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**Office of the Director**

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Dear Friend:

No one knows better than agriculture professionals that it takes more to survive in today's agriculture economy than just good weather, good soil and hungry consumers. A good understanding of history and economics combined with a knowledge of comparative statistics is a must when putting together a successful business plan or when trying to understand how changes in agricultural practices affect output in a variety of areas.

The *Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Bulletin* is a modern successor to statistical compilations that have been done by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) since 1866. Today, statistics for Illinois are compiled by the Illinois Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, which represents the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the USDA through a cooperative agreement enacted in August 1925.

This *Annual Bulletin* contains user-friendly information encompassing agricultural exports, alternative crops, farmland conversion, fertilizer and chemical utilization, and weather patterns in addition to numerous economic components including farm income, asset and debt levels, farm real estate values and wages for farm labor.

Farmers will find easy-to-read tables and comparisons on how Illinois production compares to that of other states, as well as within their own county or how it compares to that of other farmers.

Illinois still remains one of the leading agricultural states in the country. I am pleased to present this publication with the cooperation of the USDA and hope you will find this a useful tool in better planning for a prosperous future.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Jennings  
Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture

