

# 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 2012, there were 74,300 farms in Illinois that contained 26.6 million acres of land. The average size of the farms in 2012 was 358 acres. The average per acre value of farm real estate as of January 1, 2013, was \$7,800 per acre, compared to \$6,700 the previous year. The average per acre value of cropland increased 16 percent from \$6,800 in 2012 to \$7,900 in 2013.

## **COMMODITY PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**

Illinois ranked second among all states in soybean production in 2012 but dropped from second to fourth because of a severe drought. Production of corn for grain during 2012 totaled 1.29 billion bushels, a decline of 34 percent from 2011. The corn yield averaged 105 bushels per acre, compared to the 157 bushels average in 2011. Soybean production totaled 383.6 million bushels in 2012, 8 percent lower than the during the 2011 crop season. The soybean yield in 2012 was 43.0 bushels per acre, 4 bushel below 2011.

During 2012, Illinois pork producers marketed 12,302,000 hogs, ranking Illinois fourth among all states. Cattle and calf marketings during 2012 totaled 393,000 head, down 26 percent from the previous year. Illinois rank was 33rd in the United States in the marketing of cattle and calves.

## **CASH RECEIPTS**

Cash receipts from the marketing of all farm commodities in Illinois during 2012 totaled 19.6 billion dollars, an increase of 4 percent over 2011. Receipts from crops totaled 17.0 billion dollars, up 5 percent from 2011. This represented 86.7 percent of total cash receipts. Livestock receipts totaled 2.6 billion dollars and accounted for 13.3 percent of the total.

Cash receipts for corn totaled 10.6 billion dollars which was 62 percent of the all crops total and up 1 percent from 2011. Soybean receipts, at 5.4 billion dollars, increased 14 percent from 2011 and accounted for 32 percent of the all crops total. Wheat cash receipts in 2012 stood at 277 million dollars, 1.6 percent of total all crops receipts.

During 2012, cash receipts increased 4 percent for hogs but decreased 9 percent for cattle. Total receipts for hogs were 1.5 billion dollars, 57 percent of total livestock receipts. Receipts for cattle were 562 million dollars, 22 percent of the livestock total. Receipts for dairy products decreased 5 percent to 376 million dollars.