



Nebraska Agri-Facts Special Edition

100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 437-5541 • (402) 437-5547 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov



Issued April 2009

Joseph L. Parsons, Director

Nebraska Agriculture

This report highlights the importance of agriculture to Nebraska. In 2008, the state's 47,400 farms and ranches utilized 45.6 million acres or about 93 percent of the state's total land area. Agriculture is Nebraska's primary source of wealth and its dominant industry.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office, 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 these 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 statistical 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. More data are available at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Nebraska/index.asp

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, 91,919 registered wells and some 6,302 surface water rights supply water to over 8.6 million acres of harvested cropland, pastureland, and other land.

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 45.6 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 2008, the area planted to crops and used for hay totaled 18.8 million acres. Farmer participation in government programs has impacted total acres planted from year to year.

Corn, soybeans, winter wheat and alfalfa are the state's leading crops, utilizing 16.4 million acres of cropland in 2008. Corn and alfalfa are grown statewide, while most soybeans are produced in the eastern one-half of Nebraska. Primary wheat producing counties lie in the southern and western portions 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 Farms and Ranches and Land in Farms

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms <i>1,000 Acres</i>	Average Size of Farms <i>Acres</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
1980	65,000	47,700	734
1985	60,000	47,200	787
1990	57,000	47,100	826
1995	56,000	46,400	829
2000	52,000	46,100	887
2005	48,000	45,700	952
2007	47,700	45,600	956
2008	47,400	45,600	962

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 30.1 inches in the southeast to 16.4 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" is used by 36 percent of farms, covering 8.6 million acres of harvested cropland, pastureland, and other land, providing a buffer against drought, a serious recurrent problem for the Great Plains. A careful selection of adaptable crops, improved varieties, use of no till, minimum till, 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.

Nebraska Crop Summary, Selected Years and 2008, 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
2005	8,500	8,250	154.0	1,270,500
2007	9,400	9,200	160.0	*1,472,000
2008	8,800	8,550	163.0	1,393,650

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
2005	4,700	4,660	50.5	235,330
2007	3,870	3,850	*51.0	196,350
2008	4,900	4,860	46.5	225,990

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
2005	1,850	1,760	39.0	68,640
2007	2,050	1,960	43.0	84,280
2008	1,750	1,670	44.0	73,480

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
2005	340	250	87.0	21,750
2007	350	240	94.0	22,560
2008	300	210	91.0	19,110

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
2005	150	60	*73.0	4,380
2007	120	35	61.0	2,135
2008	95	35	70.0	2,450

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
2005		2,850	*2.44	6,945
2007		2,650	2.33	6,185
2008		2,570	2.42	6,232

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
2005		1,250	3.70	4,625
2007		1,100	3.65	4,015
2008		970	3.95	3,832

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
2005	5,040	4,925	184.7	909,750
2007	5,845	5,732	181.2	*1,038,500
2008	5,360	5,215	184.0	960,100

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
2005	175	172	2,250	3,870
2007	110	107	2,260	2,418
2008	135	126	*2,290	2,885

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
2005	48.4	45.3	20.4	924
2007	47.5	44.3	23.5	1,041
2008	45.2	37.3	22.6	843

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Crops Record Highs Through 2008

Crops	Year	Record High	
		Value	Unit
Corn for Grain	Harvested	1932	10,005,000 Acres
	Yield	2004	166.0 Bushels
	Production	2007	1,472,000,000 Bushels
Soybeans	Harvested	2006	5,010,000 Acres
	Yield	2007	51.0 Bushels
	Production	2006	250,500,000 Bushels
All Wheat	Harvested	1938	4,691,000 Acres
	Yield	1999	48.0 Bushels
	Production	1958	113,488,000 Bushels
Sorghum For Grain	Harvested	1965	2,271,000 Acres
	Yield	1994	98.0 Bushels
Grain Production	1981	164,800,000 Bushels	
All Hay	Harvested	1954	5,595,000 Acres
	Yield	2005	2.44 Tons
	Production	1982	7,855,000 Tons

Nebraska's Rank Among States in 2008

Rank	Commodity	Number	Unit
1	Great northern bean production	1,369,000	Cwt.
2	Pinto beans production	1,075,000	Cwt.
3	Corn for grain production	1,393,650,000	Bushels
3	Sorghum for grain production	19,110,000	Bushels
4	On-farm grain storage capacity	1,050,000,000	Bushels
4	Off-farm grain storage capacity	778,100,000	Bushels
5	Soybean production	225,990,000	Bushels
6	Sugarbeet production	843,000	Tons
6	All hay production	6,232,000	Tons
6	Cash receipts from crops, 2007	6,197,747,000	Dollars
7	Alfalfa hay production	3,832,000	Tons
9	Winter wheat production	73,480,000	Bushels

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Nebraska Crop Summary, Selected Years and 2008, 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
2005	3,440	3,339	9.67	32,272
2007	3,804	3,723	10.04	*37,390
2008	3,561	3,460	10.23	35,400

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
2005	1,902	1,886	3.40	6,405
2007	1,566	1,558	*3.43	5,344
2008	1,983	1,967	3.13	6,151

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
2005	749	712	2.62	1,868
2007	830	793	2.89	2,294
2008	708	676	2.96	2,000

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
2005	138	101	5.46	552
2007	142	97	5.90	573
2008	121	85	5.71	485

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
2005	61	24	*2.62	64
2007	49	14	2.19	31
2008	38	14	2.51	36

All Hay				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	1,497	1,497	4.29	6,426
1985	1,335	1,335	4.59	6,128
1990	1,477	1,477	4.42	6,536
1995	1,275	1,275	5.12	6,532
2000	1,194	1,194	4.52	5,393
2005	1,153	1,153	*5.46	6,300
2007	1,072	1,072	5.23	5,611
2008	1,040	1,040	5.44	5,654

Alfalfa Hay				
	<i>1,000 Hectares</i>		<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>1,000 Metric Tons</i>
1980	668	668	6.84	4,566
1985	567	567	7.62	4,318
1990	587	587	7.40	4,341
1995	546	546	8.07	4,409
2000	546	546	6.95	3,797
2005	506	506	8.29	4,196
2007	445	445	8.18	3,642
2008	393	393	8.86	3,476

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
2005	2,040	1,993	11.59	23,109
2007	2,365	2,320	11.37	*26,379
2008	2,169	2,110	11.56	24,388

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
2005	71	70	2.52	176
2007	45	43	2.54	110
2008	55	51	*2.57	131

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
2005	19.6	18.3	45.72	838
2007	19.2	17.9	52.68	944
2008	18.3	15.1	50.66	765

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

* Metric ton = 2,204.6 lbs. Hectare = 2.47 acres.

Crops Record Highs Through 2008

Crops		Year	Record High	
Corn for Grain	Harvested	1932	4,049,000	Hectares
	Yield	2004	10.42	Metric Tons
	Production	2007	37,390,000	Metric Tons
Soybeans	Harvested	2006	2,028,000	Hectares
	Yield	2007	3.43	Metric Tons
	Production	2006	6,818,000	Metric Tons
All Wheat	Harvested	1938	1,898,000	Hectares
	Yield	1999	3.23	Metric Tons
	Production	1958	3,087,000	Metric Tons
Sorghum for Grain	Harvested	1965	919,000	Hectares
	Yield	1994	6.15	Metric Tons
	Production	1981	4,186,000	Metric Tons
All Hay	Harvested	1954	2,264,000	Hectares
	Yield	2005	5.46	Metric Tons
	Production	1982	7,126,000	Metric Tons

Nebraska's Rank Among States in 2008

Rank	Commodity	Number	Unit
1	Great northern bean production	62,000	Metric Tons
2	Pinto beans production	49,000	Metric Tons
3	Corn for grain production	35,400,000	Metric Tons
3	Sorghum for grain production	485,000	Metric Tons
4	On-farm grain storage capacity	26,671,000	Metric Tons
4	Off-farm grain storage capacity	19,765,000	Metric Tons
5	Soybean production	6,151,000	Metric Tons
6	Sugarbeet production	765,000	Metric Tons
6	All hay production	5,654,000	Metric Tons
6	Cash receipts from crops, 2007	6,197,747,000	Dollars
7	Alfalfa hay production	3,476,000	Metric Tons
9	Winter wheat production	2,000,000	Metric Tons

¹ Planted for all purposes. * Record high.

Nebraska Livestock and Poultry Summary

Highlights

- ❖ Half of Nebraska farms have sales of livestock, dairy, poultry, and products.
- ❖ Cash receipts from livestock, dairy, poultry, and products accounted for about 57% of total cash receipts in 2007.
- ❖ National rank among States (Number and Date):
 - 1st - Commercial red meat production (7.4 billion lbs. 2008)
 - 1st - Commercial cattle slaughter (7.1 million - 2008)
 - 2nd - Cattle on feed (2.50 million - 1/2009)
 - 2nd - Cattle & calves (6.35 million - 1/2009)
 - 4th - Livestock cash receipts (\$8.4 billion - 2007)
 - 4th - Beef cows (1.85 million - 1/2009)
 - 5th - Calves born (1.73 million - 2008)
 - 6th - Commercial Hog slaughter (8.0 million - 2008)
 - 6th - Hogs & pigs (3.30 million - 12/2008)
 - 7th - Table eggs production (2.78 billion - 2008)
 - 13th - Honey production (2.41 million lbs. - 2008)
 - 14th - All Chickens (11.5 million - 12/2008)
 - 23rd - Sheep & lambs (71,000 - 1/2009)

Livestock Record Highs to Date

Commodity	Number	Mo./Yr.
All Cattle & Calves	7.41 million head	1/1974
All Cattle on Feed	2.70 million head	1/2007 & 1/2008
Fed Cattle Marketed	5.18 million head	2000
Milk Cows	820 thousand head	1/1934
Hogs & Pigs	5.98 million head	1/1924
Sheep & Lambs	1.26 million head	1/1943
Chickens	19.9 million head	1/1944

Livestock Inventories, Selected Years

Year	All Cattle Jan. 1	Beef Cows Jan. 1	Milk Cows Jan. 1	Hogs & Pigs Dec. 1	All Sheep Jan. 1	All Chickens Dec. 1
<i>1,000 Head</i>						
1980	6,400	1,950	120	3,900	210	4,000
1985	6,300	1,868	102	3,900	165	3,970
1990	5,700	1,760	100	4,300	177	6,200
1995	6,100	1,895	75	4,050	105	11,005
2000	6,650	1,974	76	3,050	102	13,895
2005	6,300	1,909	61	2,900	92	13,813
20087	6,450	1,883	57	3,300	80	11,505
20097	6,350	1,851	59		71	

Commercial Cattle & Hog Slaughter, Selected Years

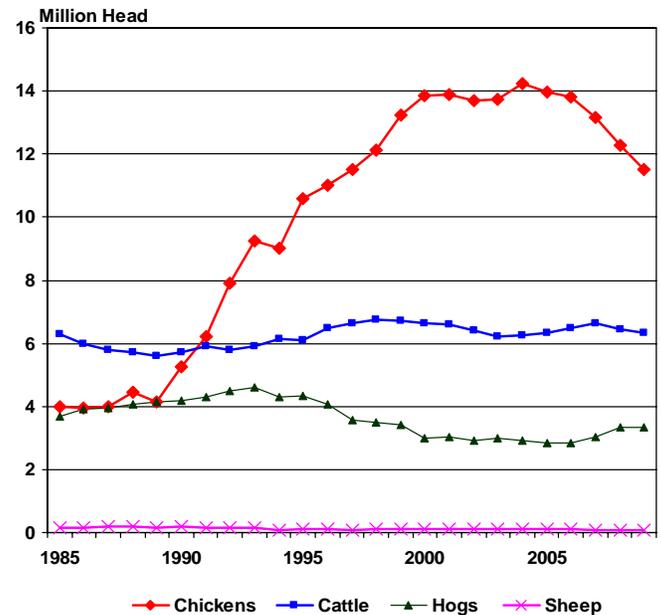
Year	Coml. Cattle Slaughter		Coml. Hog Slaughter	
	1,000 Head	NE % of U.S.	1,000 Head	NE % of U.S.
1980	5,612	16.6	4,581	4.8
1985	5,606	15.4	5,052	6.0
1990	5,882	17.7	5,401	6.3
1995	6,769	19.0	5,837	6.1
2000	7,617	21.0	6,270	6.4
2005	7,029	21.7	7,186	6.9
2007	7,071	20.6	7,428	6.8
2008	7,113	20.7	7,951	6.8

Number of Operations with Livestock, Selected Years

Year	Cattle	Beef Cow	Milk Cows	Hog	Sheep	Sales of Cattle on Feed
<i>Number of Operations</i>						
1982	39,555	30,068	4,686	15,998	2,929	12,138
1987	34,701	26,452	3,339	13,363	2,846	9,828
1992	30,421	24,270	2,122	10,826	2,185	6,892
1997	30,214	24,513	1,385	6,312	1,717	5,865
2002	25,083	20,991	866	3,075	1,435	4,623
2007	21,424	18,233	493	2,213	1,287	3,406

Source: Census of Agriculture, 1982-1992 not adjusted for coverage.

Trends in Livestock and Poultry Inventories



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>	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000</i>
1980	72	159	231	67	5,607	46	4,532
1985	59	155	214	54	5,537	38	4,996
1990	49	140	189	47	5,834	36	5,348
1995	42	89	131	39	6,742	28	5,813
2000	33	81	114	32	7,592	22	6,252
2005	35	66	101	33	7,004	23	7,170
2007	32	74	106	26	7,041	19	7,410
2008	31	98	129	26	7,082	19	7,932
2009	31	90	121				

¹ F.I. - Federally Inspected.

Cattle in Nebraska

- ❖ In 2007, cash receipts totaled \$7.1 billion, or 49% of the state's total agricultural receipts.
- ❖ Account for about 6.7% of the Nation's cattle herd, 5.8% of the Nation's beef cow herd, and 18.0% of the Nation's cattle on feed.
- ❖ Feeding more cattle in fewer feedlots:
In 1962, operators of 24,303 lots marketed 1.8 million fed cattle. In 2007, 4,570 lots marketed 5.1 million.
- ❖ Commercial cattle slaughter totaled about 7.1 million head in 2008 and 20.7% 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>				
1980	6,400	2,070	1,970	1,680
1985	6,300	1,970	1,800	1,880
1990	5,700	1,860	1,730	2,060
1995	6,100	1,970	1,810	1,940
2000	6,650	2,050	1,840	2,450
2005	6,300	1,970	1,800	2,470
2008	6,450	1,940	1,730	2,700
2009	6,350	1,910		2,500

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

Feedlot Capacity	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007
Under 1,000 head	35.3	30.2	22.1	9.3	5.6	6.2	6.1	5.8
1,000-3,999 head	19.2	17.6	19.0	18.0	17.2	17.8	17.6	16.6
4,000-15,999 head	26.1	29.8	36.1	41.2	41.1	37.5	37.9	39.6
16,000-31,999 head	11.8	12.2	16.2	20.5	23.8	23.4	22.6	20.2
32,000+ head	7.6	10.2	6.6	11.0	12.3	15.1	15.8	17.8
Total Marketed All Lots (000)	3,825	4,600	4,990	4,730	5,175	4,710	4,935	5,130

Hogs and Pigs in Nebraska

- ❖ December 1, 2008 hog numbers totaled 3.3 million head, down 1 percent from December 1, 2007.
- ❖ Cash receipts in 2007 totaled \$755 million or about 5.2% of the state's total agricultural receipts.
- ❖ Account for about 4.9% of the Nation's hog herd.
- ❖ Commercial hog slaughter, at 8.0 million head in 2008 was 6.8% of U.S. total hog slaughter.

Poultry in Nebraska

- ❖ Chicken inventory totaled 11.5 million head on December 1, 2008, down 6% from December 1, 2007.
- ❖ In 2007, cash receipts for chicken eggs were \$185.1 million, 1.3% of the state's total agricultural receipts.
- ❖ Nebraska ranked 7th in 2008 for table egg production.
- ❖ Broiler production decreased to 4.8 million head in 2007.

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>
1980	3,900	853	7.36	6,290
1985	3,900	750	7.81	5,859
1990	4,300	865	7.98	6,900
1995	4,050	810	8.33	6,751
2000	3,050	625	8.84	5,525
2005	2,900	700	9.05	6,336
2007	3,350	755	9.43	7,120
2008	3,300	745	9.65	7,189

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>
1980	847	4,000	2,000	1,600
1985	844	3,970	885	1,200
1990	1,202	6,200	2,950	1,345
1995	2,364	11,005	2,900	4,230
2000	2,999	13,895	3,400	6,193
2005	3,217	13,813	4,800	4,604
2007	2,984	12,257	4,800	6,145
2008	2,777	11,505		

¹ Excludes commercial broilers.

² December previous year - November current year.

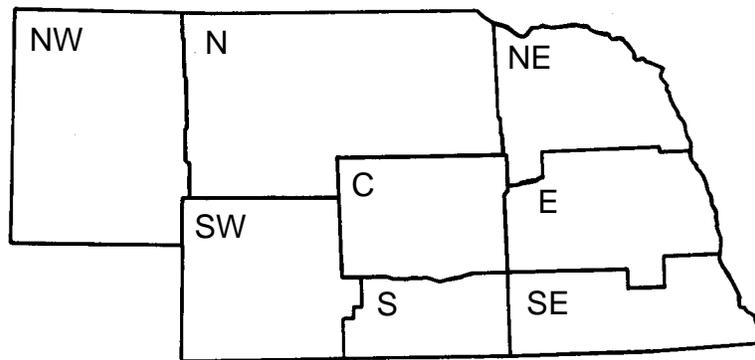
Nebraska's Top Ten Producing Counties, Selected Commodities, 2008

Rank	Corn for Grain		Soybeans		Winter Wheat	
	District	County	District	County	District	County
1	C	Custer	E	Saunders	NW	Cheyenne
2	E	Hamilton	E	Platte	SW	Perkins
3	E	York	SE	Fillmore	NW	Box Butte
4	C	Dawson	NE	Antelope	S	Furnas
5	C	Buffalo	E	York	SW	Red Willow
6	S	Phelps	E	Seward	NW	Kimball
7	E	Platte	S	Phelps	SW	Hitchcock
8	SW	Lincoln	SE	Gage	NW	Deuel
9	SE	Fillmore	E	Cass	SW	Keith
10	C	Hall	E	Dodge	SW	Dundy

Rank	All Hay		All Cattle and Calves January 1, 2008		Beef Cows January 1, 2008	
	District	District	County	District	County	County
1	N	Holt	C	Custer	N	Cherry
2	N	Cherry	NE	Cuming	N	Holt ²
3	C	Custer	N	Cherry	C	Custer ²
4	NE	Knox	C	Dawson ¹	SW	Lincoln
5	C	Dawson	SW	Lincoln ¹	NW	Sheridan
6	SW	Lincoln	N	Holt	NE	Knox
7	NW	Scottsbluff	S	Phelps	C	Buffalo
8	NW	Sheridan	NW	Morrill	N	Rock
9	N	Rock	NE	Knox	NW	Morrill
10	C	Buffalo	NW	Sheridan	C	Dawson

¹Tied for 4th. ² Tied for 2nd.

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 19	Jun 1	Sep 21	Oct 11 - Nov 6	Dec 1
Corn, for Silage	Apr 21	May 3 - May 19	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 Grain	May 11	May 20 - Jun 8	Jun 19	Sep 19	Oct 8 - Oct 30	Nov 17
Sorghum, for Silage	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 30	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, 1988-2007¹**

Year	Agricultural Statistics Districts							
	Northwest	North	Northeast	Central	East	Southwest	South	Southeast
<i>Inches</i>								
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
2004	16.69	22.46	27.86	25.19	27.09	23.17	24.58	27.24
2005	20.30	25.82	28.66	22.72	26.13	20.81	23.02	27.18
2006	13.97	19.49	27.14	24.21	29.75	18.94	25.40	29.93
2007	15.17	29.06	37.59	33.24	39.53	25.76	32.29	39.41

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, 1989-2008**

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>								
1989	18	11	14	6	11	20	9	35
1990	14	15	12	15	10	35	13	19
1991	14	22	15	13	14	21	19	27
1992	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	30
1993	0	2	0	0	1	6	2	0
1994	18	1	1	3	2	23	12	9
1995	26	17	14	7	13	33	23	17
1996	6	0	0	0	0	9	5	19
1997	18	12	2	5	5	24	20	7
1998	10	9	1	6	2	25	22	13
1999	17	11	4	2	3	20	15	5
2000	25	22	8	15	12	51	46	25
2001	17	11	2	6	15	46	25	18
2002	18	29	13	19	13	51	39	11
2003	24	14	3	10	15	39	24	28
2004	9	7	0	5	2	23	12	22
2005	19	10	1	12	11	39	28	3
2006	24	19	10	22	15	39	34	15
2007	26	10	3	2	5	41	20	11
2008	8	4 ¹	1	2	2	22	11	4

¹ Beginning in 2008, North District is from O'Neill station - Atkinson station closed in June 2008.

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, 2003-2008

District	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Northwest	276	302	325	349	395	454
North	308	343	379	425	506	597
Northeast	1,266	1,388	1,537	1,775	2,142	2,730
Central	939	1,005	1,110	1,200	1,329	1,618
East	1,850	1,999	2,268	2,496	2,795	3,480
Southwest	467	500	542	571	631	747
South	1,102	1,188	1,268	1,215	1,302	1,628
Southeast	1,204	1,354	1,609	1,811	2,079	2,620
State	757	827	924	1,013	1,155	1,424

Nebraska Selected Land Average Cash Rental Rates per Acre by Statistical District, 2007-2008

District	Dryland Cropland		Gravity Irrigated Cropland		Center Pivot Irrigated Cropland		Pastureland	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>	
Northwest	26	33	103	126	118	140	9	10
North	41	50	115	142	136	159	15	16
Northeast	109	134	156	188	173	208	38	39
Central	71	86	150	173	156	185	26	30
East	113	135	160	189	176	211	36	36
Southwest	34	40	107	116	128	159	12	13
South	56	69	139	168	154	183	21	27
Southeast	93	113	152	185	169	198	30	35

Source: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Developments 2007-2008
Department of Agricultural Economics, UNL

Prices Received by Nebraska Farmers, Selected Years ¹

Commodity	1970	1980	1990	2000	2007	2008 ²
	<i>Dollars</i>					
Corn, Bu.	1.25	3.08	2.28	1.90	4.14	3.90
Soybeans, Bu.	2.78	7.25	5.59	4.44	9.92	9.40
Sorghum, Cwt.	1.93	5.09	3.66	3.28	7.10	5.70
All Wheat, Bu.	1.22	3.82	2.53	2.61	5.82	6.70
Oats, Bu.	.65	1.85	1.19	1.42	3.14	3.40
All Hay, Ton	21.00	55.00	58.00	69.50	88.50	90.50
Sugarbeets, Ton	14.80	47.00	40.10	29.20	40.40	
Dry Beans, Cwt.	8.00	26.90	16.90	15.80	29.90	38.60
Steers & Heifers, Cwt.	29.10	66.70	80.00	70.00	95.30	95.50
Cows, Cwt.	20.50	45.80	52.00	38.40	49.90	54.20
Calves, Cwt.	35.30	78.70	100.00	106.00	125.00	117.00
Hogs, Cwt.	22.30	38.10	54.80	44.30	48.80	49.40
Sheep, Cwt.	7.30	24.50	21.90	34.60	31.20	29.70
Lambs, Cwt.	27.50	64.30	54.00	76.20	94.20	102.00
Milk Cows ³	298	1,130	1,130	1,290	1,800	1,960

¹Crops prices for 1980 are season average prices; beginning 1985 prices are marketing year average prices received. ²Preliminary. ³Calendar year average, dollars per head.

Nebraska Total Farm Income, 2003-2007

Year	Gross Income ¹	Farm Production Expenses	Net Farm Income
	<i>Million Dollars</i>		
2003	12,785.9	10,050.7	2,735.2
2004	14,090.3	10,544.5	3,545.8
2005	14,209.3	11,286.7	2,922.6
2006	13,985.0	11,991.1	1,993.9
2007	16,584.6	13,193.1	3,391.5

Nebraska Gross Farm Income, 2003-2007

Year	Cash Receipts	Government Payments	Non-Cash Income	Farm-Related Income	Value of Inventory Adjustment
	<i>Million Dollars</i>				
2003	10,927.4	725.9	259.0	848.1	25.5
2004	11,230.3	728.9	294.7	955.2	881.1
2005	11,479.3	1,421.0	342.3	802.7	164.0
2006	12,192.8	812.1	368.3	842.3	-230.4
2007	14,555.8	463.7	405.1	714.1	445.9

Value of Nebraska Agricultural Exports, 2003-2007

Commodity	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	<i>Million Dollars</i>				
Feed Grains & Products	727.0	898.8	749.4	931.7	1,268.8
Soybeans & Products	614.3	637.1	676.5	647.8	812.1
Wheat & Products	179.2	188.5	187.5	196.1	312.9
Feeds & Fodders	181.8	173.5	193.3	222.3	224.4
Seeds	8.8	11.3	10.1	9.6	7.6
Vegetables & Preparations	37.1	33.8	36.5	41.0	36.7
Live Animals & Meat	1,028.2	515.8	502.9	663.3	801.5
Hides & Skins	371.4	349.9	335.7	376.7	403.1
Fats, Oils & Greases	112.5	112.6	97.2	97.7	145.0
Other	18.6	22.6	26.8	30.4	34.7
Total ¹	3,278.9	2,944.0	2,815.8	3,216.3	4,046.8

¹Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: ERS USDA State Exports

A Bit of Agricultural Statistics History

The Nebraska Field Office 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. The Nebraska Field 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 four different names: State-Federal Division of Agricultural Statistics (1918-1976), Nebraska Crop and Livestock Reporting Service (1976-1986), Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (1986 to 2005) and the USDA National Agricultural Statistics, Nebraska Field Office (2005 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 each year by many thousands of farmers, ranchers, and agri-business firms make these estimates possible in a timely manner.