



South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

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My Fellow South Dakotans,

Each year, as my brother and I prepare for the coming growing season, we reflect on the challenges and successes of the previous year. We take the time to examine our operation top to bottom, to see where we have fallen short—and where we can improve.

This self-assessment allows us to take advantage of new opportunities and capitalize on the unique characteristics of our operation. *South Dakota Agriculture* plays an integral role in our planning by giving us the tools we need to better understand the full spectrum of production agriculture. This publication also helps us with the one thing the weatherman can never seem to accurately predict—the future.

By examining where we have been, we gain greater insight into what will happen in future years. These pages, compiled by the staff of the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS), are based on data provided by producers—real, factual, on-the-ground information that can help all of us make better management decisions.

The statistics found in this document may not provide all the information needed for future success in our operations, but it offers invaluable insight into our progress. By better understanding where we stand in relation to other producers across the state, we can become more efficient, and thus, more profitable.

South Dakota has always been and will continue to be an agricultural state. But, as the saying goes, “You can’t expect to meet the challenges of today with yesterday’s tools and expect to be in business tomorrow.”

Carter Anderson and the NASS staff have done an excellent job providing producers with the tools necessary to meet tomorrow’s challenges. I commend them on a job well done.

Sincerely,

Bill Even

