

# ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agriculture has always been a vital part of the lives of Illinois citizens and the economy of the state. Illinois is gifted with some of the richest agricultural resources in the world. The fertile soil, favorable climate, availability of excellent transportation via water, highway, rail and air, good marketing opportunities and a productive work force are some of the many resources that allow Illinois to be recognized as a world supplier of food, feed, and fiber. The variations in soil types, climate and topography in the state make it possible for Illinois farmers to produce a wide variety of agricultural commodities. Approximately 1,500 different soil types can be found in Illinois.

## **“VALUE ADDED” AGRICULTURE**

Food and agricultural product manufacturing and processing contribute significantly to Illinois' economy. Nationally, Illinois ranks among the leading states in the number of food and agricultural processing companies, including ethanol production, meat packing, soybean processing, dairy manufacturing, corn processing, feed milling, vegetable processing and many others.

## **AGRICULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The diversity in soil types allows farmers to grow many well known crops and lesser known specialty crops including alfalfa, amaranth, apples, bell peppers, blueberries, broccoli, buckwheat, canola, Christmas trees, clover, cucumbers, field corn, ginseng, grain sorghum, grapes, grass seed, herbs, horseradish, mushrooms, nursery products, oats, peaches, popcorn, potatoes, potted plants, pumpkins, rye, seed corn, snap beans, sod, soybeans, strawberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter wheat and others. Livestock is produced using a wide variety of methods ranging from one ostrich in a pen to thousands of hogs in total confinement production. Other agricultural animals raised include beef cattle, bees, bison, broilers, buffalo, catfish, crayfish, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, goats, horses, hybrid striped bass, layers, llamas, mink, minnows, rabbits, sheep, tilapia, turkeys and others.

## **FARMS AND LAND VALUES**

In 2011, there were 74,600 farms in Illinois that contained 26.6 million acres of land. The average size of the farms in 2011 was 357 acres. The average per acre value of farm real estate as of January 1, 2012, was \$6,700 per acre, compared to \$5,700 the previous year. The average per acre value of cropland increased 17 percent from \$5,800 in 2011 to \$6,800 in 2012.

## **COMMODITY PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**

Illinois ranked second among all states in corn and soybean production in 2011. Production of corn for grain during 2011 totaled 1.95 billion bushels, the same amount produced in 2010. The corn yield averaged 157 bushels per acre, also the same as last year. Soybean production in 2011 totaled 423 million bushels, 9 percent lower than the previous year. The soybean yield in 2011 was 47.5 bushels per acre, 4 bushel below 2010.

In 2011, Illinois pork producers marketed 11,581,000 hogs, ranking Illinois fourth among all states. Cattle and calf marketings during 2011 totaled 529,000 head, down 4 percent from the previous year. Illinois ranked 24th in the United States in marketings of cattle and calves.

## **CASH RECEIPTS**

Total cash receipts from farm marketings in Illinois for 2011 totaled 19.8 billion dollars, a significant increase from 2010. Illinois ranked 5th among all states in total cash receipts in 2011. Crop cash receipts in Illinois in 2011 totaled 17.2 billion dollars, up 26 percent from 2010 and placed Illinois third among all states in total crop cash receipts. Livestock and livestock products cash receipts in Illinois in 2011 totaled 2.6 billion dollars, which was up 15 percent from 2010 and placed Illinois 25th among all states in total livestock and livestock products cash receipts.

In 2011, corn accounted for 54.5 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois and soybeans accounted for 27.1 percent. All other crops combined accounted for 4.6 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois. Compared to the previous year, cash receipts for corn increased 33 percent and cash receipts for soybeans increased 13 percent.

Hogs accounted for 7.2 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois, while cattle and calves accounted for 3.1 percent and dairy products accounted for 2 percent. All other livestock combined accounted for less than 1 percent of the total cash receipts in Illinois in 2011. Compared to the previous year, cash receipts for cattle increased 5 percent, while cash receipts for dairy increased 21 percent. Cash receipts for hogs and pigs increased 20 percent from 2010.