



State of Oklahoma

Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

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Brad Henry
Governor

Terry L. Peach
Secretary and Commissioner

Greetings:

It is a pleasure to commend to you this year's Oklahoma Centennial edition of the Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics Service annual report. Our state's 100th birthday has generated a great deal of interest in looking back on our past and I think it's fitting that we take a moment to reflect on the history of the documentation of agricultural statistics.

President George Washington is recorded as keeping records on his own farming operations and was the first to survey his fellow farmers after receiving an inquiry about land values, crops, yields, livestock production and taxes. That took place in 1791 but it wouldn't be until 1905—two years before Oklahoma became the 46th state admitted to the U.S.—before the USDA's Crop Reporting Board was created.

This forerunner to today's Agricultural Statistics Service helped our founding fathers turn the last of the western frontier into today's Oklahoma. Today we can look back on the early agricultural data for a glimpse into the history of our state but it is important to remember that those early homesteaders used that information to survive as farmers and ranchers.

Today's producers and agribusiness leaders continue to use this data to help develop production and marketing plans, monitor trends within the industry and make informed recommendations towards U.S. farm policies. For that we owe the men and women of the Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics Service our gratitude.

We hope you find this compilation of our state's agricultural statistics useful and that you will enjoy using this data over the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry L. Peach".

Terry L. Peach
Secretary of Agriculture

