

South Dakota RANK IN AGRICULTURE

News Release

May 5, 2000

SOUTH DAKOTA NUMBER TWO IN HAY PRODUCTION

SIoux FALLS, MAY 5, 2000 -- South Dakota ranked number two in all hay production in 1999, according to year-end estimates previously released by USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. The state was also second in the nation in sunflower and flaxseed production in 1999.

South Dakota was number one in all hay production in 1998, but despite a 16 percent increase in production in 1999, slipped to second as Texas jumped into first place. Alfalfa hay production increased 17 percent last year yet remained in second place, slightly behind California. All sunflower production dropped 14 percent in 1999 yet remained in second place. North Dakota was the leading sunflower state. Flaxseed production increased 21 percent and moved the state from third to second in rank.

South Dakota also ranked third in honey and proso millet production in 1999; fourth in oat, spring wheat, and rye production; fifth in durum wheat production, inventory of beef cows, all sheep and lambs, market sheep and lambs, and lamb crop.

Other major commodities and South Dakota's rank were: calf crop (sixth), all wheat production (seventh), all cattle and calves (seventh), cattle and calves on feed (eighth), soybean production (eighth), corn for grain production (ninth), and winter wheat production (ninth).

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