

South Dakota

2012

Agriculture

the common thread



FACT

South Dakota has over 2,500 farms that have been in the same family for more than 100 years.

Family Farms

98 percent of farms in South Dakota are family owned and operated.

The average size of a farm in South Dakota is **1,374** acres.

The average age of a South Dakota farmer is **55.7** years.

There are **46,000** producers in South Dakota on **31,800** farms.

Each year, one South Dakota producer raises enough food to feed **155** people in the U.S. and abroad.

Agriculture is the life-blood of South Dakota. It is our state's #1 industry, and for the farmers and ranchers who work the land, agriculture is more than a job—it is a career, a passion and a way of life. South Dakota always has been and will continue to be an agricultural state. In the nineteenth century, homesteaders used a mule and a moldboard plow to break the thick prairie sod. Two hundred years later, their descendants work the same land with no-till drills and combines equipped with Global Positioning Systems. Although the tools have changed, agriculture remains **the common thread** linking the citizens, businesses and communities of our state.

Crops, Forestry &

In the last 50 years, crop production has increased immensely as South Dakota farmers embraced new technologies, better hybrids and more efficient land-use practices. Today's farmers are using chemicals and fertilizers more efficiently while reducing erosion and employing sustainable tillage practices. Practicing responsible resource conservation and embracing modern technologies has resulted in increased yields on fewer acres with minimal environmental impacts. Crops and forestry products produce the **Food, Feed, Fiber** and **Fuel** we depend on and also serve as the **Fundamental Building Blocks** of the twenty-first century renewable economy. These "**Five Fs**" are **the common thread** tying agriculture to the lives of everyone on the planet.

South Dakota's Forestry Industry

- 511 million trees in forestland
- 1.7 million acres of forestland
- 18 wood/paper manufacturing facilities
- 3,548 people employed in the forestry industry

SDDA



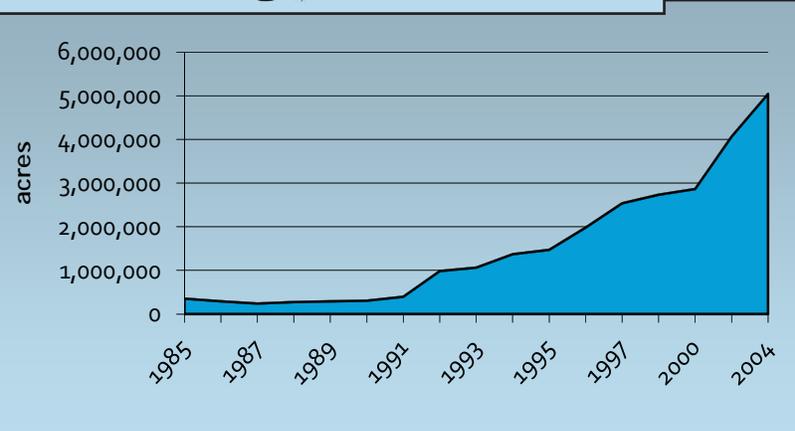
FACT

There are at least 38 farmers markets operating in South Dakota, featuring locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats and baked goods.

FACT

South Dakota producers are first in the nation in planting genetically engineered varieties of corn (95%) and soybeans (98%).

No-Till Farming Acres in South Dakota

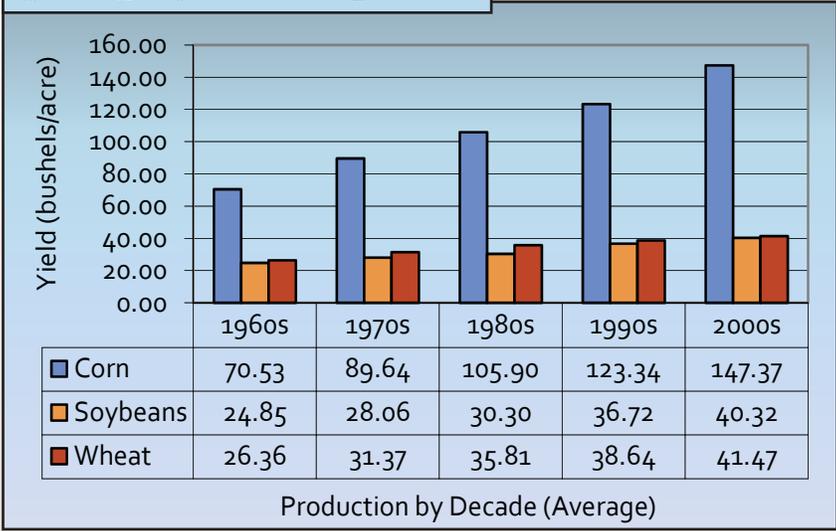


Conservation

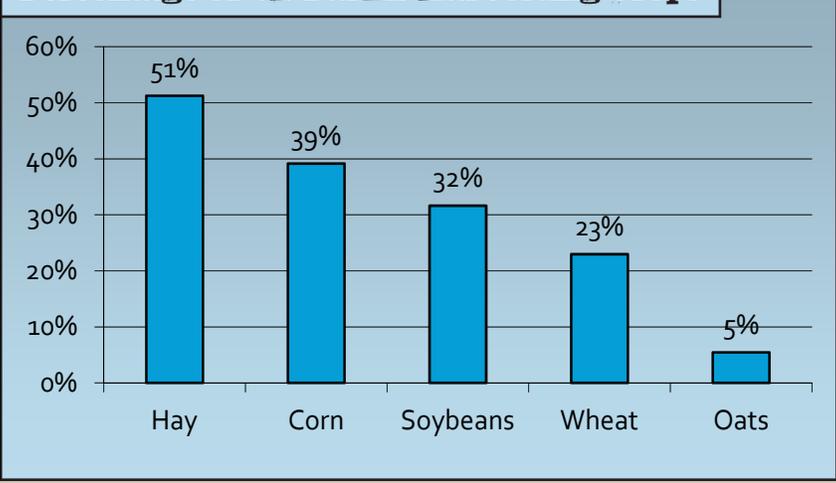
South Dakota consistently ranks in the top ten for production of several crops.

Product	2010 National Rank
Alfalfa	2
Sunflowers	2
Oats	3
Flaxseed	3
Hay	4
Ethanol (2009 Op. Cap)	5
Wheat	6
Corn	7
Soybeans	8

Average Annual Crop Yields



Percentage of SD Farms Harvesting Crops



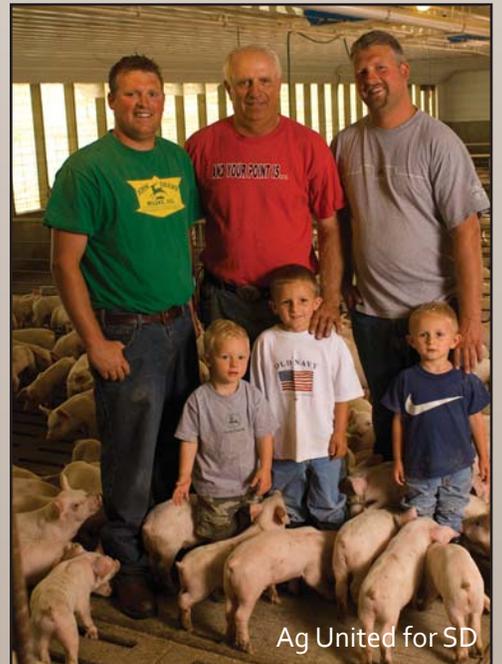
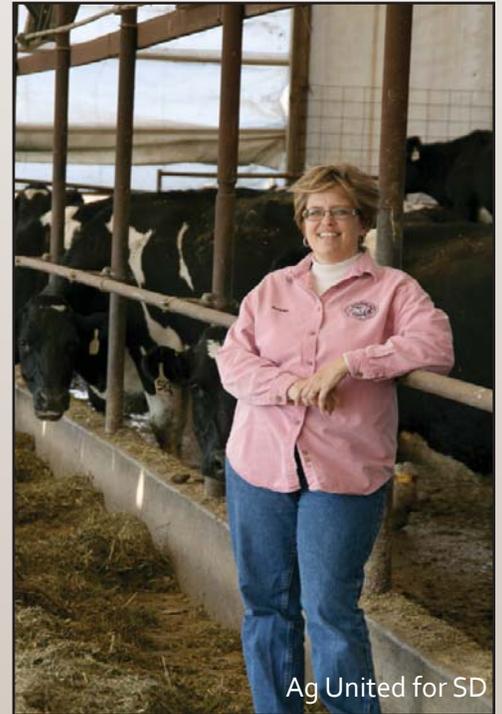
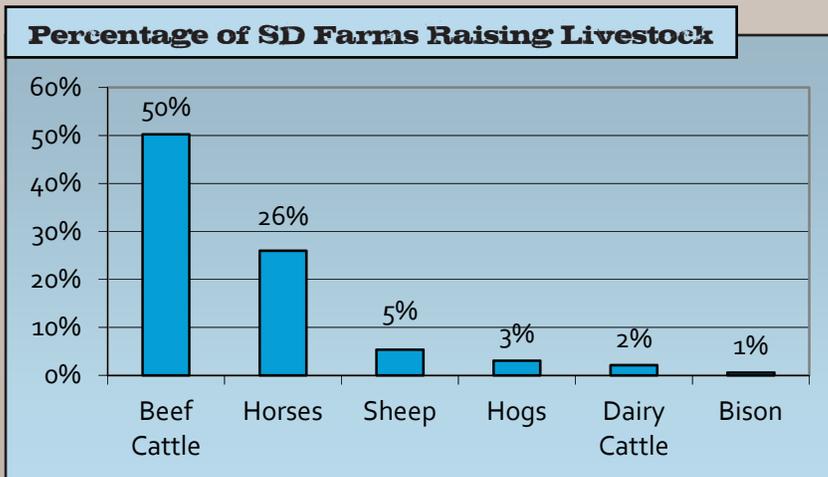
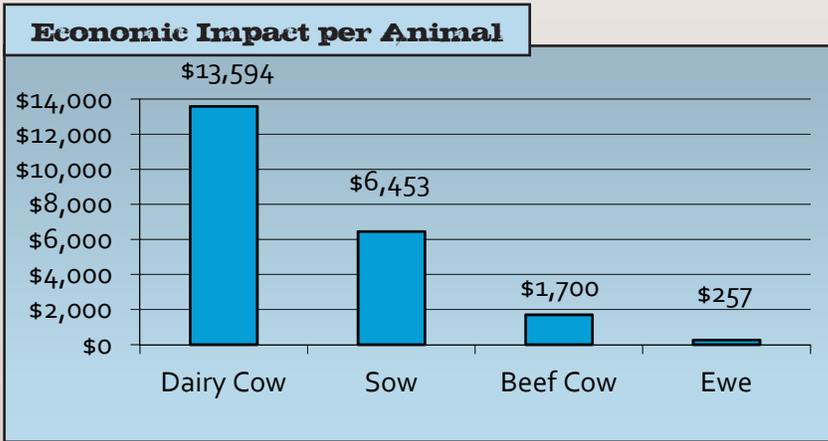
SDSMT

South Dakota Acres Harvested

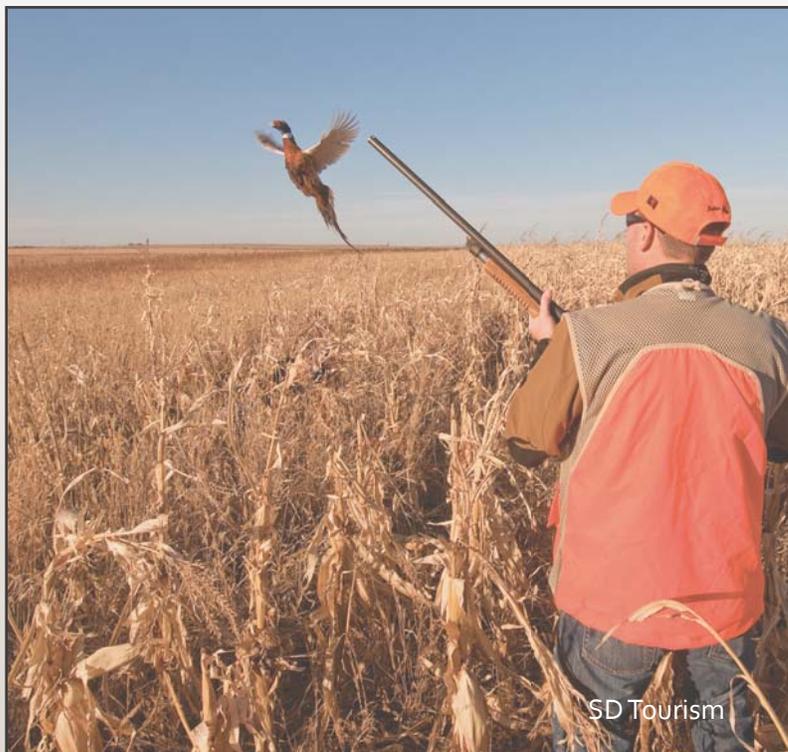
- 4.5 million acres of corn
- 4.1 million acres of soybeans
- 3.6 million acres of hay
- 2.7 million acres of wheat
- 2.2 million acres of alfalfa
- 495,000 acres of sunflowers
- 105,000 acres of oats
- 60,000 acres of millet
- 11,300 acres of pulse crops

Animal Agriculture

South Dakota livestock producers take great pride in caring for their animals and their operations. They also take responsibility for delivering safe and nutritious beef, pork, lamb, poultry and dairy products to consumers in a sustainable manner by combining quality assurance techniques with common sense animal husbandry practices. As our global population climbs to 9 billion people in the next 40 years, South Dakota farmers and ranchers stand ready to supply the protein the world needs. These producers also provide habitat and feed for our state's abundant wildlife. Hunting pheasants, deer, ducks, geese and other wildlife has long been a family tradition in South Dakota. Each year hundreds of thousands of sportsmen enjoy our excellent hunting opportunities.



ulture & Hunting



As a leading livestock state, South Dakota ranks near the top in several production areas.

Product	2010 National Rank
Bison	1
Pheasants	1
Honey	3
Sheep and Lambs	6
Cattle and Calves	8
Hogs and Pigs	11
Milk Production	21

Annual Livestock Inventory

3.7 million cattle and calves

1.2 million hogs and pigs

92,000 dairy cows

275,000 sheep and lambs

38,000 bison

9.8 million pheasants

265,000 honey bee colonies

4.6 million turkeys

2.3 million laying hens



FACT

South Dakota has more than 92,000 dairy cows, producing over 1.8 billion pounds of milk per year.

FACT

SOUTH DAKOTA CERTIFIED™ BEEF is the first state-initiated age and source verification program in the United States.

FACT

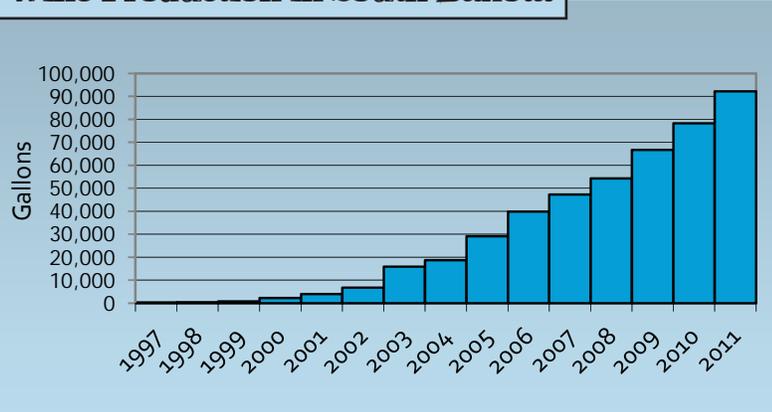
South Dakota has nearly 5 beef cattle for every state resident.

Agriculture's Impact

South Dakota's agriculture industry has a **\$20.9 billion** economic impact each year. With more than **19 million** acres of cropland and **23 million** acres of pastureland, our farmers and ranchers are one of our economy's key drivers. In addition to generating **twenty percent** of our state's economic activity, production agriculture and its value added industries employ over **80,000** South Dakotans. This economic impact is a direct result of our production capacity and investment in value-added industries. Businesses ranging from ethanol plants and livestock feeding operations to farmers markets and wineries are capitalizing on agriculture's competitive and comparative advantages for economic development in South Dakota.



Wine Production in South Dakota



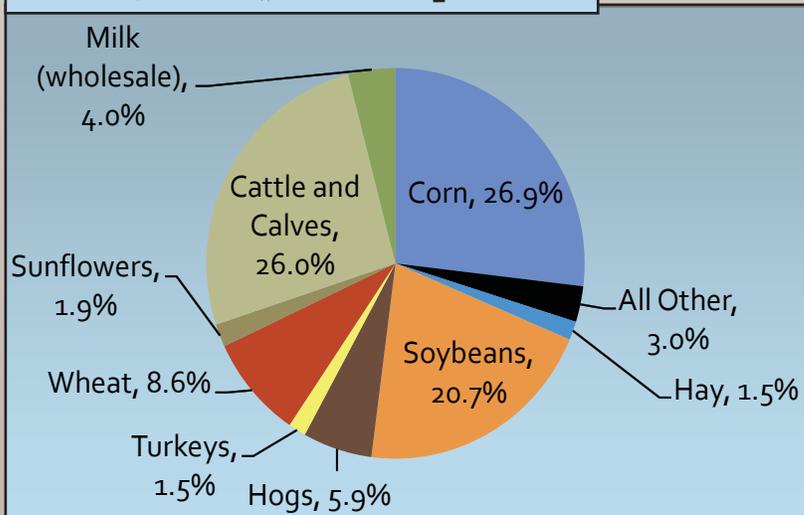
FACT

South Dakota wineries have produced over 2.3 million bottles of wine since 1997.

FACT

There are 15 ethanol plants operating in the state and they produce more than 1 billion gallons per year, which is 10% of the nation's ethanol supply.

South Dakota Cash Receipts (2010)



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