



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

523 East Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-5425 / Fax: 605-773-5926

<http://sdda.sd.gov>

My Fellow South Dakotans,

When my great grandfather homesteaded in the Parker area in 1879, statistics and trends were not only unavailable, but also unnecessary. He was just trying to carve out a living and provide for his family. My dad's generation was providing food for not only his family but 70 other people when he realized that we were now in a world market and information was important. Today, I am growing food for 155 people and information on demand is crucial as we make decisions that will shape the sustainability and future of this vital industry.

It is encouraging to see our traditional crop and livestock operations joined by new and exciting commercial specialty crops such as grapes, tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables. They will add to this economic engine we call agriculture.

Dr. Gary Taylor, a SDSU economist, was commissioned to study the economic output of the livestock industry and he broke the data down by species. These numbers reflect the value of the production and processing plus the margin earned by the financial sectors, transportation and the service industry among others. The numbers were quite revealing. The annual economic impact of one dairy cow to the state of South Dakota is \$13,594; one sow is \$6,453; one beef cow is \$1,700 and one ewe is \$257. Look through this bulletin at the number of head of livestock in South Dakota and multiply that times the economic output and you can start to get a picture of how important agriculture is to our state's economy.



These numbers further quantify South Dakota agriculture's role as the state's number one industry. Our 46,000 producers located on 31,500 farms can be very proud of this title and the role they play every day to enhance our beloved industry.

Thank you to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for compiling this publication which references and highlights these accomplishments. It not only gives us an historical perspective, but also challenges us to do more and do it with less, just like my great grandfather.

Sincerely,

Walt Bones
Secretary of Agriculture