



General

2000 Nebraska Summary

Agriculture contributed over eight and a half billion dollars in cash receipts to Nebraska's economy in 1999. Livestock and livestock products account for 63 percent of the total with crops accounting for the remaining 37 percent. Cash receipts from cattle account for over half of the total cash receipts followed by corn, soybeans, hogs, wheat, and then the remaining commodities grown or raised in the State. Nebraska ranks in the top ten states nationally in all major crop and livestock items except all wheat.

Acres planted to corn and wheat were down in 2000 making way for more soybeans and sorghum to be planted. Acres planted to minor crops were down as well except for barley and sugarbeets. Average yields for most crops were down in 2000 when compared with the previous year due to a drier than normal growing season.

Cattle inventories continued to decline in the current cattle cycle; however, cattle on feed were up. Nebraska's farms and ranches had more hogs, sheep, and chickens than the previous year.

Nebraska's 54,000 farms and ranches cover 46.4 million acres, or 94.3 percent of the 49.2 million acres in the State. The number of farms is down 60 percent from its peak in 1934 when there were 135,000 farms in the State. Land in farms declined by 2 million acres in the last fifty years. The land in farms series began in 1950 with 48.4 million acres. Average size of farm has nearly doubled during this same time period, from 444 acres in 1950 to 859 acres in 2000. The number of large farms continue to increase while the medium size farms continue to decline. The number of small farms dropped in 2000 after increasing or holding steady since 1992.

Current Rank in U.S. Agriculture, Nebraska ¹

Commodity	Rank	Commodity	Rank
Corn for Grain	3	Potatoes	11
Corn for Silage	8	Sugarbeets	9
Sorghum for Grain	3	All Cattle and Calves	3
Sorghum for Silage	3	Beef Cows	3
Oats	21	Milk Cows	30
Barley	27	All Cattle on Feed	2
All Wheat	12	All Hogs and Pigs	6
Winter Wheat	8	All Sheep and Lambs	16
Soybeans	7	Wool Production	16
All Sunflowers	6	Chickens	12
All Hay	8	Egg Production	10
Alfalfa Hay	7	Honey Production	13
All Other Hay	13	Number of Farms	16
Dry Edible Beans	3	Land in Farms	4

¹ Rank based on production for crops, wool, eggs and honey; inventory for livestock; and total number or acres for farms.