



# STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DENNIS DAUGAARD, GOVERNOR

My Fellow South Dakotans,

I am proud to introduce the annual summary of agriculture in South Dakota. The agriculture industry has a \$20.7 billion annual economic impact, generates one-third of our state's economic activity, and employs over 143,000 South Dakotans.

Many of the values that define our state – hard work, self-reliance and cooperation – have their roots on the family farm. Having grown up on a dairy farm in Minnehaha County, I understand the hard work and long hours our farmers and ranchers put into their operations. I also understand that we cannot farm the same way my grandfather did 100 years ago and expect to feed the world.

In today's world, our producers are plugged into technology – using GPS in their tractors and smartphones to check the markets. New information is sent to them several times a day. Yet, this annual bulletin gives us a historical record of agriculture today and helps us to plan for tomorrow.

New challenges and opportunities arise every day, but I believe our producers are well equipped to meet those challenges. Using technology, our farmers and ranchers are able to tell their stories to consumers in ways we hadn't even thought of ten years ago. They are better able to connect with consumers and customers both at home and abroad.

Our farmers and ranchers help reinvigorate our state's economy through developing value added products and renewable energy right here in South Dakota. These entrepreneurial ideas boost our economy and create more jobs for our small communities. When agriculture does well, South Dakota does well.

I am grateful for the time that our producers spent responding to their surveys. I also want to thank the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) staff for the hours they spent compiling the data for this useful publication.

Sincerely,

Dennis Daugaard

