

## Foreword

When people outside Minnesota think of our state, they may typically think of our 10,000 lakes, our north woods, and our cold winters. However, agriculture has always been at the heart of our state's economy and its way of life.

Ranking in the top ten among all states, Minnesota serves as a world-class provider of many top-quality agricultural products for consumers around the globe. Minnesota's agriculture industry supports many other industries as well, such as manufacturing, transportation, wholesale and retail trade, services, construction, banking, insurance and real estate.

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 a wide range of high-quality 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 2016 Minnesota Agricultural Statistics bulletin presents the statistics for 2015 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 [nassrfourmr@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nassrfourmr@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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