



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
South Dakota Field Office



The 69<sup>th</sup> edition of **South Dakota Agriculture** is proudly presented by the South Dakota Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Current and historical data on national, state, and county levels of agricultural production are compiled in this book. It continues to provide a valuable service to everyone involved in agriculture, South Dakota's number one industry.

The past year marked a special year with the release of the 2007 Census of Agriculture. NASS conducts the Census every 5 years and the data from the massive data collection effort was released in February 2009. The Census gives a unique opportunity to gather data on items that are not estimated on an annual basis. South Dakota proved once again to be the number one bison state in the U.S. Other items such as the number of organic farms and operator characteristics were collected. All Census data may be retrieved from our website.

We would like to give a special thank you to the many ranchers and farmers who take the time to participate in our surveys and provide most of the information used in preparing South Dakota statistics. Also, thank you to elevator managers, other agricultural businesses, county extension educators, and Farm Service Agency county directors, who provide additional information used in preparing these statistics. NASS also greatly appreciates the cooperation, support and funding for this publication from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

In addition, we wish to thank our office staff, plus our field and office enumerators, for their dedication in providing South Dakota with the highest quality agricultural statistics possible. Our staff is dedicated to serving the agricultural data needs of all users. Please contact us anytime with your questions, comments, and requests for information.



Sincerely,

*Carter Anderson*

CARTER ANDERSON  
Director



Sincerely,

*Steve Noyes*

STEVE NOYES  
Deputy Director

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