

## Foreword

Every Minnesotan benefits from the productive capabilities of our state's farm and food sector. Agriculture is a major contributor to our state's economy, creating \$90 billion in economic activity and more than 340,000 jobs. In addition to our 74,000 farms, Minnesota has nearly 1,000 agricultural and food companies. Seven of Minnesota's top 20 public companies have roots in the farm and food sector, and Minnesota has several privately held firms with an agricultural focus on Forbes' List of America's Largest Private Companies.

Our high quality agricultural products are in demand around the globe and as we look toward a future in which the world's food needs are expected to double by 2050, it is evident that agriculture will only become more important and more prominent in the years to come.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's mission is to enhance Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy. As part of that mission, the department helps produce the annual Minnesota Agricultural Statistics book. This book provides information on trends in crop and livestock production, farm income and other data vital to decision makers in the agriculture sector.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Minnesota farmers and agri-businesses who respond to the surveys by the Agricultural Statistics Service. The information published in this book is only possible through their ongoing cooperation and support.



Dave Frederickson, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The 2015 Minnesota Agricultural Statistics bulletin presents the statistics for 2014 from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. This publication documents Minnesota's farmers' efforts in feeding the nation and the world. Production from our farmers has Minnesota ranked in the top ten leading states for several commodities. Agriculture plays a key role in the Minnesota economy and helps make Minnesota a great place to live and grow.

These statistics provide a voice for farmers and also provide facts to build for the future of agriculture. I say "Thank you" to the farmers and agribusiness people and County FAC members who participate in USDA NASS surveys. Your participation allows your voice to be heard and your future to be shaped on facts for all agriculture. As always, USDA NASS counts agriculture because "Agriculture Counts"!

If you would like additional information, e-mail us at [nassrfoumr@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nassrfoumr@nass.usda.gov) or call us at 1-651-728-3113. You can also access our reports at [www.nass.usda.gov/mn](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mn).



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