

COMMISSIONER
DOUG GOEHRING



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**NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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Dear Friends,

The numbers tell the story: North Dakota's 30,000 family farmers and ranchers are among the very best in the world. They lead our nation in the production of many important commodities, including spring wheat, durum, canola, flaxseed, all dry edible beans, oil sunflowers and honey. Our state ranks second in confectionary sunflowers, dry edible peas, lentils, and navy beans; third in sugarbeets and barley; and fourth in potatoes.

The demand for renewable energy has raised our state's ranking in soybean and corn production to ninth and twelfth, respectively.

These numbers and much more can be found here in the 2015 edition of *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*. But they aren't just numbers; they demonstrate the vitality and diversity of North Dakota agriculture, as well as the skill and determination of our farmers and ranchers.

These statistics are a valuable tool for producers in making informed decisions about the future of their operations. They also help companies determine agricultural facility locations; help community planners target needed services to rural residents; and provide legislators with information to shape farm policies and programs. Both as agriculture commissioner and as a farmer, I rely on this valuable resource.

The North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service – its administration, statisticians, technicians, enumerators and clerical staff – has again provided our state, and most especially its farmers and ranchers, with this detailed, statistical portrait of our leading industry.

The staff of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture is proud to be part of this vital and dynamic industry. They are also proud to support the mission and work of the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service and are pleased to help bring you *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics 2015*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Goehring".

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

