

Thank you for your interest in agriculture in the State of West Virginia. The book you now hold in your hands is the definitive statistical tool relating to agriculture in the Mountain State.

Agriculture is alive and well in this state and the staff of the USDA-NASS West Virginia Statistical Office has been hard at work over the past year documenting that fact. During the past year, the USDA-NASS staff has completed several state-specific projects, including the orchard and vineyard survey, and has worked to implement electronic data reporting for a number of surveys. Their goal is to paint as complete a portrait as possible of agriculture in the Mountain State, while presenting as little a burden to the farmer as possible. Their efforts have been rewarded with one of the highest response rates in the country. This speaks well of the efforts of USDA-NASS staff, but especially of the state's farmers, the vast majority of whom own and operate their own farms and take great pride in the work they do.

In West Virginia, agriculture is more than an occupation, it's a lifestyle. But it's a lifestyle that none of us can live without. Over the years, West Virginia's farmers have continued their traditions of environmental preservation, while producing the food and fiber that help feed and clothe this state, the nation and the world.

This booklet is a testament to the work of those farmers, as well as the work of the USDA-NASS West Virginia Statistical Office, headed by Director Dale R. King and Deputy Director Radley Edwards.

I hope you find this report useful, informative and thought-provoking. As always, please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions regarding agriculture in West Virginia.

Sincerely,



Gus R. Douglass
Commissioner of Agriculture



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Commissioner of Agriculture