

Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service



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Dear Friend:

We are happy to bring you another edition of the *Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Summary*. This publication serves as an historical document and recaps the results from a multitude of surveys during the previous year. Our mission is to **serve Illinois, its agriculture and its rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information**. We are able to do this through the voluntary cooperation of thousands of farmers and businesses in Illinois who respond to our surveys. We would like to especially thank the Illinois farmers who take time from their busy schedules to complete our questionnaires and share information about their farm operations.

The year 2000 edition of the *Annual Summary* has a couple of new items that may be of interest. You will notice at the front of the publication we have added 24 pages that highlight Illinois agricultural statistics from 1866 to the present - to commemorate the millennium. Starting on page 113, we have added 51 pages to highlight statistics about each county. These data are repeated from other tables in the publication but are presented in this form to aid the data user interested in statistics for a specific county.

Although much of the statistical information we publish is for the benefit of farmers, others who serve the agriculture sector also benefit. One of the strengths of our free society is our public information system. Our statistics are not just for the government but are provided on an equal basis to producers, buyers, processors, suppliers, and other interested parties.

Those of you with access to INTERNET will find this publication and our other reports online at our homepage located at <http://www.agr.state.il.us/agstats.htm>.

The staff of the Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service is dedicated to serving agricultural data needs for all users. Please contact us any time with your questions, comments and requests for information.



Respectfully,

Garry Kepley
State Statistician