwt.	22.30	38.10	54.80	44.30	50.80	51.80
Sheep, Cwt.	7.30	24.50	21.90	34.60	37.60	43.70
Lambs, Cwt.	27.50	64.30	54.00	76.20	98.30	104.00
Milk Cows ³	298	1,130	1,130	1,290	1,600	1,720

¹Crops prices for 1980 are season average prices; beginning 1985 prices are marketing year average prices received. ²Preliminary. ³Calendar year average, dollars per head.

Nebraska Total Farm Income, 2000-2004

Year	Gross Income ¹	Farm Production Expenses	Net Farm Income	Net Farm Income Per Farm
	<i>Million Dollars</i>			<i>Dollars</i>
2000	10,909.9	9,511.5	1,398.4	26,892
2001	11,632.0	9,781.3	1,850.7	37,014
2002	10,251.8	9,437.8	814.0	16,478
2003	12,843.2	10,035.8	2,807.3	57,883
2004	14,106.1	10,647.0	3,459.1	71,616

¹ See table below for detailed breakdown, including inventory adjustment.

Nebraska Gross Farm Income, 2000-2004

Year	Cash Receipts	Government Payments	Non-Cash Income	Farm-Related Income	Value of Inventory Adjustment
	<i>Million Dollars</i>				
2000	8,956.4	1,407.0	232.3	596.5	-282.2
2001	9,230.6	1,297.6	244.8	661.8	197.2
2002	9,422.2	539.3	236.4	649.4	-595.5
2003	11,027.9	725.8	251.0	848.1	-9.7
2004	11,779.7	728.3	257.2	955.2	385.7

Value of Nebraska Agricultural Exports, 2000-2004

Commodity	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Million Dollars</i>				
Feed Grains & Products	772.5	644.6	785.5	671.5	876.6
Soybeans & Products	452.5	429.3	565.5	529.1	671.1
Wheat & Products	153.9	121.8	143.0	162.8	227.2
Feeds & Fodders	168.7	210.8	181.6	166.2	182.3
Seeds	9.4	6.6	11.1	8.8	11.5
Vegetables & Preparations	37.3	37.5	40.7	31.2	35.0
Live Animals & Meat	1,008.5	955.5	929.9	1,046.7	520.8
Hides & Skins	268.6	377.7	350.9	371.4	350.4
Fats, Oils & Greases	80.3	63.3	89.0	115.7	114.4
Dairy Products	7.5	7.9	7.1	6.8	8.1
Other	18.0	16.5	17.2	12.4	17.0
Total	2,977.2	2,871.6	3,121.7	3,122.6	3,015.0

A Bit of Agricultural Statistics History

The Nebraska Field Office is a Federal-State cooperative effort of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. A Federal statistics program dates back to 1862 when USDA was founded. This Nebraska cooperative office has been in existence since 1918. It is located in Room 298 of the Federal Building in Lincoln at 100 Centennial Mall North. The office has had four different names: State-Federal Division of Agricultural Statistics (1918-1976), Nebraska Crop and Livestock Reporting Service (1976-1986), Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (1986 to 2005) and the USDA National Agricultural Statistics, Nebraska Field Office (2005 to date). While the office name has changed and survey procedures improved upon, the objective of providing the most accurate and reliable agricultural forecasts and estimates possible has remained unchanged throughout the years. "Voluntary" reporting each year by many thousands of farmers, ranchers, and agri-business firms make these estimates possible in a timely manner.