



NEBRASKA

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Dear Agriculturalist:

It is a pleasure to present this "2000" issue of "Nebraska Agricultural Statistics" in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. It's the 76th published by the cooperative efforts of these two organizations dating back to 1925. The data contained herein are official estimates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, the agency I represent. For more current information feel free to contact us personally.

Appreciation is expressed to the many farmers, ranchers and other agri-businesses who voluntarily responded to our surveys during 2000 making this reference possible. Your assistance is invaluable for the production of statistics for decision making. Additionally, we recognize our enumerator staff for their dedicated efforts in collecting data and the office staff for managing surveys, setting estimates, and publishing reports. Dave Loos, retired state statistician who served as director of this office for the past four years, is also recognized for his many contributions to the state's agricultural statistics program.

On a personal note, I am proud to have assumed the position of state statistician for this office effective December 31, 2000. This follows five years as state director of our South Dakota office and various other positions within the organization. These include tours of duty in our Washington, D.C. headquarters and as Deputy Director of the North Dakota Office. My roots are in a central South Dakota (Highmore) grain and cattle operation and as a graduate of South Dakota State University.

Goals as new state statistician will be to continue providing relevant, timely, and accurate Nebraska agricultural statistics and to make them readily available to all for use in their decision making process. In this regard, your assistance and suggestions are respectfully solicited. Thanks again to those producers who provide the data and for the support of others in the Cornhusker State.

Sincerely,

William G. Hamlin
State Statistician