

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 This annual summary represents the efforts of a large number of people all around Illinois and serves as a historical document which recaps the results from a multitude of surveys during the previous year. The basic information is supplied voluntarily by grain farmers, livestock producers, fruit and vegetable growers, grain elevators, slaughter and dairy plants, retail stores that serve farm families, and other producers and agribusinesses.

With every year comes a different set of challenges for crop and livestock producers and 2002 was no exception. As you may remember, planting progress for corn and soybeans came to screeching halt in mid-April due to persistent rainfall over most of the State. Nearly a month passed before planting could resume and these delays reduced the yield potential for many corn and soybean fields. Hog producers were faced with the challenge of keeping their hog enterprises solvent during a period of below break even market prices. In light of these events, accurate statistics are a must for providing policy makers a snapshot of the economic situations which exist in the agricultural community.

Our mission is to **“serve Illinois, its agriculture and its rural communities by providing meaningful, accurate and objective statistical information”**. The year 2002 edition of the *Annual Summary* will continue to provide over 150 tables of statistical information covering virtually every commodity grown or livestock raised in the State in addition to a wealth of economic data.

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 the INTERNET will find this publication and our other reports online at our homepage located at <http://www.agstats.state.il.us/>

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,

Brad Schwab
State Statistician