



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DENNIS DAUGAARD, GOVERNOR

My Fellow South Dakotans,

Agriculture, South Dakota's oldest and largest industry, is an ever-changing field constantly influenced by technology, the economy, the weather, governmental decisions, and other forces beyond the producer's control. As a state, we work together with other producers throughout the country to produce enough food and fiber to feed a nation and to sustain a growing world population. The continued success of South Dakota agriculture is proof our farmers, ranchers, and producers are willing to adapt to new changes and thrive. To remain in the forefront, everyone involved in agriculture must work together to meet new challenges and find new opportunities to further advance the success of South Dakota's #1 industry.

The next generation should utilize the opportunities available to them through education, technology, and experiences, along with historical data, to choose the next step in South Dakota agriculture's ongoing progress. It is important to embrace technology, but not lose sight of the need to protect a safe and productive landscape for future generations. The next generation of farmers, ranchers, and producers is being groomed right now. The statistical information found in this publication will help to drive their future and expand their markets. We must continue to work together to keep South Dakota's agricultural industry strong.

This publication tells South Dakota's story and provides vital statistics to the leaders, policymakers, producers, and citizens interested in agriculture. The numbers give us a good idea of where we are and where we're headed. They help keep us on track to produce enough to feed the world. I am thankful for the hard work done by the National Agriculture Statistics Service to compile the information and make it available to everyone.



Respectfully,

Dennis Daugaard