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Nebraska Agriculture

This report highlights the importance of agriculture to Nebraska. In 2003, the State's 48,500 farms and ranches utilized 45.9 million acres or about 94 percent of the State's total land area. Agriculture is Nebraska's primary source of wealth and its dominant industry. Approximately one-fifth of Nebraska workers depend on agriculture and the many related industries involved in all phases of the food and fiber chain from production to marketing for their employment.

The Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service compiled this report as a service to the public, foreign interests looking to buy Nebraska products, and the many farmers, ranchers and agricultural service firms who voluntarily provide survey data to make reliable agricultural estimates possible. Crop and livestock reports date back to the beginning of this country. The National agency issued the first official monthly crop report in 1863. These statistics reports continue to inform both buyers and sellers, helping to keep agricultural markets updated, stable, and efficient - and help to maintain a "level playing field" for all.

We hope this report will be useful and answer many questions about Nebraska agriculture. If more information is needed, please contact us at the address shown above.

Nebraska Farms and Ranches and Land in Farms

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Size of Farms
	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
1960	93,000	48,200	518
1970	73,000	48,100	659
1980	65,000	47,700	734
1990	57,000	47,100	826
1995	56,000	46,400	829
1996	56,000	46,400	829
1997	55,000	46,400	844
1998	55,000	46,400	844
1999	54,000	46,300	857
2000	52,000	46,100	887
2001	50,000	46,000	920
2002	49,400	45,900	929
2003	48,500	45,900	946

Agro Climatic Resources

Nebraska is located in the mid-section of the United States (latitude 40°N-43°N; longitude 96°W-104°W). Hot summers and cold winters, variability in rainfall distribution, fluctuating length of growing season, and frequent winds typify Nebraska's climate and each has affected agricultural production decisions and resource distribution over the years. Average "precipitation" during the last decade ranged from slightly under 30 inches in the southeast to slightly under 17 inches in the west. About 75 percent of the precipitation falls as rain during April - September, the crop growing season. Average growing season ranges from 170 days in the southeast to 120 days in the extreme northwest. The southeast is about 1,000 feet above sea level, while the Panhandle has elevations of 4,000 - 5,400 feet. "Irrigation," near 8.2 million acres, provides a buffer against drought, a serious recurrent problem for the Great Plains. A careful selection of adaptable crops, improved varieties, use of strip and contour cropping, stubble mulching, deferred grazing and other proven practices enable Nebraska farmers to cope with climatic uncertainty and supply domestic and international markets with top quality products.

Water Resources

Nebraska is a water-rich State. Underneath over half of its 49-million-acre land surface, in porous rock beds called aquifers, is stored about 2 billion acre-feet of good quality groundwater, most of which is readily accessible. Add to that an average of 80 to 100 million acre-feet of annual precipitation and an annual surface-water inflow of roughly 2 million acre-feet to obtain a measure of available water. In terms of surface water, approximately 7 to 8 million acre-feet flows on to other States, making Nebraska a donor of approximately 5 to 6 million acre-feet more than flows into its borders. Groundwater irrigation began in the 1920's. At the beginning of 1975, nearly 46,000 registered irrigation wells and about 5,000 surface water rights supplied 4 million acres. Currently, 86,101 registered wells and some 8,435 surface water rights supply water to nearly 8.2 million acres of crop and pastureland.

Soil Resources

Nebraska soils are a product of interaction of climate and biological organisms on parent materials as modified by local topography, drainage, and exposure to weathering. Two types of geologic deposits are parent materials for the vast majority of soils in the State. Wind-blown sand is the parent material in the Sandhills grazing region that occupies much of the north-central part of the State. Elsewhere, most soils have formed in wind-blown silt and clay or loess. Topography and subsequent soil drainage have greatly influenced development of soil properties in local areas.



Land Uses

Nebraska's 45.9 million acres in farms and ranches is divided between cropland and other land used primarily for pastures and rangeland to support the State's livestock industry. In 2003, the area planted to crops and used for hay totaled 19.2 million acres. Active participation in government acreage reduction programs has reduced planted acreages in some years. Comparable area planted estimates for 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 were 19.3, 19.1, 19.2 and 18.9 million acres, respectively.

Corn, soybeans, winter wheat and sorghum are the State's leading crops, utilizing 15.2 million acres of cropland in 2003. Corn and winter wheat are grown essentially Statewide, while most soybeans are produced in the eastern one-half of Nebraska. Primary sorghum producing counties lie in the southeastern one-third of the State. The specialty crops of dry edible beans and sugarbeets are produced in western irrigated fields. Sandhill pastures of north central Nebraska produce much of the State's wild hay production and maintain many cow/calf operations.

Nebraska Crop Summary, Selected Years and 2003, Domestic Units

Year	Planted ¹	Harvested	Yield	Production
Corn for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	7,800	7,100	85.0	603,500
1985	7,800	7,450	128.0	953,600
1990	7,700	7,300	128.0	934,400
1995	8,000	7,700	111.0	854,700
2000	8,500	8,050	126.0	1,014,300
2001	8,100	7,750	*147.0	1,139,250
2002	8,400	7,350	128.0	940,800
2003	8,100	7,700	146.0	1,124,200

Soybeans				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	1,830	1,770	30.0	53,100
1985	2,400	2,360	36.0	84,960
1990	2,400	2,360	34.5	81,420
1995	3,100	3,060	33.0	100,980
2000	4,650	4,575	38.0	173,850
2001	*4,950	*4,900	45.5	*222,950
2002	4,700	4,580	38.5	176,330
2003	4,550	4,490	40.0	179,600

All Wheat				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	3,000	2,850	38.0	108,300
1985	2,600	2,300	39.0	89,700
1990	2,450	2,250	38.0	85,500
1995	2,150	2,100	41.0	86,100
2000	1,750	1,650	36.0	59,400
2001	1,750	1,600	37.0	59,200
2002	1,650	1,520	33.0	50,160
2003	1,900	1,820	46.0	83,720

Sorghum for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	2,200	2,030	60.0	121,800
1985	2,100	1,930	80.0	154,400
1990	1,600	1,410	77.0	108,570
1995	1,250	980	58.0	56,840
2000	600	500	70.0	35,000
2001	550	425	84.0	35,700
2002	450	320	50.0	16,000
2003	660	500	62.0	31,000

All Hay				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
1980	3,700	1.91	7,083	
1985	3,300	2.05	6,755	
1990	3,650	1.97	7,205	
1995	3,150	2.29	7,200	
2000	2,950	2.02	5,945	
2001	3,200	2.31	7,400	
2002	3,050	1.89	5,750	
2003	3,150	*2.41	7,600	

Alfalfa Hay				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
1980	1,650	3.05	5,033	
1985	1,400	3.40	4,760	
1990	1,450	3.30	4,785	
1995	1,350	3.60	4,860	
2000	1,350	3.10	4,185	
2001	1,400	3.55	4,970	
2002	1,350	3.00	4,050	
2003	1,450	3.60	5,220	

Wild Hay				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
1980	1,750	.90	1,575	
1985	1,550	.88	1,365	
1990	1,600	.92	1,472	
1995	1,500	1.19	1,785	
1999	1,500	*1.27	1,905	
2000	1,405	1.03	1,442	
2001	1,430	1.17	1,670	
2002 ²				

¹ Planted for all purposes. ² Estimates discontinued. * Record high.

Year	Planted ¹	Harvested	Yield	Production
Irrigated Corn for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980		4,950	101.0	499,950
1985		5,050	141.5	714,800
1990		5,050	145.5	734,775
1995	5,283	5,125	130.1	666,725
2000	4,975	4,800	154.4	741,300
2001	4,730	4,550	173.0	787,250
2002	4,850	4,680	166.2	777,930
2003	4,885	4,765	*185.5	*883,670

Dry Edible Beans				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>
1980	160	150	1,820	2,730
1985	165	151	1,850	2,794
1990	*260	*254	1,970	*5,004
1995	225	205	1,750	3,588
2000	165	156	2,070	3,230
2001	160	148	*2,150	3,185
2002	185	165	2,100	3,465
2003	155	148	2,130	3,151

Sugarbeets				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Tons</i>
1980	87.0	85.0	20.9	1,777
1985	59.1	53.2	23.1	1,229
1990	75.1	71.0	21.0	1,491
1995	75.9	72.3	16.4	1,186
2000	78.2	54.8	20.3	1,112
2001	48.6	41.4	20.3	840
2002	57.0	42.0	18.1	760
2003	45.3	42.4	20.3	861

Oats				
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
1980	525	380	41.0	15,580
1985	550	420	61.0	25,620
1990	450	280	48.0	13,440
1995	155	90	50.0	4,500
2000	130	45	42.0	1,890
2001	155	60	61.0	3,660
2002	175	55	43.0	2,365
2003	220	90	*73.0	6,570

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Crops Record Highs Through 2003

Crops	Year	Record High	Unit
Corn	1932	10,005,000	Acres
for	2001	147.0	Bushels
Grain	1998	1,239,750,000	Bushels
Soybeans	2001	4,900,000	Acres
	1994	47.0	Bushels
	2001	222,950,000	Bushels
All Wheat	1938	4,691,000	Acres
	1999	48.0	Bushels
	1958	113,488,000	Bushels
Sorghum	1965	2,271,000	Acres
for	1994	98.0	Bushels
Grain	1981	164,800,000	Bushels
All Hay	1954	5,595,000	Acres
	1999 & 2003	2.41	Tons
	1982	7,855,000	Tons

Nebraska's Rank Among States in 2003

Rank	Commodity	Number	Unit
1	Great northern bean production	1,743,000	Cwt.
2	Pinto beans production	1,019,000	Cwt.
2	Alfalfa hay production	5,220,000	Tons
3	Corn for grain production	1,124,200,000	Bushels
3	Sorghum for grain production	31,000,000	Bushels
4	On-farm grain storage capacity	960,000,000	Bushels
4	Off-farm grain storage capacity	711,910,000	Bushels
4	All hay production	7,600,000	Tons
5	Soybean production	179,600,000	Bushels
5	Winter wheat production	83,720,000	Bushels
7	Sugarbeet production	861,000	Tons
7	Crops cash receipts, 2002	3,764,363,000	Dollars

Nebraska Crop Summary, Selected Years and 2003, Metric Units

Year	Planted ¹	Harvested	Yield	Production
Corn for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	3,157	2,873	5.34	15,330
1985	3,157	3,015	8.03	24,222
1990	3,116	2,954	8.03	23,735
1995	3,238	3,116	6.97	21,710
2000	3,440	3,258	7.91	25,764
2001	3,278	3,136	*9.23	28,938
2002	3,399	2,975	8.03	23,897
2003	3,278	3,116	9.16	28,556

Soybeans				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	741	716	2.02	1,445
1985	971	955	2.42	2,312
1990	971	955	2.32	2,216
1995	1,255	1,238	2.22	2,748
2000	1,882	1,851	2.56	4,732
2001	*2,003	*1,983	3.06	*6,068
2002	1,902	1,854	2.59	4,799
2003	1,841	1,817	2.69	4,888

All Wheat				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	1,214	1,153	2.56	2,947
1985	1,052	931	2.62	2,441
1990	992	911	2.56	2,327
1995	870	850	2.76	2,343
2000	708	668	2.42	1,617
2001	708	648	2.49	1,611
2002	668	615	2.22	1,365
2003	769	737	3.09	2,279

Sorghum for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	890	822	3.77	3,094
1985	850	781	5.02	3,922
1990	648	571	4.83	2,758
1995	506	397	3.64	1,444
2000	243	202	4.39	889
2001	223	172	5.27	907
2002	182	130	3.14	406
2003	267	202	3.89	787

All Hay				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980		1,497	4.29	6,426
1985		1,335	4.59	6,128
1990		1,477	4.42	6,536
1995		1,275	5.12	6,532
2000		1,194	4.52	5,393
2001		1,295	5.18	6,713
2002		1,234	4.23	5,216
2003		1,275	*5.41	6,895

Alfalfa Hay				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980		668	6.84	4,566
1985		567	7.62	4,318
1990		587	7.40	4,341
1995		546	8.07	4,409
2000		546	6.95	3,797
2001		567	7.96	4,509
2002		546	6.72	3,674
2003		587	8.07	4,736

Wild Hay				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980		708	2.02	1,429
1985		627	1.97	1,238
1990		648	2.06	1,335
1995		607	2.67	1,619
1999		607	*2.85	1,728
2000		569	2.30	1,308
2001		579	2.62	1,515
2002 ²				

Year	Planted ¹	Harvested	Yield	Production
Irrigated Corn for Grain				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980		2,003	6.34	12,699
1985		2,044	8.88	18,157
1990		2,044	9.13	18,664
1995	2,138	2,074	8.17	16,935
2000	2,013	1,943	9.69	18,830
2001	1,914	1,841	10.86	19,997
2002	1,963	1,894	10.43	19,760
2003	1,977	1,928	*11.64	*22,446

Dry Edible Beans				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	65	61	2.04	124
1985	67	61	2.08	127
1990	*105	*103	2.21	*227
1995	91	83	1.96	163
2000	67	63	2.32	147
2001	65	60	*2.41	145
2002	75	67	2.36	157
2003	63	60	2.39	143

Sugarbeets				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	35.2	34.4	46.86	1,612
1985	23.9	21.5	51.79	1,115
1990	30.4	28.7	47.07	1,353
1995	30.7	29.3	36.77	1,076
2000	31.6	22.2	45.49	1,009
2001	19.7	16.8	45.48	762
2002	23.1	17.0	40.56	689
2003	18.3	17.2	45.52	781

Oats				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	212	154	1.47	226
1985	223	170	2.19	372
1990	182	113	1.72	195
1995	63	36	1.79	65
2000	53	18	1.51	27
2001	63	24	2.19	53
2002	71	22	1.54	34
2003	89	36	*2.62	95

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Crops Record Highs Through 2003

Crops		Year	Record High
Corn for Grain	Harvested	1932	4,049,000 Hectares
	Yield	2001	9.23 Metric Tons
Soybeans	Production	1998	31,491,000 Metric Tons
	Harvested	2001	1,983,000 Hectares
All Wheat	Yield	1994	3.16 Metric Tons
	Production	2001	6,068,000 Metric Tons
Sorghum for Grain	Harvested	1938	1,898,000 Hectares
	Yield	1999	3.23 Metric Tons
All Hay	Production	1958	3,087,000 Metric Tons
	Harvested	1965	919,000 Hectares
Alfalfa Hay	Yield	1994	6.15 Metric Tons
	Production	1981	4,186,000 Metric Tons
Wild Hay	Harvested	1954	2,264,000 Hectares
	Yield	1999 & 2003	5.41 Metric Tons
Production	1982	7,126,000 Metric Tons	

Nebraska's Rank Among States in 2003

Rank	Commodity	Number	Unit
1	Great northern bean production	79,000	Metric Tons
2	Pinto beans production	46,000	Metric Tons
2	Alfalfa hay production	4,736,000	Metric Tons
3	Corn for grain production	28,556,000	Metric Tons
3	Sorghum for grain production	787,000	Metric Tons
4	On-farm grain storage capacity	24,385,000	Metric Tons
4	Off-farm grain storage capacity	18,083,000	Metric Tons
4	All hay production	6,895,000	Metric Tons
5	Soybean production	4,888,000	Metric Tons
5	Winter wheat production	2,279,000	Metric Tons
7	Sugarbeet production	781,000	Metric Tons
7	Crops cash receipts, 2002	3,764,363,000	Dollars

¹ Planted for all purposes. ² Estimates discontinued. * Record high.

Nebraska Livestock and Poultry Summary

Highlights

- * 2 of every 3 farms have sales of livestock, poultry, and products.
- * Cash receipts from livestock, poultry, and products accounted for about 61% of total cash receipts in 2002.
- * National rank among States (Number and Date):
 - 1st - Commercial red meat production (7.2 billion lbs. 2003)
 - 1st - Commercial cattle slaughter (7.7 million - 2003)
 - 3rd - Cattle on feed (2.45 million - 1/04)
 - 3rd - Cattle & calves (6.25 million - 1/04)
 - 3rd - Fed cattle marketed, 1000+ lots (4.6 million - 2003)
 - 3rd - Livestock cash receipts (\$5.8 billion - 2002)
 - 4th - Beef cows (1.85 million - 1/04)
 - 5th - Calves born (1.77 million - 2003)
 - 6th - Commercial Hog slaughter (6.9 million - 2003)
 - 7th - Hogs & pigs (2.90 million - 12/03)
 - 12th - Chickens (14.2 million - 12/03)
 - 13th - Honey production (3.33 million lbs. - 2003)
 - 15th - Sheep & lambs (102,000 - 1/04)

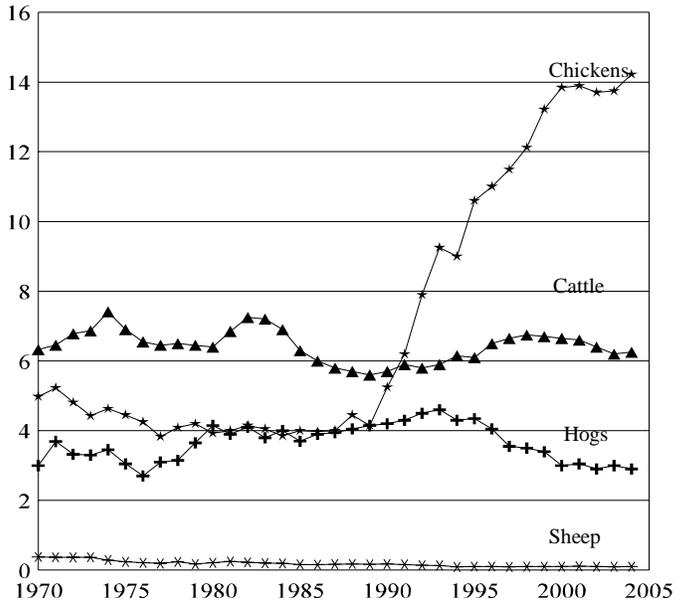
Number of Operations with Livestock, 1994-2003

Year	Cattle	Beef ¹ Cows	Milk ¹ Cows	Hogs	Sheep	Cattle Feedlots ¹	
						All	1000+
<i>Number</i>							
1994	29,000	23,000	2,000	11,000	1,700	5,700	650
1995	28,000	23,000	1,800	10,000	1,700	5,600	655
1996	28,000	23,000	1,600	8,500	1,700	5,400	670
1997	28,000	23,000	1,500	6,500	1,700	5,100	665
1998	28,000	23,000	1,400	5,900	1,700	5,000	665
1999	27,000	23,000	1,300	5,000	1,700	5,020	685
2000	26,000	23,000	1,200	4,000	1,700	5,200	695
2001	25,000	22,000	1,100	3,400	1,600	5,100	720
2002	25,000	21,000	1,000	3,200	1,500	5,000	740
2003	25,000	21,000	900	3,000	1,500	4,900	760

¹ Included in number of cattle operations.

Trends in Livestock and Poultry Inventories

Million Head



Livestock Record Highs to Date

Commodity	Number	Mo./Yr.
Cattle & Calves	7.41 million head	1/74
Cattle on Feed	2.55 million head	1/01
Fed Cattle Marketed	5.185 million head	2000
Milk Cows	820 thousand head	1/34
Hogs & Pigs	5.98 million head	1/24
Sheep & Lambs	1.26 million head	1/43
Chickens	19.9 million head	1/44

Livestock Inventories, Selected Years

Year	All Cattle	Beef Cows	Milk Cows	Hogs & Pigs	All Sheep	All Chickens
	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Jan. 1	Dec. 1	Jan. 1	Dec. 1
<i>1,000 Head</i>						
1970	6,330	1,915	175	3,691	377	5,230
1980	6,400	1,950	120	3,900	210	4,000
1990	5,700	1,760	100	4,300	177	6,200
1998	6,750	1,940	70	3,400	100	13,219
1999	6,700	1,978	72	3,000	105	13,846
2000	6,650	1,974	76	3,050	102	13,895
2001	6,600	1,945	75	2,900	114	13,704
2002	6,400	1,932	68	3,000	101	13,747
2003	6,200	1,934	66	2,900	97	14,223
2004	6,250	1,848	62		102	

Commercial Cattle & Hog Slaughter, Selected Years

Year	Coml. Cattle Slaughter		Coml. Hog Slaughter	
	1,000 Head	NE % of U.S.	1,000 Head	NE % of U.S.
	1970	4,338	12.4	2,566
1980	5,612	16.6	4,581	4.8
1990	5,882	17.7	5,401	6.3
1997	7,408	20.4	5,776	6.3
1998	7,300	20.6	6,286	6.2
1999	7,436	20.6	6,356	6.3
2000	7,617	21.0	6,270	6.4
2001	7,694	21.8	6,681	6.8
2002	7,862	22.0	6,945	6.9
2003	7,661	21.6	6,874	6.8

Number of Livestock Slaughter Plants, F.I. Cattle & Hog Slaughter, Selected Years

Year	Slaughtering Plants			Cattle		Hogs	
	F.I. ¹	Other	Total	Plants	Head	Plants	Head
<i>Number</i>							
1980	72	159	231	67	5,607	46	4,532
1990	49	140	189	47	5,834	36	5,348
1997	40	84	124	36	7,470	24	5,836
1998	39	78	117	33	7,254	22	6,235
1999	34	82	116	29	7,394	20	6,311
2000	33	81	114	32	7,592	22	6,252
2001	34	78	112	32	7,649	23	6,643
2002	35	76	111	31	7,808	22	6,900
2003	34	69	103	31	7,715	21	6,957
2004	35	66	101				

¹ F.I. - Federally Inspected.

Cattle in Nebraska

- * In 2002, cash receipts total \$5.0 billion, or 52% of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- * Account for about 6.6% of the Nation's cattle herd, 5.6% of the Nation's beef cow herd, and 18% of the Nation's cattle on feed.
- * Central and western feeding expanding:
In 1954, 75% of cattle were placed in eastern one-third of State.
Recently, about 40% the fed cattle were placed in eastern lots.
- * Feeding more cattle in fewer feedlots:
In 1962, operators of 24,303 lots marketed 1.8 million fed cattle.
In 2003, only 4,900 lots marketed 4.9 million.
- * Commercial cattle slaughter totaled about 7.7 million head in 2003 and 21.6% of U.S. total cattle slaughter.

Cattle Statistics, Selected Years

Year	All Cattle & Calves	All Cows	Calf Crop	All Cattle on Feed
<i>1,000 Head</i>				
1960	5,072	1,855	1,689	
1970	6,330	2,090	2,006	1,477
1980	6,400	2,070	1,970	1,680
1990	5,700	1,860	1,730	2,060
2000	6,650	2,050	1,840	2,440
2001	6,600	2,020	1,820	2,550
2002	6,400	2,000	1,820	2,370
2003	6,200	2,000	1,770	2,300
2004	6,250	1,910		2,450

Cattle Placed in Feedlots and Percent by Areas, Selected Years

Item or Area	1954 ¹	1964	1974	1984	1994 ²	1998 ²	1999 ²	2000 ²	2001 ²	2002 ²	2003 ²
<i>1,000 Head</i>											
Nebraska Annual Cattle Placed	1,065	2,441	3,551	4,660	4,319	4,510	5,110	5,105	4,540	4,640	4,820
<i>Percent of Total Placed</i>											
Overview by Areas:											
NE, E & SE	74.8	68.6	64.5	50.1	44.4	38.3	39.6	39.7	39.9	40.8	³
Rest of State	25.2	31.4	35.5	49.9	55.6	61.7	60.4	60.3	60.1	59.2	³

¹ Series started in 1954. ² Estimates for lots with 1,000+ head capacity only. ³ Discontinued.

Percent of Fed Cattle Marketed by Capacity of Feedlots, Selected Years

Feedlot Capacity	1962 ¹	1964	1974	1984	1994	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<i>Percent of Total Marketed</i>											
Under 1,000 head	72.6	61.4	39.6	30.1	12.8	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.2
1,000-8,000 head	19.7	26.7	31.5	29.8	35.5	35.1	34.2	35.1	35.7	36.7	35.3
8,000-32,000 head	7.7	11.9	20.7	28.0	40.5	44.4	46.5	46.9	45.5	44.2	45.4
32,000+ head			8.2	12.1	11.2	15.0	13.6	12.2	12.6	13.0	13.1
Total Marketed											
All Lots (000)	1,822	2,436	3,355	4,220	4,715	4,700	5,060	5,185	4,875	4,910	4,865

¹ Series started in 1962.

Hogs and Pigs in Nebraska

- * December 1, 2003 hog numbers totaled 2.90 million head, down 3% from the 3.0 million December 1, 2002.
- * Cash receipts in 2002 totaled \$584 million or about 6.1% of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- * Account for about 4.8% of the Nation's hog herd.
- * Commercial hog slaughter, at 6.9 million head in 2003 was 6.8% of U.S. total hog slaughter.

Poultry in Nebraska

- * Chicken inventory totaled 14.2 million head on December 1, 2003, up 3% from December 1, 2002.
- * In 2002, cash receipts for chicken eggs were \$85 million, 0.9% of the State's total agricultural receipts.
- * Broiler production increased to 4.0 million head in 2003.
- * Nebraska ranked 7th in 2003 for table egg production.

Hogs and Pigs Statistics, Selected Years

Year	December 1 Inventory	Annual Sows Farrowed ¹	Litter Rate ¹	Annual Pig Crop ¹
<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Number</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>
1960	2,527	565	7.03	3,972
1970	3,691	815	7.19	5,862
1980	3,900	853	7.36	6,290
1990	4,300	865	7.98	6,900
2000	3,050	625	8.84	5,525
2001	2,900	620	8.75	5,425
2002	3,000	710	8.96	6,365
2003	2,900	730	8.86	6,470

¹ December previous year - November current year.

Poultry Statistics, Selected Years

Year	Eggs Prod.	Chickens Dec. 1 ¹	Broiler Prod. ²	Chickens Sold ²
<i>Million</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
1960	1,843	10,425	2,175	4,798
1970	858	5,230	1,371	2,398
1980	847	4,000	2,000	1,600
1990	1,202	6,200	2,950	1,345
2000	2,999	13,895	3,400	6,193
2001	3,001	13,704	3,400	4,830
2002	2,977	13,747	3,700	5,161
2003	3,126	14,223	4,000	5,387

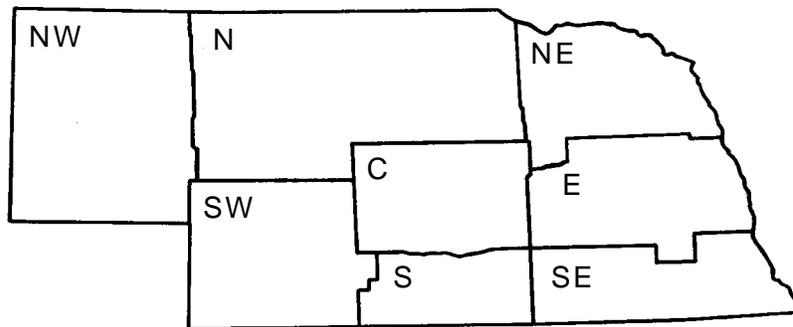
¹ Excludes commercial broilers. ² December previous year - November current year.

Nebraska's Top Ten Producing Counties, Selected Commodities, 2003

Rank	Corn for Grain		Soybeans		Winter Wheat		Sorghum for Grain	
	District	County	District	County	District	County	District	County
1	E	York	E	Saunders	NW	Cheyenne	SE	Nuckolls
2	E	Hamilton	E	Platte	SW	Perkins	SE	Thayer
3	C	Hall	S	Phelps	NW	Box Butte	SE	Saline
4	C	Dawson	NE	Antelope	S	Furnas	SE	Gage
5	C	Buffalo	NE	Cuming	NW	Deuel	SE	Jefferson
6	S	Phelps	SE	Fillmore	SW	Red Willow	S	Furnas
7	C	Custer	E	Seward	NW	Kimball	SE	Fillmore
8	SW	Lincoln	E	Dodge	SW	Chase	S	Webster
9	S	Adams	E	York	SW	Hitchcock	S	Harlan
10	N	Holt	NE	Madison	SE	Nuckolls	SE	Clay

Rank	Oats for Grain		Sunflowers		All Cattle and Calves January 1, 2003		Beef Cows January 1, 2003	
	District	County	District	County	District	County	District	County
1	NE	Knox	SW	Perkins	N	Cherry	N	Cherry
2	NE	Cedar	NW	Kimball	C	Custer	C	Custer
3	NE	Thurston	NW	Sheridan	C	Dawson	N	Holt
4	N	Holt	NW	Cheyenne	NE	Cuming	NW	Sheridan
5	N	Boyd	SW	Red Willow	N	Holt	SW	Lincoln
6	NE	Dixon	NW	Box Butte	SW	Lincoln	C	Dawson
7	NW	Sheridan	SW	Frontier	S	Phelps	NE	Knox
8	SW	Frontier	NW	Deuel	NW	Scotts Bluff	N	Rock
9	NE	Wayne	SW	Keith	NW	Sheridan	C	Buffalo
10	C	Custer	NW	Banner	NW	Morrill	SW	Frontier

Nebraska's Agricultural Statistics Districts



Nebraska's Usual Planting and Harvesting Dates, Selected Crops ¹

Crop	Usual Planting Dates			Usual Harvesting Dates		
	Begin	Most Active	End	Begin	Most Active	End
Barley, Spring	Mar 20	Mar 25 - Apr	Apr 18	Jul 18	Jul 20 - Jul 25	Jul 30
Beans, Dry	May 26	Jun 9 - Jun 16	Jun 23	Sep 8	Sep 15 - Sep 29	Oct 13
Corn, for Grain	Apr 21	May 3 - May	Jun 1	Sep 21	Oct 11 - Nov 6	Dec 1
Corn, for Silage	Apr 21	May 3 - May	Jun 1	Aug 25	Sep 5 - Sep 25	Oct 10
Hay, Alfalfa				May 10		Oct 5
Hay, Other				Jun 5		Sep 20
Oats, Spring	Mar 24	Apr 2 - Apr 27	May 9	Jul 4	Jul 15 - Aug 2	Aug 12
Rye	Aug 30	Sep 12 - Sep 26	Oct 6	Jun 30	Jul 12 - Jul 30	Aug 8
Sorghum, for	May 11	May 20 - Jun 8	Jun 19	Sep 19	Oct 8 - Oct 30	Nov 17
Sorghum, for	May 11	May 20 - Jun 8	Jun 19	Aug 25	Sep 10 - Sep 30	Oct 10
Soybeans	May 9	May 18 - Jun 4	Jun 17	Sep 19	Sep 30 - Oct 15	Oct 27
Sugarbeets	Apr 1	Apr 10 - Apr	May 5	Oct 5	Oct 10 - Oct 30	Nov 5
Wheat, Winter	Aug 30	Sep 12 - Sep 26	Oct 6	Jun 26	Jul 7 - Jul 26	Aug 8

¹ Source: USDA's Usual Planting and Harvesting Dates for U.S. Field Crops, December 1997.

**Nebraska Precipitation Data
by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 1984-2003 ¹**

Year	Agricultural Statistics Districts							
	Northwest	North	Northeast	Central	East	Southwest	South	Southeast
	<i>Inches</i>							
1984	15.35	24.40	36.34	31.33	36.59	21.12	24.51	34.89
1985	14.65	21.03	26.35	27.73	29.88	18.87	26.07	30.26
1986	20.11	27.12	32.72	25.02	38.34	17.91	22.46	38.63
1987	18.09	24.06	26.40	28.26	32.59	22.32	29.23	37.80
1988	16.92	23.41	20.70	22.13	20.15	20.32	20.53	18.38
1989	11.92	13.44	17.20	20.38	22.26	16.17	20.93	24.49
1990	16.59	21.11	25.60	22.79	27.31	17.13	23.17	26.57
1991	16.70	21.41	26.24	23.03	30.32	21.19	21.57	26.61
1992	17.11	24.34	33.76	24.94	31.87	22.10	24.70	37.17
1993	21.80	28.72	35.72	34.02	39.71	27.05	38.64	48.25
1994	14.07	22.79	27.12	23.24	26.83	19.24	23.47	26.32
1995	20.48	28.78	32.24	24.33	24.87	20.31	23.36	29.21
1996	18.61	23.13	27.61	26.31	30.79	24.86	32.02	34.91
1997	18.00	21.47	22.17	23.39	25.45	19.00	22.78	30.59
1998	19.56	26.73	33.52	25.29	34.31	18.65	23.68	34.36
1999	18.53	21.24	27.63	25.27	30.48	21.77	25.00	27.16
2000	17.37	19.47	23.31	20.36	23.83	17.43	22.76	24.76
2001	16.67	25.44	31.93	23.63	28.07	20.06	25.95	38.86
2002	9.95	14.74	20.74	15.77	23.33	11.64	15.79	23.28
2003	15.45	17.49	24.79	20.47	25.48	16.78	19.89	28.52

¹ Source: NOAA/National Climatic Data Center.

**Number of Days Temperature 95 Degrees Fahrenheit or Above
by Agricultural Statistics Districts, Selected Reporting Stations, May-September, 1984-2003 ¹**

Year	Agricultural Statistics Districts, Reporting Station							
	Northwest (Alliance)	North (Atkinson)	Northeast (Hartington)	Central (Broken Bow)	East (David City)	Southwest (Culbertson)	South (Franklin)	Southeast (Pawnee City)
	<i>Number of Days</i>							
1984	4	18	5	12	15	29	23	25
1985	11	10	3	13	9	24	21	14
1986	8	10	2	14	6	19	16	16
1987	19	13	14	16	19	27	11	20
1988	23	25	23	14	25	28	28	35
1989	18	11	14	6	11	20	9	19
1990	14	15	12	15	10	35	13	27
1991	14	22	15	13	14	21	19	30
1992	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
1993	0	2	0	0	1	6	2	9
1994	18	1	1	3	2	23	12	17
1995	26	17	14	7	13	33	23	19
1996	6	0	0	0	0	9	5	7
1997	18	12	2	5	5	24	20	13
1998	10	9	1	6	2	25	22	5
1999	17	11	4	2	3	20	15	25
2000	25	22	8	15	12	51	46	18
2001	17	11	2	6	15	46	25	11
2002	18	29	13	19	13	51	39	28
2003	24	14	3	10	15	39	24	22

¹ Source: High Plains Climate Center, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nebraska Agriculture Economics

Nebraska All Land Average Value per Acre by Statistical District, Selected Years

District	Selected Years						
	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2002	2003
	<i>Dollars</i>						
Northwest	239	250	269	275	274	283	276
North	226	251	275	285	312	321	308
Northeast	790	860	962	1,052	1,107	1,221	1,266
Central	693	744	833	859	854	896	939
East	1,217	1,378	1,600	1,718	1,747	1,768	1,850
Southwest	346	384	417	439	471	500	467
South	885	944	1,066	1,099	1,060	1,096	1,102
Southeast	845	925	1,057	1,111	1,143	1,204	1,204
State	531	582	654	690	709	749	757

Source: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Developments 2002-2003, Department of Agricultural Economics, UNL.

Nebraska Selected Land Average Cash Rental Rates per Acre by Statistical District, 2002-2003

District	Dryland Cropland		Gravity Irrigated Cropland		Center Pivot Irrigated Cropland		Pastureland	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>	
Northwest	21	22	84	86	96	97	8	7
North	38	32	100	98	108	105	13	11
Northeast	85	86	124	120	132	137	33	33
Central	54	59	128	129	131	134	24	23
East	87	89	136	135	146	145	32	28
Southwest	31	32	104	97	115	115	12	11
South	53	52	128	125	133	135	21	22
Southeast	69	71	131	128	135	138	25	24

Source: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Developments 2002-2003, Department of Agricultural Economics, UNL.

Prices Received by Nebraska Farmers, Selected Years ¹

Commodity	1970	1980	1990	2000	2002	2003
	<i>Dollars</i>					
Corn, Bu.	1.25	3.08	2.28	1.90	2.32	2.45
Soybeans, Bu.	2.78	7.25	5.59	4.44	5.43	7.10
Sorghum, Cwt.	1.93	5.09	3.66	3.28	4.23	4.30
All Wheat, Bu.	1.22	3.82	2.53	2.61	3.60	3.25
Oats, Bu.	.65	1.85	1.19	1.42	2.00	1.50
All Hay, Ton	21.00	55.00	58.00	69.50	85.00	65.00
Sugarbeets, Ton	14.80	47.00	40.10	29.20	40.00	
Dry Beans, Cwt.	8.00	26.90	16.90	15.80	18.60	17.00
Steers & Heifers, Cwt.	29.10	66.70	80.00	70.00	69.10	85.00
Cows, Cwt.	20.50	45.80	52.00	38.40	36.00	44.00
Calves, Cwt.	35.30	78.70	100.00	106.00	100.00	110.00
Hogs, Cwt.	22.30	38.10	54.80	44.30	36.60	39.30
Sheep, Cwt.	7.30	24.50	21.90	34.60	27.40	33.20
Lambs, Cwt.	27.50	64.30	54.00	76.20	73.60	90.60
Milk Cows ²	298	1,130	1,130	1,290	1,620	1,370

¹Crops prices for 1980 are season average prices; beginning 1985 prices are marketing year average prices received. 2003 preliminary. ² Calendar year average, dollars per head.

Nebraska Total Farm Income, 1998-2002

Year	Gross Income ¹	Farm Production Expenses	Net Farm Income	Net Farm Income Per Farm
	<i>Million Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>	
1998	10,591.5	8,805.3	1,786.2	32,476
1999	10,700.5	8,997.4	1,703.1	31,539
2000	10,895.4	9,525.2	1,370.2	26,350
2001	11,615.0	9,822.9	1,792.1	35,841
2002	10,271.8	9,291.4	980.5	19,848

¹ See table below for detailed breakdown, including inventory adjustment.

Nebraska Gross Farm Income, 1998-2002

Year	Cash Receipts	Government Payments	Non-Cash Income	Farm-Related Income	Value of Inventory Adjustment
	<i>Million Dollars</i>				
1998	9,017.3	814.7	216.3	601.3	-58.1
1999	8,389.0	1,411.9	218.3	625.4	56.0
2000	8,955.3	1,407.0	226.0	589.3	-282.2
2001	9,221.0	1,297.6	245.2	650.7	200.5
2002	9,588.7	485.1	240.7	731.0	-773.6

Value of Nebraska Agricultural Exports, 1998-2002

Commodity	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
	<i>Million Dollars</i>				
Feed Grains & Products	777.1	875.2	773.9	646.0	778.7
Soybeans & Products	482.3	392.4	452.5	429.3	565.0
Wheat & Products	138.2	152.0	153.7	121.6	142.3
Feeds & Fodders	170.2	164.7	168.7	211.4	181.7
Seeds	29.6	30.2	30.5	24.0	37.1
Vegetables & Preparations	47.5	42.2	37.3	37.6	41.8
Live Animals & Meat	811.0	833.8	1,008.5	955.6	929.8
Hides & Skins	253.0	207.1	268.6	377.7	353.4
Fats, Oils & Greases	126.8	108.5	80.3	63.3	94.9
Dairy Products	15.0	16.2	16.6	19.8	
Other	21.9	20.4	22.8	19.7	20.2
Total	2,872.6	2,842.8	3,013.4	2,906.0	3,144.8

A Bit of Agricultural Statistics Office History

The Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service is a Federal-State cooperative effort of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. A Federal statistics program dates back to 1862 when USDA was founded. This Nebraska cooperative office has been in existence since 1918. It is located in Room 298 of the Federal Building in Lincoln at 100 Centennial Mall North. The office has had three different names: State-Federal Division of Agricultural Statistics (1918-1976), Nebraska Crop and Livestock Reporting Service (1976-1986), and the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (1986 to date). While the office name has changed and survey procedures improved upon, the objective of providing the most accurate and reliable agricultural forecasts and estimates possible has remained unchanged throughout the years. "Voluntary" reporting by many thousands of farmers, ranchers and agri-business firms make these estimates possible in a timely manner.